

British Columbia Fur Trade.

The winter season for land furs is not as good as that of 1893-4. Dealers claim that the reason for this is not that there are not as many furs in the country, but that hard times are driving hunters and trappers out of the province.

Very few bear skins have been coming in, owing, it is said, to the mild winter, which enables them to obtain a supply of food in the mountains, but those that have been delivered are of exceptionally good quality. There is a fair supply of beaver, otter, and mink in the market. There are a large number of deer skins on hand, but not as many as last year owing to the law being strictly enforced in regard to shooting out of season. Few are being killed except by the Indians. During the season just closed, however, the usual slaughter was still carried on until deer, hide and all could be bought in the markets of British Columbia for fifty cents singly or by the dozen. There is a strong feeling among sporting men and fur dealers that the season should be shortened and that it should close in September. Wolverines captured in the Cascades, eastern British Columbia, are more numerous and certainly show a better quality of fur than any ever seen in these markets. The specimens on exhibition in Marcus Baldec's warehouses being simply perfection. Mink were very low last season and the British Columbia dealers were shrewd enough to salt them down in barrels. They came out in prime condition and are selling readily at the advanced price this season.

Very few of the coarser furs are being brought in owing to the prices having fallen. At Kootenay, B. C., and some other points in the province the beautiful mountain goats are roaming in numbers, but as their hides only bring about fifty cents each, they are only killed in the way of sport. They are not as difficult to shoot as some imagine. They often go in flocks and of the last lot brought in, six were killed by the hunter in one drive, before they could get out of the reach of his rifle. The skins make beautiful mats but are not popular. A large consignment of all kinds of furs was recently shipped from here to Boston, which is the best city for British Columbia furs as well as British Columbia fish. A considerable number are shipped to New York, but they are mostly in the finer furs, such as beaver and otter.

Eastern Canada are taking more furs than ever this season, principally beaver, the popular fur of Canada. They are shipped to Brockville where they are prepared and dyed.

The market has been rather shy on the large lot of Australian opossum shipped here as an experiment and comparatively few have been sold. Now that the price of opossum has advanced, the Australian product should find a market. They are a fine article and are a profitable fur for the importer, as they are almost as plentiful as rabbits in Australia.

In leathers, sea lion hides are being handled as an experiment. They should make capital bands for machinery, as nothing could be imagined stronger than the hide tested for the purpose. A good many kangaroo hides imported from Australia have also been sold, while the sale of hair seal hides keeps up very well. Cougar skins for ornamental rugs, etc., are not so plentiful, as the government bounty of \$7 a head is the cause of their being slowly but surely exterminated. In this connection a word to the hunters would not be out of place. The hunter who kills a cougar has to show the head to the government before he gets his bounty. To do this they cut the head from the skin and practically spoil the skin. How much better it would be if they showed the whole skin, head and all, to the government and disclosed a brand on the inside of the skin that the

government could record, so that the same skin could not be shown again. The following are the current prices ruling here:

	1	2	Medium	3	4
Bears, black	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$5.00	4.00
" brown	23.00	8.00	12.00	1.00	1.00
" gizzly	22.00	10.00	15.00	5.00	1.00
" cubs	6.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Mink	.75	.35	.50	.....	.....
Beaver	8.00	4.10	6.00	2.00	1.00
Otter	7.00	3.00	5.00	2.00	1.00
Fisher	6.00	3.00	5.00	2.00	1.00
Martin, dark	2.50	1.00	2.00	.....	.....
" light	1.50	.50	1.00	.....	.....
Wolf	2.00	1.00	1.50	.....	.....
Fox, red	2.00	.75	.50	.....	.....
" cross	6.00	1.00	5.00	1.00	1.00
" silver	75.00	25.00	50.00	10.00	5.00
Wolverine	3.00	1.00	2.00	.....	.....
Raccoon	4.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	.....
Deer skins	.35	.20	.25	.....	.....
Wild cat	per pound	8 to 10	.....	.....	.....
Muskat	.75	.35	.50	.....	.....
Cougar skins, heads and feet perfect.	.08	.05	.....	.....	.....
	4.00	.....	2.50	.....	.....

The Fur Trade at Edmonton.

During the recent visit of the freight rates commission to Edmonton, Alberta, J. A. McDougall, general merchant, of that place, spoke before the commission in regard to express rates on fur as follows: The fur trade was the largest branch of Edmonton's business and Edmonton did a larger business in buying fur direct from hunters and trader than any other place on the continent. Competition was very keen and higher prices were paid than even in Winnipeg. To carry on the business successfully it was necessary that furs should be sent forward promptly to reach the quarterly London sales, each sale being the basis of the prices paid until next sale. For this reason as well as to secure prompt returns it was necessary to ship by express. He had been informed that the charges should not exceed \$10 or \$11 per 100 pounds to New York. The rates actually paid were a much higher as to be a severe tax upon the business, so severe indeed that Mr Seord, one of the local fur buyers, had found it necessary to ship by freight and thereby miss the London sale rather than pay the express charges. He prepared a statement of shipments made to New York and charges paid for presentation to the commission. The following is the statement of express charges:

1894	lbs.	charges	Rate per 100 lbs
Jan. 4, one parcel	27	\$ 4.25	\$15.74
Jan. 11, "	70	12.45	17.20
Feb. 5, "	78	12.15	15.58
Sept 17, "	120	19.80	16.50
Nov. 23, "	34	9.05	26.62
Nov. 29, "	50	10.80	21.60
Dec. 1, "	15	2.35	15.77
Dec. 3, "	10	2.00	20.00
Dec. 17, "	75	9.85	13.13
Dec. 22, "	175	16.00	9.00

The above charges include insurance at the rate of about one-third of one per cent on the value of the furs shipped. As will be seen the charges vary from \$9.00 per 100 to \$26.62 per 100 pounds.

The annual meeting of McClary Benefit Society of London, Ont., was celebrated on Tuesday night with a concert in Somerset Hall. The society, which is composed of employees of the McClary Manufacturing Company, paid out in sick benefits last year \$777.25, and there is still a balance of \$196.25 to the credit of the society. One hundred and six members or over one-third of the membership, received benefits during the year. There were three deaths: J. Cole, W. Johnson and J. Williams, (the latter two being old employees). The society has now been in operation for about thirteen years, and during that time between \$9,000 and \$10,000 have been paid out in sick benefits, besides providing members with the services of a medical attendant free of charge.

Manitoba Finances.

Following is an abstract of the estimates of the province as presented to the legislature on Monday by the provincial treasurer:

Estimated expenditure, Legislation, \$12,700,000; executive council, \$1,500,000; treasury department, \$29,825,000; specially authorized, \$123,198,69; provincial treasurers department, \$8,800,000; department of education, \$123,600,000; department of agriculture and immigration, \$66,523,59; attorney general's department, \$123,515,000; provincial lands department, \$22,500,000; railway commissioners' department, \$6,400,000; public works department, \$163,062,35; municipal commissioner, \$1,650,000. Total, \$710,274,63.

ESTIMATED REVENUE.

Subsidy	\$505,089.74
Interest on school lands fund	10,000.00
Fines	4,000.00
Fees	2,000.00
County court fees	12,000.00
Law stamps	12,000.00
Land titles general fees	70,000.00
Marriage licenses	1,500.00
Manitoba Gazette	3,000.00
Sale of statutes	300.00
Three per cent., gross earnings	9,000.00
Liquor licenses	26,000.00
Interest	31,000.00
Private bills	700.00
Refunds	2,000.00
Provincial lands	2,000.00
Support of incurables	500.00
Support of lunatics	29,000.00
Insurance act fees	12,000.00
Succession dues	3,000.00
Sundry revenue	3,000.00
Total	\$718,089.75

Spirits and Tobacco

The annual report of the inland revenue department, just issued, gives these statistics.

Cigars manufactured in Winnipeg during 1891, 1,733,700, an increase over 1890 of 200,000.

Number of cigars on which duty was paid, 1,514,150, number yet in warehouse, 399,325.

Spirits entered for consumption during 1891, 183,388,97 gallons.

Duty paid on spirits, \$209,099,90. Malt manufactured in Winnipeg during 1891, 1,500,119 pounds.

Malt entered for consumption, same period, 1,572,295 pounds.

Malt liquor manufactured in Winnipeg during 1891, 192,149 gallons.

Tobacco entered for consumption in Winnipeg during the year 657,150 pounds. On this duty collected \$161,362.

Then talk about hard times.

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LINES.

LATEST TIME CARD.

Daily Through Trains.

12.45 pm	3.25 pm	Lv Minneapolis	Ar	8.40 am	4.20 pm
1.25 pm	7.15 am	Lv St. Paul	Ar	8.00 am	3.40 pm
	4.03 pm	Lv Duluth	Ar	11.10 am	
	7.15 pm	Lv Ashland	Ar	8.15 am	
7.15 am	10.05 am	Ar Chicago	Lv	6.00 pm	12.40 pm

Tickets sold and baggage checked through to all points in the United States and Canada.

Close connection made in Chicago with all trains going East and South.

For full information apply to your nearest ticket agent or

JAS. C. POND,
Gen. Pass. Agt. Willwaukee, Wis