

**British Columbia Fur Trade.**

There is an abundance of all kinds of land furs this season except bear which is very scarce. Bear has always commanded a good price and bear hunting has appealed to the cupidity of the Indians as well as the white hunters for some years, with the result that beaver is fast disappearing from his accustomed haunts. Whether it is a case of migration or extermination cannot as yet be ascertained accurately.

Mink, martin and otter are being brought to the city in unusually large quantities. Several bundles of martin have come from Skeena in the far north, and are of such a superior quality as to command fancy prices, not down on the regular price list. The skins are light in weight, black in color and of the finest texture. The Indian trapper sold them first handed at \$7.00 each obtaining \$220 for a small bundle. They are almost equal to the Russian sable which brings \$30. They are called sable martin and are contracted for by an English firm who gives a large price for all that can be secured for him. These sable martin which are also being brought in from Kootenay county, in limited quantities appear for the first time in the Vancouver markets.

There has been an attempt to work up a trade here in Australian furs. Samples of a quantity of Australian furs principally opossum have been sent to New York, Boston and other places. The reply has been that little could be done with them and at the best they could only be used for lining. One of the reasons is that the Australian trapper does not care his skins and there is such a difference in quality between the back and the belly, that about half the fur goes to waste.

The burning question in British Columbia just now is what shall we do with our deer hides. Several years ago the Provincial Legislature passed a law that no game or any portion of game should be exported in its raw state, a provision which it was thought would prevent the wholesale slaughter of deer for their hides. It was reasonable to suppose that beneficial results would follow from the adoption of this course. But this has not been the case. The open season is a long one, from September to January. In November each year, the snow drives the deer from the high ground and the Indians turn out in hundreds and with their dogs chase the unfortunate animals into the water and slaughter them like so many cattle and sell for 50 cents a carcass, hide and all. What to do with the skins, that is the question. Many with great expense and labor stored away large bales of them, against the time the law might be repealed. They poisoned the skins to keep off insects and took every precaution to preserve them, but found that at the end of three years the skins were worthless and where they could have then got 25 cents a pound in the United States market they could only get half that, for even prime skins. Others started tanneries and tanned the skins, but the Canadian and American glove manufacturers said, in answer to correspondence, we prefer to tan our own skins, and one after the other the B. C. tanners were obliged to close down for want of patronage. At length there was open murmurs and some smuggling, and furriers said this is an iniquitous law and a menace to commerce. One Buscovitz notified the authorities "I have deer skins for export, what are you going to do about it?" His case was tested, the defence was that it was not a matter for the province to decide, but it should be left to the Dominion Government whose duty it was to foster trade and not to place obstacles in its way where no great good could result. The chief justice has handed down his decision, against

Mr Buscovitz ruling that the act of the Provincial Legislature in this connection is entirely constitutional. It is said Mr Buscovitz will appeal the case.

The following are the ruling prices for land furs in British Columbia:

	No 1 large	No. 1	No 2	No. 3	No. 4
	fine.	medium.	large.		
Bears black	\$28 00	\$16 00	\$10 00	\$4 00	\$1 00
Bears, brown	25 00	16 00	10 00	4 00	1 00
Bears, grizzly	25 00	16 00	10 00	4 00	1 00
Mink	75	50	35	20	
Beaver	8 00	6 00	4 00	2 00	
Otter	7 00	5 00	3 00	2 00	
Fisher	6 00	5 00	3 00	2 00	
Martin, black	7 00				
Martin, dark	2 50	2 00	1 00		
Lynx	2 50	1 50			
Fox, silver	75 00	50 00	25 00	10 00	
Fox, cross	6 00	5 00	4 00	2 00	
Fox, red	2 00	1 00			
Wolf	2 50	2 00			
Wolverine	4 00	3 00	2 00		
Raccoon	35				

Deer skins, per lb, 8 to 10 cents.

**Toronto Grain and Produce Market.**

Wheat.—The market is easier owing to some extent to freer deliveries by the farmers. Red and white are offering on the Northern to-day at 98c. Manitoba wheat is steady. Holders of No. 1 hard afloat are asking \$1 Fort William and buyers quote 98c. Cars west are quoted at \$1.04 to \$1.05 and Montreal freights at \$1.06 to \$1.07.

Flour.—Is dull and prices are nominal. Cars of Ontario patents are quoted at \$5 and straight roller at \$4.75 to \$4.80, Toronto freights.

Milfeed.—Cars west are quoted at \$16.50. Bran is slow at \$12.

Barley.—Cars of feed outside are quoted at 53c.

Oats.—The offerings are fair, but most holders are asking more than buyers consider the grain worth, some asking 40 to 41c, but cars of white were offered west to-day at 88c. Cars on track here are quoted at 41c.

Butter.—The offerings from country dealers are large, the receipts are fair and ample to supply the local trade which are not buying liberally. For choice straight fresh made dairy tubs dealers quoted 11 to 12½c, and low grade, which is slow, is quoted at 9 to 7c. Creamery is dull at 16 to 17c for rolls and 15 to 16c for tubs.

Eggs.—The market is steady at 10½ to 10¾c.

Hides.—Green hides are quoted at 8c and cured 9c; pelts at 15c; lambskins 25c. Calfskins are in good demand.

Wool.—Nominal quotations are. Merchantable fleeces 20c, rejects 16c; unwashed 12c; but actual transactions have been made at prices ½ to 1½c in advance of these prices.—Globe, June 15

In the railway committee at Ottawa on June 13, a charter was granted to the James Bay railway Co, consisting of Wm. McKenzie, H. D. Lumsden, Geo. A. Cox and D. D. Mann to construct a line from Parry Sound or from a point on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Sudbury Junction and North Bay to James Bay (a portion of Hudson Bay) at a point where Moose river enters the Bay.

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