

London January Fur Sales.

Report by Messrs. Blatiopel Stamp & Hancock, of London.

The general condition of the fur trade in Europe has proved satisfactory, and to some extent counteracts the unfavorable state of things in the United States. The prospects are in favor of moderately increasing values. The attendance of buyers at these sales has been large, and a generally good demand for fresh stock has been developed.

During the last and the present week there has been offered:

Monkey (76,183, last year 91,151), found practically no competition, and three-quarters of the supply remained unsold, a few only being purchased at extremely low prices.

Opossum, Australian (937,857, last year 1,259,615), demand was much improved; result shows an advance of 15 per cent, and in some instances 20 per cent. Particularly large red skins were required for dyeing purposes, largely purchased for Germany and Russia.

Wallaby (203,219, last year 67,981) While the Victoria skins were neglected and prices declined 30 per cent from last year's high figures, the silvery dark sides skins were more required, and choice lots sold a good deal higher.

Wombat (31,220, last year 95,373). This supply being no way equal to the demand, chiefly for America and Canada, prices advanced to nearly double figures.

Thibet lamb skins (83,631, last year 26,345); coats (3,997, last year 2,719); crosses (7,997 last year 3,018). A very large quantity of this fur has been used, in fact the present fashion makes it one of the most important articles. Demand remains strong for good qualities, and prices are tending higher than last sales, some parcels withdrawn. Coats and crosses were 5 to 10 per cent dearer.

China kid crosses (1,917, last year 5,493) were all withdrawn, there being no demand at present.

China goat rugs (55,315, last year 81,510), as usual mostly withdrawn for private sale afterwards. Values are steady.

On Monday, 20th January, the Hudson's Bay Co. sold:

Beaver (50,596, last year 43,245), Messrs. C. M. Lamson & Co. selling on the 23rd (12,963, last year 9,773). An increased supply and generally a week demand caused anticipation of some reduction in prices, but the result is an advance of 7 1/2 per cent. The large firsts and all small skins improved in value, while the large seconds and thirds are quite as high as last year. Largely purchased for Germany.

Musquash (813,159, last year 636,996). Messrs. C. M. Lamson & Co. selling on the 23rd (1,013,493, last year 1,265,001), and black (10,129 last year 22,957). Accumulated stocks having been quite used up, this fur has come into much favor, and were briskly purchased, largely for Germany, at advanced prices of fully 25 per cent; small skins particularly were very dear. English and French trade were also good buyers. Compared with last March prices the advance must be called 40 per cent. Black advanced 20 per cent.

Salted fur sales, Northwest Coast (763, last year 3,966). A nice parcel of good quality sold at fully December sale prices.

On Tuesday, 21st January, Messrs. C. M. Lamson & Co. commenced their sale with: Martin (31,316, last year 29,812.) This collection was a good one; found much favor from the English trade, and sold briskly at advancing prices ranging from 10 to 15 per cent over figures current last October.

Marten, stone (2,531, last year—). A moderate parcel, sold at last year's values.

Marten, baum (316, last year—). Like American martens, advanced 10 to 20 per cent.

Russian sable (3,884, last year 1,591), chiefly Amorsky skins, were in very good request, and sold 20 per cent dearer than in October sale—almost exclusively purchased by French buyers. A few fair Jakutsky skins sold about 10 per cent over March prices.

Japanese sable (3,351, last year—) also show similar improvement in price.

Bear, black (6,477, last year 4,943); brown (803, last year 832); grizzly (1,421, last year 1,613); white (120, last year 92). A large supply of good skins fell upon a poor market; demand has fallen off greatly, and prices were again lower than in October. The average for black skins must be called 40 per cent below last March, brown and grizzly over 50 per cent lower; the further reduced prices tempted the English trade to again purchase a good many, but part have been now taken for the Continental trade.

On Wednesday, 22nd January:

Chinchilla, bastard (17,227, last year 32,276). This total includes 19,019 sold by Messrs. Flack, Chaudler & Co. on the 15th inst. Demand very strong, and prices realized are 20 per cent over the higher prices of last October, purchased chiefly for France and England.

Chinchilla, real (3,817, last year—), including 1,800 in Messrs. Rigg & Co.'s catalogue, comprises some very choice skins of this most fashionable fur and realized the same high figures as last October.

Japanese fox (20,375, last year 7,905) Chiefly common skins, and were not much appreciated; many found no buyers.

Kolinsky (12,293, last year 483). Mostly without tails and not choice, sold 15 per cent above last year's prices.

Cat, Wild (3,347, last year (com.) 9,958. Sold at very low prices.

Cat, House (10,055, last year 12,924). Realized last year's prices.

Badger (1,038, last year 3,007). Very common quality and sold cheap.

On Thursday, the 23rd January:

Mink (89,505, last year 127,693). This collection was only of moderate quality and comprised mostly last year's skins; the demand was good, and prices improved 10 to 15 per cent; they sold somewhat irregularly, small sizes still relatively the dearest. A good many were purchased for England, but Germany was the chief buyer.

Squirrel (99,973, last year 95,206). Chiefly of the usual Ochotsky sort, but without tails, depreciated 12 1/2 per cent.

Opossum, American (117,319, last year 120,677). Proved in very fair demand, and sold only about 10 per cent below last June sale.

Fox, red (8,014, last year 16,837). A moderate parcel did not command much attention and prices remained stationary.

Fox, white (5,083, last year 3,083.) Have quite lost the favor they enjoyed last spring, and realized 15 per cent less than the depreciated prices of last June sale.

Fox, gray (5,358, last year 18,114). Purchased chiefly for Germany, averaging 20 per cent dearer.

Lynx (4,570, last year 4,615). This small collection sold at last October prices.

Wolf (2,679, last year 21,470). Sold at very low prices, about equal to last year's

On Friday, the 21st January:

Raccoon (134,964, last year 269,983). A very indifferent collection, chiefly of common sorts, the reduced supply caused some improvement in price, and the result reached last March values, or 10 to 15 per cent over last June.

Skunk (17,731, last year 180,467). In this collection there were less fresh skins than has been the case during the last few years in the January sale, and many were of indifferent quality. Contrary to the very general exception, prices did not decline, and we have to quote about June values, or 10 to 15 per cent below last March prices. Germany and

England purchased liberally; France but very few.

Hair seal, dry (8,078, last year 8,110). Rather neglected; average—a decline of 20 per cent; a portion were withdrawn.

Progressive Indians.

D. L. Clink, Indian agent at Battle River, Saskatchewan Territory, says that the Indians of his agency have within the past month sold 48 steers to Gordon & Ironside at \$38.50 each. The water power flour mill on Battle River has been grinding all winter on Indian grain, but has not been able to run full time owing to shortness of water. The Indians have enough grain from last year's crop to supply themselves with flour until next crop comes, and seed as well, which is more than many of their white neighbors can say.—Edmonton Bulletin.

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