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OLD TOUCHES of WESTERN DRAMA

Fortunes in Furs

MISFORTUNES in furs have often been the lot of the dealer in the Northwest. Not so in 1916. Furs were never so high as during the past year. Not because it costs more to produce furs now than it did before the war; neither because of any scarcity in the catch. Fur-catchers have not gone into khaki. When war broke out there was a slump in furs such as never was known in the pelting trade. This was caused by the sudden drop in the European demand. London has always regulated the price of furs at Edmonton. So it did in 1915. But in 1916, furs began to boom. The reason was not London, which was not buying furs. What made the jump in price was the Wallingfords of New York and a hundred other places in the United States. There are, as may be noticed, a large number of miniature Wallingfords in Canada, due to munitions-prosperity. Never in the memory of Canadian mankind were so many beautiful fur garments worn by Canadian women as now. This is one of the proofs that Canada is at war.

The enormous demand for furs on the con-



tinent of America out-did the united demand of Europe and America a few years ago. Prices went up faster than the price of wheat. The value of the pelts shown in the accompanying picture is estimated at \$50,000. The photograph was taken in one of the great fur-rooms of Edmonton, which, in spite of the grand march of modern civilization, still regards the fur trade as one of the city's chief claims to distinction. The shipment included 14 silver foxes, 125 cross, 455 red, 125 lynx, 14,000 humble muskrat, that will later sell as high priced Hudson Seal, and a thousand assorted skins of wolf, badger, beaver, weasel, mink and marten.

The trench warfare caused a big demand for the coarsest grades of fur. But the high prices of fancy furs had nothing to do with the trenches. To get that \$50,000 worth of fur meant a large volume of trade in goods which are swapped for pelts now as they were in the beginning. Figures are not available to show whether the high prices paid by the Wallingfords of war for their furs was reflected in the price paid to the trappers. But as the cost price of trappers' commodities went up, the price of raw furs from the freighter's waggon must have gone up also.

Pere Hugonard's Funeral

ONE by one, in ever growing succession as the years slip away, the famous pioneers of the Canadian north and west are taking the last, long trail. Pioneering priests, policemen, fur factors, adventurers and explorers are going to their last reward after seeing the land they entered as a hostile wilderness turned to a rich and productive country. The last of these to go two weeks ago was Rev. Father Hugonard, who, next to Rev. Father Lacombe, was perhaps the most famous priest in the western country. Father Hugonard came to the historic Qu'Appelle Valley in 1880. It was chiefly due to his control that the powerful and war-like Indian chief, Star Blanket, ceased his career of bloodshed. The funeral was attended by Lieutenant-Governor Lake, Premier Martin, and the Archbishop.

