

in this as in other posts, it takes so long a time before mistakes can be rectified, and loss avoided. Several incidents of this kind have most seriously affected the results of the trade of the Western Department, irrespective of unavoidable misfortunes.

The remarks we have made on Fort Simpson apply with increased force to the District of Skeena.

SKEENA.

Here the amount of goods traded, after deducting sales, was:—

In Outfit 1874	..	..	..	..	\$15,250 and Returns	\$11,500
„ 1875	..	..	..	..	19,000 „	10,000
„ 1876	..	..	..	..	17,000 „	7,000

The disproportion in the amount of goods traded to returns here, goes as far back as Outfit 1874, and it is not surprising that even in that Outfit, with fair prices, no profit was made. But we particularly regret to see that the mismanagement continued for no less than three years. Mr. CHARLES wrote of Skeena as he wrote of Fort Simpson. It was visited by an officer specially deputed, but no amendment ensued. The Post is now closed with a further loss of \$1,649. It has caused a loss of \$16,000 to the Fur Trade since 1874, not to speak of the loss of interest.

The next Posts to which we have to refer happily give a different result, and we call attention to the fact how even in Outfit 1876 on reduced valuations, the Returns bear a good proportion to the goods traded.

The figures of Bella Coola and Bella Bella are as follows:—

BELLA COOLA.

Goods traded.	Outfit 1874	..	\$3,588	Returns	..	\$7,419
„ „	„ 1875	..	3,220	„	..	4,228
„ „	„ 1876	..	2,553	„	..	4,314

BELLA BELLA.

Goods traded.	Outfit 1874	..	\$2,134	Returns	..	\$4,131
„ „	„ 1875	..	1,384	„	..	1,758
„ „	„ 1876	..	1,244	„	..	2,159

These Posts, as might be gathered from these figures, give a profit in every Outfit.

MASSETT.

At Massett, in Queen Charlotte Island, the figures are as follows:—

Outfit 1874	..	..	Goods traded	\$9,089	Returns	\$11,491
„ 1875	..	..	„	11,228	„	9,790
„ 1876	..	..	„	12,845	„	11,696

The results have not been satisfactory. Though an amount of goods valued at \$33,000 has been traded in the three Outfits, the profits were very small. But it is explained that the trade in this Island has been carried on under exceptionally difficult circumstances for which the officers in charge could not be held responsible. At this Post the Company occasionally trade Fur Seals. Inclement weather interfered with seal-fishing, but it will be seen in the more