

trading, is under consideration. There is also a prospect of the establishment of large saw mills here within a year or two. The manufacture of pulp and paper may also be a future industry here, if not in the city, at least at some other point in the province. Another industry for which there is a good opening is a biscuit and confectionery establishment. An enormous quantity of goods of this class are brought in from the east, no less than eleven eastern factories having selling agents here. We have one local factory in this branch, but it is only able to supply a very small portion of the demand. A second factory was operated for a time and worked up a large trade, but owing to the limited amount of capital behind the enterprise, it came to grief. With sufficient capital, combined with business energy and experience, there would appear to be a splendid opening here for another biscuit and confectionery establishment. Still another industry which it is believed could be carried on to good advantage here is a tannery. The number of hides obtainable is considerable, and our hides are good quality, being free from grubs. The manufacture of starch, has been mentioned as a likely prospect, while it is also believed that a woolen mill would be a profitable investment here.

### NEEDED INFORMATION.

It is perhaps a matter for regret that the members of the board of trade generally were not given an opportunity of hearing Col. Scoble's address on our inland waterways. Few, even of the members of the Winnipeg board of trade, are at all well informed in regard to this important subject. No doubt the imparting of such information as Col. Scoble has gained from a study of the matter, would help to open the eyes of the members of the board to the importance of the development of these waterways. The Commercial has previously stated that our business men generally do not fully appreciate the importance of these water routes. If Col. Scoble's address was very much appreciated by the members of the committee who listened to it, it seems a pity that the members of the board generally were not given an opportunity of hearing it, as the question discussed is one which all those who are interested in the development of our country should give some attention to.

### London Fur Sales.

Blatspel, Stamp & Heacock report as follows on the Hudson's Bay Co.'s recent sales:

The attendance of buyers has been very large from all countries, bidding has been generally brisk, and several of the results show record prices; in fact, we have to go back to March,

1872, after the Franco-German war, for any similar range of values.

Otter (9,893 skins; last year, 9,672.) This fur did not share with beaver any increased favor, but suffered an average decline of 5 per cent. The prime skins, particularly the darker marks, declined nearly 10 per cent., seconds advancing about 5 per cent., and the thirds, being in most favor, were nearly 10 per cent. dearer. They were again chiefly purchased by German firms, but American buyers have interested themselves also.

Fisher (4,837, last year 5,221). Being in fashion only for the Russian market, did not find much favor, and prices show a decline from 10 to 12 1/2 per cent from the already depreciated prices of last year, the chief decline being on the darker prime and large skins.

Fox, silver (9,02, last year 1,245). This valuable fur, so long appreciated only by the Russians, has attracted the attention of the fashionable world, particularly in Paris, and seems destined to a high position in taste for next season. Coupled with the fact that this week's offering practically represents the world's year's production, the average advance established of nearly 90 per cent over last year's figures is perhaps not to be wondered at. The prime skins sold 60 per cent higher, seconds over 100 per cent, and the thirds 75 per cent above last March prices. They were largely purchased by French dealers, American and English firms taking some, and Russia could secure but very few; in fact, several parcels have been sold and sent back from Russia during the past winter.

Fox, cross (5,321, last year 6,480). In some measure followed the lead of silver fox, and show an advance of 35 per cent; of these however, the larger part are destined for the Russian market, only some of the more silvery sorts being purchased for the new neckwear fashion.

Fox, blue (58, last year 46). Being used for the same fashion (neckwear) as the silver fox, have followed suit in the great advance—the few skins at the Hudson's Bay Company's sales actually figure up over 200 per cent dearer than last year. The general results of the fine Alaska skins is double prices of last year, while the Iceland skins (probably some of those sold last month at Copenhagen), in some cases, are much more. They were largely purchased for France and Germany.

Marten (66,402, last year 81,659). Decreasing supply, coupled with the fact that this fur has enjoyed much favor in England and the United States, and has been used in France and Germany to some extent, therefore, being in general good demand, a considerable advance was warranted and generally expected. Compared with the figures current last March the average result is nearly 60 per cent higher, which may be called a little dearer than prices realized last January; the large pale skins and seconds show the large increase, the finer dark skins and the thirds being rather easier. They were chiefly purchased for England, and the darker marks for America, Germany and France taking relatively few.

Fox, red (20,132, last year 25,502). The new fashions and the intention to dye this fur has had the effect of diverting it from the usual buyers, with the result of a large increase in prices. The average is fully 70 per cent over the value ruling last March. Many were purchased for the

American market direct, but the European buyers take many of the rough skins; only the lower sorts are destined for Greece, and very few, perhaps, for Russia.

Fox, white (6,647, last year 3,200). This fur being very suitable for dyeing purposes, in imitation of more valuable sorts, was in very strong request, and promptly advanced nearly 75 per cent. It was largely purchased for America, Germany and England.

Mink (41,034, last year 70,052). This favorite sort of again fashionable fur attracted much attention, and following the lead already set up last January, sold briskly at over 50 per cent higher figures than in March, last year. Compared with last January prices, they must be considered rather higher, although there was nothing then exactly of the same quality to compare with the present offering. All qualities fared much alike, and the small skins were also in good favor; they were chiefly purchased for Germany but England and France were also buyers.

Lynx (26,517, last year 39,231). This long neglected fur has, by reason of its relative cheapness, attracted the trade's attention, and has now sold even better than the few skins offered last January, being assisted by purchases for America as well as for France, where it may be largely used in the natural state; the average result is nearly 40 per cent higher than last spring.

Wolf (3,550, last year 7,465). Proved in better demand, and sold 20 per cent higher, were chiefly taken for Germany and England, apparently none for America.

Wolverine (899, last year 1,060). Has become again quite fashionable and useful for ladies' wear; advanced on the average nearly 100 per cent. The prime skins were hardly 50 per cent dearer, but all common skins more than doubled the low prices of last year; chiefly purchased for England.

Skunk (9,739, last year 16,618). These large-sized, although somewhat common quality skins, attracted this year the attention of American buyers selling nearly 60 per cent higher than last March.

Bear, black (8,977, last year 9,166). Fine skins, suitable for army purposes, were generally strongly competed for. In some instances these were taken at an advance of about 10 per cent on last year's prices. Furriers' seconds and woolly sold 10 per cent cheaper. Thirds and fourths were in better demand, and sold much dearer, the result being an average decline of about 5 per cent.

Bear, brown (906, last year 972). Sold at a decline of about 15 per cent, and were not much favored by English furriers.

Bear, gray or grizzly (250, last year 214). Sold very freely at an advance of 30 per cent.

Bear, white (130, last year 141). Good skins sold 20 per cent dearer; poorer grades at low figures.

Musk ox (449, last year 334). Firsts and seconds sold at last March prices. Damaged and thirds nearly double prices.

Dry hair seal (2,792, last year 2,703). Sold 25 per cent dearer. Some demand for France, for motor-car drivers' coats.

Patient—Doctor, you certainly have given my fever a check.

Doctor—Yes; but you haven't given me one yet.