

REPORT

ON THE

FUR TRADE ACCOUNTS.

The Account Books of the various Departments are made up for transmission to London at the following Depots, from the Accounts rendered by the Officers in charge of Districts, namely—

The NORTHERN DEPARTMENT	Accounts at Fort Garry.
„ SOUTHERN	„ „ „ Moose Factory.
„ MONTREAL, including Labrador	„ Montreal.
„ WESTERN DEPARTMENT	„ Victoria B.C.

The Furs and other Returns sent home for sale are assumed in these Accounts at valuations, regulated by the prices ruling in this market at the latest date known to the Officers. The valuations adopted in Outfits 1875 and 1876 were, owing to the subsequent fall in the market, in many cases higher than the prices which the returns of these Outfits realized; while the valuations adopted in Outfit 1877 were much lower than the prices at which the returns of that Outfit have recently been sold.

Before entering upon an examination of the District Accounts and of the Reports of the Officers in charge, to discover whether or not other causes besides the reduced valuations of Furs have contributed to the great decline in the amount of apparent profits, we should state that an examination of the Inventories has not shown us any tendency on the part of the Officers to over-value the assets in the Accounts, although in isolated instances an over-valuation may have occurred—(*Vide page 16 of Remarks on the Trade.*)

During the last five or six years, Fort Garry Depot has received the bulk of the supplies of goods for the Northern Department. Moose Factory has received the supplies of the Southern, Victoria those of the Western Department, and Montreal the supplies of the Montreal Department.

In the Western Department the goods at Inland Districts are valued at rates which include inland carriage and charges, and those incurred at the Victoria Depot.

At the other Depots, freight, duty, and charges, on the goods, are added to their cost; and a percentage is added in respect of the further charges for inland carriage of the goods to the different Districts. This percentage, of course, varies according to the distance from the Depot, the average being 17½ per cent. upon the cost of goods landed at Fort Garry. In McKenzie River District this advance, to cover inland carriage, amounts to 45 per cent; in English River to 33; in Edmonton to 22; and in Manitoba, near Red River to 6½ per cent.

In the Southern Department the average advance is 16½ per cent. on cost of goods landed at Moose Factory, the highest being 35 per cent. for carriage of supplies to Kinogumissee, and the lowest 5 per cent. on supplies to Albany.