

THE FUR TRADE.

The notable feature in the fur trade this month is the very strong advance developed in salted Alaska sealskins at the annual sale held in London on the 6th inst. At this sale the year's collection is offered, comprising mainly the 100,000 skins of the Alaska Commercial Company, being their yearly catch according to their contract with the United States government, and on these they pay a royalty of \$3 a skin. Bidding was brisk at the sale, and resulted in an advance of from 30 to 45 per cent. on last year's prices. This, of course, was on the raw skin values. It must be remembered that these skins have to be dressed and dyed, not entering into consumption till next year, so that this advance will probably not be much felt till then, and circumstances may shape themselves very differently in the course of a twelvemonth.

In Canadian markets, the demand for good bear skins has been usually active, and all good bears have sold to advantage. Ontario bear has not been of good quality, however, being mostly shot at wrong times, viz.: in the summer or early fall; the requisite thickness of fur is not on them, and they are useless, or next to useless. Three or four times the number usual are coming in from Haliburton Parry Sound, Bracebridge, etc., showing that bears must be plentiful this season. It is prime stuff that is wanted. Indifferent furs are dangerous to handle at any time. This remark will apply to furs generally. December and January will prove better months in this regard than those which have passed.

LUMBER AND TIMBER NOTES.

It would appear that the Scotch thread makers must be making a great amount of thread this year, to judge from the vast quantities of spool material they are buying in Maine, for example. The *Lewiston Journal* says that a large number of sailing vessels have left Bangor this year for the River Clyde, laden with spool bars, besides a large steamer, the latter craft taking out 1,400,000 feet, and large shipments are yet to be made. "Square-rigged vessels are so scarce, that a three-masted schooner was chartered this week to take spool stock to the Clyde, and she gets eighty shillings per standard, which would have been considered big money a year ago. The British steamer 'Annandale,' 1,594 tons, will arrive at Bangor this week, to load 1,000,000 feet of spool stock for Greenock, while another large steamer and more sailing vessels are to follow. One firm will ship 7,000,000 feet this season. This spool stock is sawed into square bars of various thicknesses, four feet long, from the best of white birch timber, and tied up in bundles. Piscataquis county is full of white birch, and the manufacture of spool bars is destined to become an important industry in this section."

On the subject of lumber exports to England, the *Ottawa Free Press* has the following: The impossibility of securing ocean tonnage has caused an immensity of trouble to the saw mill men here who ship to Great Britain, the lumber yards being in consequence literally filled to overflowing. The lumber exported from Ottawa to Liverpool is purchased principally by the following Quebec houses, viz.:—Smith, Wade & Co., J. Burstall & Co., Pierce & Co., R. R. Dobell & Co., and Sharples & Co. It is delivered at Montreal, where it is loaded on the ocean vessels from canal boats or cars. For some months ocean freights have been so

high that the Quebec merchants have not been shipping at all, and the result is the accumulation here of vast quantities of three-inch deals, which, in former years, were shipped and sent to England shortly after being sawed, there being, unfortunately, no room to store it on the docks at Montreal or Quebec. The amount of this kind of lumber manufactured here is estimated at about 100,000,000 feet annually, by the following firms:

J. R. Booth.....	30,000,000 feet.
Perley & Pattee.....	10,000,000 "
Eddy Company.....	20,000,000 "
Hamilton Bros.....	15,000,000 "
Pierce & Co.....	15,000,000 "
Other firms.....	20,000,000 "

—Opinions are somewhat divided among lumber dealers as to the probable effect upon our lumber trade of the stated increase of the export duty on logs to \$3 per 1,000 feet board measure. It is pretty certain that it will tend to stop the export of logs from Canada. A number of American firms who were purchasers of Canadian limits, with a view to shipping the logs to the United States, to be there manufactured, have made the experiment of so shipping them without any satisfactory results, so far as we can learn. But, say some dealers, what if the American Government shall place the duty against Canadian lumber at \$3 per 1,000 feet? If the retaliation idea, in the minds of some Republicans, be not eradicated by their recent success at the polls, something of the kind might be not unlikely. Meanwhile, the election excitement having subsided, we may look for improved trade on the other side of the border.

FOREIGN TRADE ITEMS.

From a compilation made by Messrs. Murdoch, Dickson & Co., of this city, we take the following articles, being leading exports from the United States to Colombia and Venezuela, S. A., during 1886. The fish, dairy produce, breadstuffs, hog product, &c., in the list is interesting reading to Canadians. Why should not we send these goods?

Flour	191,799.....barrels.
Codfish	20,140.....quintals.
Smoked herrings ...	3,268..... "
Cotton goods.....	value.....\$705,000.
Saws and tools.....	" 77,855.
Locks and hinges....	" 58,451.
Drugs and medicines	" 284,000.
Boots and shoes	102,713.....pairs.
Bacon and hams	668,000.....pounds.
Salt pork	348.....tons.
Lard	4,100..... "
Soap	1,802..... "
Refined sugar	3,377,000.....pounds.
Butter.....	886,000..... "
Cheese	366,000..... "
Potatoes.....	45,000.....bushels.
Peas and beans	41,500..... "
Lumber	value.....\$381,000.
Furniture & wooden-ware	" 278,000.

Bermuda imports from Great Britain £75,000 worth per annum, while from New York she takes goods worth £170,000. Canada's share is £24,000. But of her exports, which are less than £100,000 a year, the United States gets nine-tenths. British Guiana is another possible market for Canadian goods, we should think.

—During the month of October Halifax exported goods to the value of \$421,700. The fisheries contributed \$230,866; the forest, \$29,232; green fruit, \$81,364; and manufactures, \$39,894. Imports amounted to \$609,810, the largest item of which was sugar, being 4,593,211 pounds, valued at \$112,258.

DOMINION COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday night last, the quarterly meeting of the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association was held in the rooms in Montreal, Mr. Fred Birks, the president, in the chair. After some discussion of Mr. Rolland's motion concerning the mode of voting, and routine business, the nomination of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, with the following result:

President—Fred. Birks and Thomas Harries nominated.

For vice-president—The name of Ald. J. D. Rolland was proposed but he objected, and named Mr. G. Piche, who had done much for the abolition of the travellers' tax, and the formation of the association. Lieut.-Col. Massey also declined, and Mr. G. Piche was elected by acclamation.

For treasurer—Mr. R. B. Hutchison was elected by acclamation, Messrs. Ed. Dumaresq and George Forbes retiring in his favor.

Twenty names were proposed for the directorate.

The annual meeting was fixed for Saturday, 15th of December, and then the annual festival was determined to take the shape of a dinner. It was proposed that a temperance dinner be given as a trial, and moved in amendment that wine be allowed. Active discussion ensued, Messrs. Carter, Mussel, Wilson, Beauchamp, Galbraith Forbes, and Tees taking part. Finally, the amendment of Mr. Wilson, allowing wine at the dinner, was put and carried. A committee of twenty was named to take charge of the arrangements for a dinner to be held on the 20th December.

THE *Miramichi Advance* devotes half a column of its space to certain visitors to New Brunswick from Ottawa and Toronto, whom it does not name, and THE MONETARY TIMES, which it does name, alleging that they "underestimate," and "display ignorance of, the resources and capabilities" of New Brunswick. Its cause of quarrel with this journal is that it "misrepresents a synopsis of the wood export from New Brunswick in eight months of the present year, as compared with the like period of 1877, [the quantity stated being 113,955,460 sup. feet,] made, as it alleges, by the *St. John Globe*. It does this innocently and unintentionally, no doubt." We beg to say that we have gone carefully over every issue of this journal since the close of August, and cannot find that we printed such a statement as that which riles the *Advance*. We shall be obliged if that journal will tell us where it occurs. What we principally object to is the uncalled for, not to say ill-natured, closing remark of our contemporary; "Nor is it to be expected that the MONETARY TIMES will take occasion to correct them" (the alleged mis-stated figures.)

—People in cities are familiar enough with the device, now getting tolerably transparent, of so-called tea companies "giving away" toys or articles of crockery or glassware with the tea they sell. There are always people silly enough to be captured by this plan. It once happened to us to be in the sample room of a wholesale house when samples of tea bought by a customer from one of these "tea companies" were being tested. The labels of all these bore distinguished and unpronounceable names, and the price was 60 cents per pound. Purchasers of five pounds of this received as a gift a book, said to be worth a