

### London Fur Sales.

The following is the report of Phillips, Pollitzer & Co's. October sales as contained in the *Fur Trade Review*—

The attendance at the sales, attracted by the unusual interest taken in the fur seal sale, was very numerous from the Continent and United States; and fur seals seemed to absorb all the attention of buyers, to the detriment of many other important articles.

The results point to a fairly satisfactory year's trading, prices in most instances being either maintained, or improved upon, since last sale.

The goods offered for competition were as follows:

**Fur seals**—In extraordinary demand, consequent upon, not only an enormous consumption, but also a short supply, the catch of Alaska skins having, through the alarming decrease in the number of animals on Alaskan territory, been suddenly restricted by the American Government, to one fifth of the usual quantity, viz., 21,000 instead of 100,000 skins.

**Alaska**—21,000 skins, (last year 100,000). A very fine parcel in excellent condition and of superior quality, realized an average advance of 75 per cent.—80 per cent., and were secured almost entirely for America.

**Copper Island**—42,712 skins (last March, 52,765). The collection usually offered in March, in very good condition, and of fine quality, sold at an average advance of 50 per cent. The bulk was purchased for America, but a considerable portion was taken for England.

**North West Coast**—17,189 skins (last year, 19,953). Of superior quality, advanced also about 50 per cent. on last sale.

**Lobos**—3,639 skins (last year, 5,084). Only of middling quality, advanced 35 per cent.

**Cape of Good Hope**—718 skins (last year 670). A small parcel of fair quality, of which the large sizes advanced only a little, while the small skins, bought for unhairing, sold at very high prices.

**Raccoon**—73,069 skins. A poor collection and rather neglected; sold 10 per cent. below last sale.

**Skunk**—26,766 skins. Mostly inferior lots, met with fair demand, and brought fully June prices.

**Red fox**—2,303 skins (last year, 1,175). Maintained fully June prices.

**Marten**—2,755 skins (last year, 2,503). Maintained fully June values.

**Russian sables**—1,974 skins (last year, 3,683). Have done better than last sale, and were all sold at 15 to 20 per cent. advance compared with June.

**Lynx**—420 skins (last year 344). Advanced 15 per cent.

**White fox**—2,137 skins (last year, 21). Not in request; declined 20 per cent.

**Otter**—344 skins (last year, 2,128). In improved demand; advanced 25 per cent.

**Black, brown and grizzly bears**—1,542 skins (last year, 2,172). In good request; black advanced 25 per cent.; brown and grizzly, 20 per cent.

**American opossums**—137,044 skins (last year, 4,684). Very much neglected; declined about 25 per cent. on the low prices of last sale.

**Musquash**—83,684 skins. Brought June prices.

**Black musquash**—6,793 skins. Brought June prices.

**Mink**—15,135 skins (last year, 2,660). The lower class skins sold 15 per cent. under June, while the few fine skins offered proved in very good demand and advanced 40 per cent.

**Japaneese fox**—40,702 skins (last year, 18,057). Advanced 20 per cent.

**Real chinchilla**—2,234 skins (last year, 480). The fine skins in good request and sold at 205 shillings per dozen.

**Barard chinchilla**—63,595 skins (last year, 44,230). Declined 25 per cent.

**Australian opossums**—1,048,806 skins (last year, 1,397,948). Although the quantities brought forward are smaller than this time last year, there was no disposition shown for large purchases, and the prices realized are about the same as in June last; a good many lots had to be withdrawn.

**Wombat**—58,454 skins (last year, 151,716): are in improved demand, and certain kinds suitable for tanning purposes sold at very high prices.

**Wallaby**—52,125 skins (last year, 59,194): are in improved demand, and certain kinds suitable for tanning purposes sold at very high prices.

**Monkeys**—51,800 skins (last year, 44,465). In fair request, and realized fully last sale prices.

### Northwestern Ontario.

The Portage Lake Canal, originally a private enterprise, is to be sold to the government, and will, with its connections, be widened and deepened, furnishing a channel for the largest vessels and enabling them to avoid the detour around Keweenaw Point, the most dangerous piece of navigation on Lake Superior. The works purchased include two canals, one five miles in length, and connecting Lake Portage with Lake Superior on the east, the other two and one eighth miles long and making the connection to westward.

The Ontario Government have withdrawn from sale under the mining act and regulations of the province all lands lying between the eastern boundary of the township of Amrey in Nipissing and the western townships of Eston and Sprague in Algoma. No further sales, therefore, will be made in mining locations within this territory except where the application has been made accompanied by the necessary purchase money or where a large proportion of the purchase money has been paid in and where a substantial sum has been expended in developing the mine or in completing surveys of location. The present price of mining locations in the territory mentioned is \$2 per acre and it is understood the government proposes substituting for it a graduating scale of increased prices. The recent discoveries of nickel, copper, and other ores in certain sections of the territory in question have created a great demand for locations and applications for patents have been pouring into the Crown Lands Department in great numbers.

### Bleached Wheat.

It has been shown by practical experiment at Virden, Manitoba, that first-class flour can be made from badly bleached wheat. A farmer offered a load of very hard-looking wheat on that market, for which the highest bid he

could obtain from half a dozen grain buyers was 30 cents per bushel. The farmer refused this, and finally took his load of grain to Koester & Son's mill at Virden, and had the grain ground into flour. A small quantity of the flour from this wheat was kept by the miller for the purpose of testing. This was made into bread by Mrs. Koester, and it has produced a first-class article. A loaf of bread from this flour was shown a representative of THE COMMERCIAL, and it appeared to be an excellent article. It was of good color, light and sweet, and in every sense a really good bread. The wheat was apparently very badly damaged from bleaching, and would generally be considered as almost unsaleable for milling purposes, but this practical test has shown that it was still valuable for milling. This wheat was also slightly frosted. Bleaching, though injuring the appearance of the wheat, apparently does not so seriously affect the quality of the grain as might be supposed from examining a sample. It certainly does reduce the quality of wheat, but not to such an extent as damage from frost. White frost destroys the substance of the grain and causes in it a chemical change which reduces its milling value in proportion to the condition of the grain when frosted, the effect of bleaching is more apparent on the outside, while the substance of the wheat is not so seriously affected. A plump, well matured sample of wheat will still make a good flour, though it may be very badly bleached.

### Flour Prospects.

The flour market gives fair satisfaction to Northwestern millers, who are turning out a larger amount than usual, and whose sales are ahead of production. The one thing that is very encouraging is that the buying has not been for speculation so as to pile up a large surplus in the hands of dealers, with the flour to come back again on the market in case of an advance. The contracts made for its sale have so many of them been made abroad that the wider distribution will prevent much of the evil to millers of dealers underselling them now as they have many times before. Few millers expect, however, that there will be such an immediate rise as to bring that particular phase of flour business into sharp relief. Still, there is a well considered opinion that the markets have recently been about as low as conservative opinion would place them for this season, and that being so the tendency to higher prices would naturally leave in the hands of traders with a large surplus the means for successfully competing with millers after a rise in the cost of wheat.

This season's trade has not gone largely into channels of that character, which is unquestionably a good thing for flour makers. That is, a rise has not been so much anticipated by speculators in the trade as to give into their hands the power of demoralizing business. The domestic buying this year has not been of a very conservative kind, and until recently foreign buying has been light of patents, so that the business does not seem to be menaced by threatening conditions from any quarter, in the immediate future at least.—*Minneapolis Market Record.*

The students of Manitoba College have issued the first number of the sixth annual journal. It is neat and the reading matter a credit to the editorial staff.