

the railways would be able to handle. This has come true. A great shortage of cars is reported from a number of points throughout the grain belt. In fact, all the way from the western wheat fields to the seaboard, the grain-carrying roads have been taxed beyond their capacity. In some of the wheat districts, all available grain storage space is filled up, and vacant buildings of all sorts have been pressed into service to hold the grain, which could not be moved away fast enough on account of the shortage of cars. There has been altogether too much grain in America this year to preach the holding doctrine successfully.

The monstrous wheat crop which has been gathered in the United States this year (and nearly all other crops are in the same proportion), may be imagined from the fact that more wheat has already been marketed from this year's crop, than was marketed during the whole of the previous crop year. For the first twenty-one weeks of the present crop year, dating from July 1 last, there were 111,145,000 bushels of wheat received at the nine principal primary wheat markets. For the whole of the previous crop year, receipts at these nine markets were 123,345,000 bushels, or 17,800,000 bushels less than has been received in the first twenty-one weeks of the present crop year. The large amount of wheat marketed this year to date, cannot be attributed to any other cause than the big crop. It is not probable that a larger proportion than usual of this crop has been marketed in the early portion of the crop year. On the contrary, farmers have been advised strongly this year to hold their wheat, and though it does not appear that they have done so to any extent, yet it is not likely that they have sold out more closely than usual to date.

London Fur Sales.

Phillips, Politzer & Co.'s report as follows on the October fur sales, at London, Eng.

There is not much change to record in the state of the fur trade since our last report, and prices in the public sales just concluded remain with few exceptions, unaltered.

A considerable early trade had the usual effect of reducing business in the second part of the year, and the present autumn has so far failed to infuse much life in the trade.

If we still have maintained, and in some instances improved upon the prices of last sale, it is owing to short supplies and small stocks in the hands of dealers as well as manufacturers.

Fur seals met with better demand in England and on the continent than the present high values would have led one to expect, but the public sales had not much support from the Americans, who accumulated heavy stocks last year in anticipation of scarcity, and could with the adverse effect of a so far exceptionally warm autumn, keep very well out of the market for the present.

Prices generally speaking are about 10 per cent lower than last October, the decline being very little on large skins, but all the more on small sizes.

C. M. Lampson & Co. announce that the fresh collection of Coppers to come up for sale in January will amount to 30,689 against 53,991 skins last year, so that with the short sup-

ply of Alaskan skins we are, speaking in round numbers, about 100,000 skins short for the coming season. This fact, and the probabilities of serious restrictions on the killing of seals in the near future, must make them a desirable and safe article for some time to come.

Alaska: 13,494 skins (last year 21,000). A very fine parcel, in good sound condition, realized on the average about 11 per cent. less than last year.

Copper Island: 5,800 skins. The balance of last year's catch carefully selected, with a large proportion of low and stagey skins thrown out.

Northwest Coast: 39,726 skins (last year 17,499), of which 23,464 were in the hands of Messrs. Culverwell, Brooks & Co., who announce a further 17,000 skins to come up for sale at an early date.

The skins offered by C. M. Lampson & Co. realized about 7½ per cent advance on last year's prices, more especially the large sized skins; while Messrs. Culverwell, Brooks & Co. obtained on the average 12½ per cent less than Messrs. C. M. Lampson & Co.; owing no doubt to the large number of small, irregular and mixed lots; which assortment was unavoidable in consequence of the great number of owners, whose shipments had to be kept separate.

Lobos: 7,807 skins (last year 8,639). An inferior parcel with a great number of stagey skins, of which the large sizes have advanced 5 per cent, while the small pups declined about 15 per cent; but comparing the quality with last year's there is not much difference in values.

Cape of Good Hope: 1,556 skins (last year 718). The large sized skins advanced 10 per cent, while small pups were 25 per cent cheaper.

Raccoon: 14,009 skins (last year 73,069), were neglected and declined 10 per cent.

Skunk: 24,189 skins (last year 26,766). Are scarce and in fair demand. The collection was of a very middling quality, but sold readily at about last sale prices.

American Opossums: 88,791 skins (last year 137,014). Are in good demand and advanced 25 per cent.

Mink: 9,241 skins (last year 15,135). Consisted of several strings of fine eastern skins, and were largely bought for France; they advanced 20 per cent, there being no stocks whatever of this article in the European markets.

Marten: 1,273 skins (last year 2,755). Sold as last March prices.

Russian sable: 2,602 skins (last year 1,974). The Kamtschatka skins sold at last sale prices; Amorsky declined 20 per cent; a few lots of fine Yakutsky skins met with much competition and brought very high prices.

Fox, gray: 1,245 skins. In fair demand advanced 30 per cent.

Bear; black, brown and grizzly: 2,484 skins (last year 1,542). Sold well and brought fully last sale prices.

Wolf; 1,333 skins. Are neglected. Prices remain unaltered.

Fox, Japanese: 40,685 skins (last year 40,762). Sold 20 per cent higher.

Australian Opossum: 741,076 skins (last year 1,048,806). The low prices of last year and the early part of the present year resulted in heavy losses to shippers, and as a consequence shipments are now on a much smaller scale. The

article sold steadily at an average advance of 2½ to 15 per cent.

Wallaby: Sold well at last sale prices.

Wombat: In good demand, are 40 per cent. higher.

Monkeys: 46,592 skins (last year 51,800). Are selling steadily at current prices and values remain unaltered.

Chinchilla, real: 1,938 skins (last year 2,234). In fair demand at last sale prices.

Thibet coats and crosses: In strong request; advanced 30 per cent.

Chicago Live Hog Market.

Trade Bulletin, Dec. 7: "The receipts of live hogs during the past week were unusually heavy—the largest on record—and the quality was quite good. The market was active throughout the week, and considering the unusual supply, may be regarded as well supported. Packers purchased the bulk of the offerings, while shippers provided for fair orders. There was considerable competition for the better grades, and on these prices were more readily sustained proportionately. Of course, with the large offerings, the market ruled weak, and prices gradually receded 20 to 30c on the whole range, and the market closed rather steady. Sales ranged during the week at \$3.15 to \$3.70 for light, \$3.40 to \$3.80 for rough packing, \$3.40 to \$4 for mixed, and \$3.55 to \$4.15 for heavy packing and shipping lots, with the great bulk of the business within the range of \$3.30 to \$3.75. Only extra lots sold at \$4 or over. Pigs were in fair supply, and sold at \$2.20 to \$3.50, according to quality. The market closed with about 12,000 hogs in the pens, mostly rough and thin lots which have accumulated through the week. The receipts of hogs at other large packing points of the west were quite liberal, with a slight improvement in quality.

Minnesota and Dakota Wheat Stocks

Stocks of wheat in store in country elevators amounted to 9,916,500 bushels, showing an increase of 471,900 bushels for the week. The stock in Minneapolis public elevators is 6,923,324 bushels, showing an increase of 1,137,057 bushels. The stocks in Duluth is 3,098,322 bushels an increase of 471 bushels. The Minneapolis private stocks, as computed by the *Northwestern Miller*, are 1,507,300 bushels, showing an increase of 58,000 bushels for the week. The total supply in Minnesota and Dakota elevators amounts to 21,445,146 bushels, showing an increase of 1,667,423 bushels. The total a year ago was 20,033,071 bushels, an increase of 1,212,448 bushels for that week.—*Minneapolis Market Record*, Dec. 7.

A Christmas Greeting.

Those who wish to select a Christmas Souvenir to send to friends abroad could not make a more fitting choice than the Christmas Number of the *Dominion Illustrated*, which will be out in ample time and which will be the most beautiful and interesting purely Canadian publication ever issued. The supplements, the illustrations, the stories, poems and sketches are all Canadian and will cheer the hearts of many a one who cannot come to Canada for Christmas, but who will gladly welcome such a Christmas greeting.