

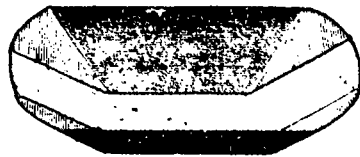
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Fur Trade Matters.

The Leipzig (Germany) correspondent of the New York *Fur Trade Review*, writing on May 10, says: "American, French and English dealers were present, as were also furriers from Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland, and buyers from other countries, the number being a surprise to all; the business of the fair, however, was scarcely satisfactory.

In Russian furs, squirrel lining was in demand for France, Italy and England; back linings of pure color were preferred; belly circulars were in good demand for France and Italy. Several transactions have been noted in Russian sacs. Susliki sacs have sold well of late; prices have advanced; the buyers were American and English firms, who gave orders for later delivery. There has been an active demand for dyed Persian lambs for various countries; parcels of raw skins have been taken for Canada. Astrakhan, lambs have been purchased for the United States, but transactions were not as important as one year ago. Half-Persians and all other woolly sorts of lambs have been neglected. Some demand has been shown for gray Krimmer lambs for the United States and Canada; prices moderate, supply not small. Superior Russian sable and sable tails taken for France and England. White foxes sold fairly, the lower grades being taken for Turkey as usual, and the finer grades for dyeing, a new lynx imitation is shown that is very good, and selling well. The sale of black dyed hares have sold slowly; some parcels have been bartered for American raw furs. Some transactions have been effected in white Thibet lamb, but in most instances the fresh goods were considered too high. English firms have taken white and dark natural moufflons, otherwise the article has been neglected. Bears and wolves taken for England at fully former prices, Kolinsky tails are cheap and in little demand. American furs have not sold as well as expected. Credits to Russian dealers have been largely reduced. German furriers have shown marked reserve in buying. Skunk has been in fair demand, dark skins being taken for all countries, and good striped sorts for France; selected dark raccoon and some middling sorts purchased for Russia; the general demand has been very limited; black and dark brown dyed skins taken for Germany and America.

Skunk imitation raccoon is a novelty that meets with universal favor. Musquash has been sold at depressed prices, linings have been especially low in price, raw skins for linings have been taken in very small lots for Russia, the duty being too high, black musquash has been purchased for France. Black dyed and skunk imitations in American opossum have sold well; supply small, sales in sea otter, fisher, otter, silver and cross fox limited to a few large Russian houses. Mink met with a fairly good demand, and the tails were readily sold for France at prices about as high as ever noted. Balkan countries took the usual grades of mar-

ten. Trade in red fox was active for Turkey and Asia Minor at good prices; gray fox and American bear are now too dear for this market. Blue foxes sold slowly; some lots of lynx were taken for America, but at lower prices than in the March sales. Beaver had only a limited sale. Nutria offered in important quantity and moderate prices, and taken quite freely for France, England and Denmark.

Browned dyed Russian marmot sold well at reduced prices, instead of brown dyed white-coats. There has been a moderate demand for Dutch swan and geese, and prices declined; an improved request has been observed for white coney skins and all sorts of coney linings; there is also a fair demand for black dyed French and Belgian coney. German foxes sold slowly at first, and more briskly towards the close of the fair, bringing advanced prices—from 4½ to 4¾ marks; the same course was observed in stone marten. Pine marten sold at reduced prices; marten tails are cheaper than in 1891. Land otter has been offered at more reasonable rates than prior to the fair, and good parcels were purchased for plucking; sitch also sold at slightly lower prices; black cats were in good request for France, Italy and the United States, and prices were about twenty per cent. higher than one year ago; mottled cats were cheap and neglected; red and blue sold somewhat better; hamster linings of cheap sorts, sold fairly. Just before the fair, a Turkish commission firm of this place failed with liabilities of about 150,000 marks; a compromise was effected at fifty per cent.

The Tea Outlook.

The London, England, *Grocers' Gazette*, of May 21, says: "The China tea market is decidedly stronger, and with the large stock which has for so many years been a bugbear, now a thing of the past, buyers find that importers have at length some small voice as regards the disposal of their teas. We do not now hear of many hopeful operators on their way to China to send home tea out of pure philanthropy; these days are over. Fine teas, or teas that were fine when they came, although ridiculously cheap, fail to attract much attention, and a chop for which 2s 2d per pound was once refused sold this week at 3½ per pound. Common teas, on the other hand, are decidedly firmer, and with buyers growing a little anxious on account of the strong rise in Indians and Ceylons, are likely to go still better. Indian teas are again stronger, and things, without actually booming, are certainly, at present all in favor of higher prices. The advance has now affected even commonest grades and Pekoe Souchongs for price, and also leafy broken towards the end of the week were being turned over at 4½ to 4¾ per pound profit. The position must look rather awkward for buyers, and especially for the blenders, who have for months past been able to pick and choose at their own price. Lower quotations we can

scarcely now see on this side of September, and the only question is how much more tea will go up. Some people think that Pekoe Souchong up to type will be 9d per pound before long, while others take 8d per pound as their limit. At present the quotation for July on the future market is a shade over 7d per pound. Fine teas are scarce, and grow daily dearer, and Pekoes in particular show a further strong advance. Pekoes round about 8d per pound hardly exist, and good medium kinds are 2d to 3d per lb. up from the lowest point."

Aroma of Coffee.

The aroma of coffee develops especially during the process of roasting; its fatty oil oxidizes, is burned, and is changed into essential oil, or caffeine, a species of ether that can be isolated by distillation, and which we can sometimes see with the naked eye on the surface of the ordinary infusion. Put coffee, like many other natural products, such as wine, tobacco and cocoa, requires a certain length of time after being gathered before it reaches its full maturity. Experience has shown that the development of its aromatic principle is acquired by keeping it in a green state from one crop to another. But it is well known that for about the last half century the caffeine seems to be lacking in the infusion of coffee, which has no longer the exquisite qualities due to its aroma.

If now, on the one hand, we consider that the production of coffee is necessarily limited by the conditions of climate requisite for its growth, and that, on the other hand, the planter, in order to supply the demand which is constantly on the increase, is now obliged to deliver the crop as soon as it is gathered, we can do nothing but infer that the cause of the degeneration of coffee lies in the fact that it is supplied to the trade too soon, while it has not yet developed its constituent principles, and particularly its caffeine.

The inference from this is evident. If we wish that our coffee should regain the quality through which formerly it was considered such an exquisite beverage, we shall have to go back to the traditional process of only supplying it to the trade when the caffeine has acquired its full development, which can only be given to it by time, and by being kept in a green condition from one crop to the next.

We must not, however, expect the dealers are going to follow this rule, but, at any rate, consumers can do it for themselves, by only roasting and using coffee which they have kept in a green condition for at least a year.—N. Y. *Herald*.

The Sugar Bounty.

The quantity of sugar produced in the United States the past year and subject to the bounty proved to be much smaller than was anticipated. The total production, subject to