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Certainly ; but a coat generally costs five or six skins. The process is true ; but the details are not true.

541. I will now read to you from the "Indian tariff of the territory embraced within the Royal License, situated east of the Rocky Mountains." I find that a gun, which in England cost 22 s., is charged to the Indian 20 beavers, equivalent in market value to 32 l. 10 s. ; is that anything according with your experience ?—It was true many years ago, but it is not true at present.

542. Have you wonderfully reformed of late ?—No, but the price of beaver is not that ; it is 13 s. in the market at the present day.

543. Then the Indian would have to give more beavers ?—No, it would still be the same ; and the gun might rise to 30 s. or 40 s.

544. In marten skins he gives for the same gun, costing 22 s., 60 skins, and their value is 46 l. 10 s. ?—I never saw more than two martens go to a beaver since I have been in the service.

545. He gives five silver fox skins for the same gun, and their market value is 50 l. ?—Yes, it is true.

545* Do they descend to musk-rats, which form half the stock ?—At some places.

546. They do not say anything about musk-rats ?—No ; that is just the thing ; there is little or no gain upon them. Let me give my side of the tariff : ten rats go to a beaver ; for a gun it would be 200 rats, and the price in the market, some years ago, was 3 d. or 4 d. a skin.

547. Mr. *Grogan*.] How many beavers go to a gun ?—Twenty by that account, and that is the Mackenzie River tariff ; that is the very highest tariff that we have to the Indians. If you are paid for that gun in rats you have scarcely the profit that a London merchant would take, even in the City, instead of going to the Saskatchewan, and those musk rats form one half of the bulk of the returns of the southern department, and a great portion of the northern.

548. Mr. *Roebuck*.] Can you state the difference between silver foxes and beaver skins ; how many beaver skins go to one silver fox ?—Four or five.

549. Then they give five silver foxes for this same gun ?—Yes, in Mackenzie River, but about half the amount elsewhere.

550. And that is equivalent, it is stated, to 50 l. ?—Yes.

551. That is the mode of trading with the Indians ?—That is the mode on the one side ; you must take both sides. There is a loss, at least not a gain, in trading with the inferior furs. Were we to pay according to the value of the skins the Indian would hunt up and destroy all the valuable fur-bearing animals, and would not catch a musk rat or the inferior skins at all.

552. When you trade in musk rats in order that the Indians should catch musk rats in place of catching beavers, you give more for the musk rat in proportion than for the beaver ?—The more inferior the skin, the higher the price which is given in proportion.

553. Supposing an Indian comes with musk rats to buy a gun, how many musk rats will he give for this gun ?—About 200 in Mackenzie River, and a little more than half elsewhere.

554. And how much is each musk rat worth ?—They have got up this last year, they were from 3 d. to 4 d. for several years.

555. What are they now ?—I forget, but they have increased this last season.

556. Are they 6 d. ?—Yes, fully that ; more.

557. That would be 5 l. ?—Yes, at Mackenzie River, but not much above half the sum elsewhere.

558. Instead of 22 s. ?—Yes ; but 6 d. was a high value, 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. would be the value of them some few years ago ; 2 l. 10 s. would be at 3 d.

559. Mr. *Gurney*.] If I understand rightly, the principle is, that you give a higher price for the lower skin, and a lower price for the more valuable skin, with the view of yielding the Indian a fair average on his general hunt ?—Exactly so, because were we not to pay them for the inferior skins higher than any person could do with a profit, they would not hunt up those skins, which are very numerous ; they would follow up the others as they have done on the frontier, and destroy all the valuable animals without advantage to themselves.

560. Mr. *Lowe*.] It is a contrivance for preserving the more valuable animals ?—Yes, and probably the Indians also, because the poorer Indians and the women and children hunt up the musk rats, of which there are abundance, and can provide food and clothing for themselves in that way.

561. Mr.