

## British Columbia Furs.

Marcus Baldeo, of Vancouver, has the following to say about British Columbia furs: 'The principal furs handled are marten, otter, mink, wolverine, coon, bear, deer, wild cat and muskrat. Otter skins handled, 700 per annum, 3,000 for entire Province. Principally caught by Indians along the Fraser river, and Canadian Pacific railroad, as far as Donald. They are same size as those caught in the east, but not so dark. The great difficulty traders have here with otter, as well as other skins, is that they are carelessly prepared by the Indians. The red men, however, are willing to learn and the difficulty is being overcome, but threatening, coaxing or persuasion will not prevent them from killing fur animals out of season, hundreds of skins are discarded every year for this reason.

The beaver are hardly as good color, but rather larger than in the east, 1,200 pounds were handled last season by Mr. Baldeo, about 6,000 pounds in the Province. Beaver are very plentiful on Vancouver Island in uninhabited districts, and in Queen Charlotte Sound up to Alaska. Jack Tompkins, a white trapper, made a catch of 500 at Kowsee Lake in one tramp this season, selling them to Mr. Baldeo in a lump.

Thirty-five hundred marten, fisher and mink were handled in the past twelve months.

The total provincial catch being 15,000. These furs are found along Fraser River, from Donald to Comox, in Queen Charlotte Sound to Bella Bella, and up the Skeena River. They are nearly all light in color. Wolverine are scarce, not over 300 being handled in the Province last year.

Cougar are large, numerous and excellent for mounting; very large quantities of mountain goat skins come in but are not easily dealt with, not being in fashion.

Hair seals are sold us numerously in the province and east for gun cases and trunk covering. They bring from twenty-five cents to seventy-five cents each.

Deer skins come in by the thousands, eight tons passing through Mr. Baldeo's hands last

season, as none can be legally shipped from the province for four years and they find such a ready sale in Victoria, British Columbia, and elsewhere. It is difficult to know just what becomes of them unless the officials in authority "wink the other eye."

For British Columbia with 100,000 inhabitants cannot readily utilize thirty or forty tons a year.

Large quantities of black bear skins are shipped to New York and Boston, but a dreadful waste of these skins is constantly going on through bruin being slaughtered out of season. Grizzlies and browns are also numerous.

The Eldorado for hunters is Cox Island, composed of rocks, covered deep with generations of bird's nests and guano.

The tide drops forty feet in Queen Charlotte Sound approaching this island, so that only the reckless Kitkatla Indians dare venture near its treacherous, rocky shores. It is here the sea otter congregates, secure in their retreat, except when a stray hunter, taking his life in his hands, shoots the rapids and secures a foothold on the island. Two Kitkatla Indians did this last season and bagged sixteen sea otter which they sold from \$30 to \$300 each.—*Fur Trade Review*.

## Silver.

The week has been devoid of incidents calculated to affect silver, the quotations for bars in London being practically unchanged at 37½d per ounce, while the figures here show an advance from 82½ to 83c on the resumption of the government purchases for the current month. The easier tone of the London money market has not been without an effect on India exchange, and it is rumored that the forthcoming report of Lord Hirscholl's committee on Indian finances will be more favorable to the views of the bimetalists than had been anticipated. Bullion certificates have been utterly neglected. Silver prices, June 2, were: London, 37 13 16d; New York, 83c.—*Bradstreet's*.

## The Fall-off in Cattle Exports.

Exports of live cattle have so far shown up much lighter this year than in the corresponding time a year ago, and those most conversant with the condition of the foreign live stock trade are of the opinion that some measure of decrease will continue throughout the entire year. When it is remembered that foreign regulations affecting the admission of American cattle have all the time been against us for a number of years, it would seem that our export trade in live cattle has been of larger dimensions than would naturally have been expected, and the shortage now taking place is not to be wondered at under the circumstances.—*United States National Stockman*.

Samuel Clay, grocery and saloon, Victoria, assigned in trust to R. W. Higginbottom.

R. J. Ferguson, saloon, Victoria, chattel mortgage in possession. Meeting of creditors called for 31st inst.

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