

Western Business Items.

A. McMillan, V. S., of Virden, has moved to Brandon.

Davis & Padgham, Winnipeg, tailors, have dissolved.

J. McDonald, hotel, Winnipeg, has sold out to Daniel Mooney.

W. J. Christie, undertaker, is opening business at Yorkton, Assa.

W. M. Gibson has opened business in house furnishings at 574 Main street, Winnipeg.

B. Rose, from Ontario, will open a bakery and confectionery shop, at Douglas, Man.

Tenders are called for the work and materials for a system of waterworks for Rat Portage.

The stock of S. Graham, general store keeper, of Baldur, Man., has been sold to one Bell.

Harris & Co., clothing, Morden, have opened a branch business at Curman, Man., in charge of F. Harris.

Mr. Brooks, of Douglas, is erecting a blacksmith shop, at Forrest, Man., where he will start business.

A. J. Baskin has sold out his general blacksmithing business at Minnedosa, Man., to Hugh Steele.

E. Nicholson, Winnipeg, had in a car of Dow & Curry's rolled oats this week, which sold quickly.

C. B. Scantlebury, wall paper and stationery, Belleville, Ont., is opening a branch business in Winnipeg.

A. Wilson of Winnipeg, has started a carriage shop in connection with Street's blacksmith's shop at Portage in Prairie, Man.

D. Naismith was in Winnipeg this week. He goes to Vancouver to take charge of the new branch which J. Y. Griffin & Co. are opening there.

E. F. Hutchings, wholesale saddler, etc., Winnipeg, has returned from a western trip, during which he visited his branches at Edmonton and other points.

The purchase of the lumber business of W. J. Mathers, at Neepawa, Man., by John Law, was noted last week. Mr. Law is now said to have made the purchase for R. C. Ennis.

The estate of the Whitelaw Trading Co., Brandon, is offered for sale by tender. It consists of groceries, fixtures and chattels to the amount of \$3,000.

It is rumored that Mackenzie and Mann are endeavoring to arrange to extend the Manitoba Northwestern railway. This brings to remembrance the fact that the identity of the recent purchaser of the road, or the first mortgage bonds of the road are not known.

Freight Rates.

Chicago Trade Bulletin: Traffic east and west is about the largest ever known. Rates eastbound are unsettled at 12 to 15c per 100 pounds on flour and grain from Chicago to New York and 17 to 20c on provisions. Ocean rates are stronger. The through rates from Chicago to Liverpool on flour is 28 1/4 to 29c per 100 pounds, grain 16 3/8 to 16 1/2c and provisions 33 7/8 to 38c. Lake rates steady with a fair business at 11-2c on corn to Buffalo, and 33-4c for wheat and 3 1/4-1 1/2 for corn to Kings-ton.

London Fur Sales**LAMPSON'S FUR SALES.**

Last week we gave the result of the cable report of the Hudson's Bay Co.'s March sales at London, England. Following is the cable report of C. M. Lampson & Co.'s sales which closed a week later, compared with prices in March, 1897:

Sea otter, 20 per cent higher.
Fox, silver, 25 per cent higher.
Fox, blue, 15 per cent higher.
Fox, cross, 20 per cent higher.
Fox, red, 20 per cent higher.
Fox, grey, 10 per cent lower.
Fox, white, 25 per cent higher.
Fisher, 12 1-2 per cent lower.
Wolverine, 10 per cent lower.
Mink, western, 20 per cent higher.
Mink, northern, 30 per cent higher.
Marten, 17 1-2 per cent higher.
Russian sable, 20 per cent higher.
Otter, 10 per cent higher.
Bear, black 20 per cent higher.
Bear, brown 15 per cent lower.
Bear, grizzly, same as March.
Bear, white, same as March.
Lynx, 10 per cent higher.
Wild cat 10 per cent higher.
House cat 10 per cent higher.

The following furs are compared with last January sales:

Wombat 10 1-2 per cent higher.
Beaver, same as January last.
Chinchilla, red, same as January last.
Chinchilla, bastard, 20 per cent higher.
Rat, spring, same as January.
Rat, winter, same as January.
Rat, fall, 10 per cent lower.
Rat, black, 10 per cent higher.
Dry fur seal, same as March, 1896.
Salted fur sealskins sold as follows:
Copper Island 25 per cent higher than Dec., 1896.
N. W. Coast 10 per cent lower than Dec., 1897.
Cape Horn 10 per cent higher than Dec., 1897.
Lobos, same as December, 1897.

HUDSON'S BAY CO. FUR SALES.

J. W. Peck & Co., Winnipeg, have received the following report from Phillips, Foltzer & Co., London, Eng., regarding the Hudson's Bay Co.'s March fur sale: Notwithstanding the general dullness of trade during the past year, the fur market all round presents decidedly more favorable prospects. The recent spell of colder weather has stimulated a late trade throughout Europe, and the demand caused by the great depletion of stocks in America, where quite a revival of business has set in at the very end of the season, have together resulted in animating competition in all the European markets. In addition to this, the smallness of the collection in the present series of sales has, of necessity, tended to establish the higher level of prices now ruling all round.

Otter—Firsts and seconds advanced from 5 to 10 per cent., the best marks improving somewhat less than that, while thirds show very little change in values. The entire collection passed into the hands of German dealers.

Fisher—Are from 5 to per cent. lower.

Fox, Silver—The dark skins which last March realized very low figures, have now considerably improved. Medium color and pale skins have also done better, the result being an advance of 25 per cent. on the average of last year's prices.

Fox, Cross—Beyond YF firsts, which

advanced 10 per cent., the changes in value are but slight.

Marten—Seem firmly established in public favor, and the stocks carried over being light. Firsts are from 10 to 15 per cent, and seconds from 2 1-2 to 5 per cent. higher, while thirds remain unaltered. The competition for good pale skins and all good colored skins of the best grades was particularly keen, the latter realising 20 per cent. more than last spring. The bulk of the collection was secured for the home trade, but continental buyers, particularly French, participated to some extent.

Fox, Red—Advanced from 10 to 15 per cent.

Fox, White—For which a trade is expected both in England and America show a very considerable advance compared with last March prices. Firsts, which then had already realized high figures, again improved from 10 to 15 per cent., and seconds and thirds advanced 30 per cent. Most of these go to Germany and some to the United States.

Mink—It is said will be largely used in Europe as well as in America during the coming season, and the great advance generally anticipated was fully realized. Firsts and seconds were 30 to 35 per cent. higher, and thirds show an improvement of 5 to 10 per cent.

Lynx—Continue to be neglected, while stocks on hand are large, but even this article is benefitted by the all round advance, and prices are from 2 1-2 to 5 per cent. higher than last March, this being the first turn for the better they have experienced for some years past. A few were bought for America, but the bulk was secured by German buyers.

Wolf—Firsts are 10 per cent. higher. Seconds somewhat lower.

Wolverine—Greatly neglected, and firsts are 20 per cent. lower, while seconds remain about the same as last year's figures.

Skunk—The low range of prices last spring brought about a more extensive use of this article, and present values show an improvement of 20 to per cent.

Raccoon—15 per cent. higher.

Bear, black—Prices last March were extremely cheap, but, contrary to expectation, the article proved to be in fair demand, particularly late in the season, so that a moderate advance was regarded as probable. The actual result, however, of an advance of 75 per cent to 100 per cent on army bears, and 30 per cent to 35 per cent on furriers' goods, was one of the most surprising features of the present sales.

Bear, brown—Declined about 10 per cent, with the exception of the best lots, which sold 15 per cent higher than last year.

Bear, grey—Averaged rather less than last year.

Bear, white—Unaltered.

Musk ox—A small and poor collection, averaged about the same values as last year, the quality being much inferior.

Hair seal—Large skins were 10 per cent higher, middling and small sizes 5 per cent lower.

A second party has left Owen Sound, Ontario, for the Klondike, and will go via Prince Albert and Green Lake as far as Fort Simpson, where they will take the Liard and Pelly rivers into the gold fields.