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## The Consolidated Stationery Co., Ltd.

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### Fur Trade Notes.

The Leipzig (Germany) correspondent of the Fur Trade Review writes as follows on Dec. 11:—"Business in November, owing to the favorable weather, was rather fair, but in consequence of a change in temperature has declined this month. Transactions in American furs have been limited; mink has done a little better at retail than during the former months, cheap grades being preferred in skins and linings; marten sold more slowly than before; there has been a very limited demand for skunk; there is no change in musquash; prime skins are neglected and real imitations sell slowly, and lower sorts fit for linings are scarce, back linings have had a fair sale for Scandinavia and Austria, and belly linings have been taken to a limited extent and belly capes are in good request; small parcels of dressed raccoon have been taken for Austria, and in beaver imitation for Germany and Austria; there has been a fair demand for dark American otter, pale sorts for plucking sell slowly; American opossum, natural and dyed, sell slowly. There has been a fair demand for bastard chinchilla in most European countries, principally France and Austria; nutria is still received in small quantity and prices are high. Russian owners of hares now hold the article at very high prices, but we doubt whether it will be possible for the new chinchilla imitation to absorb the large quantities which will reach our market; the article is in fashion, and the old chinchilla imitation in hares has also been purchased largely; black colored hares have been used a little more than in former years. There is very little doing in Astrakhan, with the exception of flat moire and broadtails, which are in fair demand; all flat kid linings sell well; sales in black Persian lambs have been satisfactory, large and medium curl are preferred for fashionable capes, but the usual curled descriptions have found buyers for Russia, Poland and Roumania; there have been several considerable transactions in raw Persian during the past few weeks, and stocks in Russia are nearly sold out and prices of raw skins are firm; dressed grey krimmer lambs have been used more than in former years for Germany and Austria; Thibet has not done as well at retail as was expected, but France and Italy have ordered considerable supplies of the black colored skins; white moultons sell slower than in the autumn, though dyed skins in gray, blue and chinchilla imitations have done fairly well, and there has been some demand for natural blue moultons of certain pale shades; there is only a very little demand for squirrel linings of all sorts; ermine skins and linings have had a good sale, though the demand has not been as active as in the beginning of the season. The

same is true of sable; black and gray cats have sold well, the prices being reasonable. Payments from Russia come in regularly. A number of Leipzig firms have sustained some losses through a failure in Paris."

### Hides, Leather, Boots and Shoes.

Montreal prices for hides are quoted as follows:—Light hides, 7c for No. 1, 6c for No. 2, and 5c for No. 3; heavy steers, 7c to 7½c; calfskins, 6c for No. 1, and 4c for No. 2; Lambskins, 75c each.

The Chicago hide market is reported as follows by Hide and Leather:—"No. 1 buff, free of brands and grubs, 40 to 60 lbs., sold to the extent of at least five cars at 7½c; 2's, 7½c. These were secured previous to the transaction above alluded to at 8c. Later the latter figure was bid, but dealers declined to offer." Later reports quote an advance of ½c to 8½c.

Leather prices at Montreal are quoted as follows: No. 2 manufacturers' sole, 20½ to 22c; jobbers' sole, 22 to 21c; slaughter sole, 23 to 25c; waxed upper, 29 to 31c; grained, 29 to 31c; buff, 11 to 12½c; splits, 17 to 20c for Ontario, and 15 to 18c for Quebec; pebble, 11 to 18c; glove, 10 to 12c; Duggola, 12 to 18c per foot; sheepskins, 5 to 7c per foot; calfskins, 18 to 20c per foot.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says:—"Manufacturers are busy on spring orders, but some intend closing down for a week, as their hands in any event will make very irregular time, until they work off the effects of their New Year's joviality."

### Grain and Milling.

Exports of wheat, flour included, as wheat, from both coasts of the United States for the week ended Dec. 31 amount to 2,707,793 bushels, as compared with 2,111,000 bushels the previous week, 3,467,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 1,814,000 bushels two years ago and with 2,035,000 bushels in corresponding week of 1893.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "The oatmeal market is decidedly easier and lower, good brands of rolled oats being offered in this market at \$3.25 to \$3.35 in car lots as to brand, one dealer stating that he had been offered one of the finest Western brands at \$3.25. The cause of the decline is the easier condition of the market for oats and the lower rates they are offered at. Farmers both in Ontario and this province have large quantities on hand, while considerable are in the hands of country buyers.

There was a weaker feeling in oats at Montreal on Dec. 29 and sales of No. 2 white on track were made at 23½c, and in store at 24½c to 25c.

The Montreal Gazette of Dec. 30 says: There has been some shading in the flour market of late for winter wheat patents, and prices are now quoted 5c to 15c per barrel lower, with recent sales at \$1.70 to \$1.85.

The annual meeting of the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange will be held on January 13, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. One of the matters which will come up are the new rules relating to sales for future delivery and definitions of trade terms. Printed sheets containing the new rules, have been distributed to members.

Leitch Bros., the well known flour miller of Oak Lake, Man., have favored The Commercial with one of their handsome calendars. It represents young Manitoba going gunning.

It is rumored that the duty on wheat will likely be reduced to 10 cents per bushel, and the flour duty to 50 cents per barrel. The present duty is 15 cents on wheat and 75 cents on flour.

There is always a complaint from farmers that any wheat damaged by frost does not bring its full value here. It is said that at points in Dakota, south of the boundary, frosted wheat is not bringing within 20 cents per bushel of the price paid for similar grain in Manitoba, while high grade wheat brings 3 to 5 cents more here.

### Where Protection Comes In.

The cost of railroad has been largely added to by the policy of the country, which, while it encouraged the rail-maker by a duty of \$17.60 for nearly every ton of iron laid down over this broad stretch from the sea to the centre of the continent, has forever doomed the flour-maker and the farmer to pay an annual interest on this added charge. So long as grass grows and water runs, the interest must be exacted for the bonds issued for this expensive construction, and just so long will freight charges be regulated by the added cost of this construction. At the last analysis, the farmer and the miller will be compelled to pay the rates made necessary by this attempt to get rich by taxation.—Erastus Wyman in a speech at Minneapolis.

At Montreal on Dec. 29 there was a stronger feeling in dressed hogs, and prices advanced 10c to 15c per 100 lbs. for car lots and 25c for small lots. Sales of heavy weights in car lots were made at \$1.90 and light at \$3, while in a jobbing way \$5.25 to \$5.50 per 100 lbs. was paid freely.

The neatest thing in the line of a calendar received this season, comes from the Thos. Davidson Manufacturing Co., of Montreal. It is in the form of a metal whisk holder, and is a product of the factory of the company, which manufactures stamped ware, granite ware, metal lithographs, etc.