

1869.

SPRING TRADE.

**GREENE & SONS,**

WHOLESALE MANUFACTURERS

AND

IMPORTERS OF

**FURS & HATS**

NEWEST STYLES

MEN'S, BOYS' and CHILDREN'S

FELT WOOL HATS.

LADIES' STRAW GOODS

In great variety.

MEN'S and BOYS' STRAW HATS.

Splendid assortment.

SILK HATS

In the Newest English and French Shapes.

TERMS LIBERAL.

PRICES LOW.

517, 519, 521, 523 St. Paul Street.

MONTREAL,

## INTERESTING FUR REPORT.

THE Hudson Bay Company sold at their London sales on 19th January, 609,065 *Muskrat Skins*. 113,783 *Beaver Skins*.

The following is the list of Raw Furs gathered at their various posts or Forts in the Hudson Bay Territory during the year 1868, and a large portion of which are now to be offered at their public sales, commencing March 5th.

Muskrat.....	451,731
Beaver.....	118,982
Mink.....	61,494
Marten.....	59,073
Red Fox.....	17,117
Cross Fox.....	4,016
Silver Fox.....	1,225
White Fox.....	11,707
Lynx.....	59,570
Bear.....	4,970
Fisher.....	5,967
Otter.....	9,577
Skunk.....	6,620
Swan.....	517
Wolf.....	8,621
Wolverine.....	1,106
Rabbit.....	45,914
Badger.....	1,722

Thus far there has been but little change in the value of Raw Skins compared with last year's prices. Beaver and Otter have maintained full rates. At the sales about to take place, the market value for the coming season will be established. Mink Skins will not probably rule as high as formerly.

**GREENE & SONS,**  
MONTREAL,

Buy all descriptions of RAW FURS, and pay the highest market price.

## THE FUR TRADE.

THE fur trade of the Dominion is one of considerable importance. Contrary to the general impression the catch of furs does not decrease with the settlement of the country. A change of the fur produced is all that takes place. Instead of the Bear and the Wolf, the Mink and the Muskrat are caught in stretches of land opened up by settlement. The animals requiring much cover recede while the smaller and more numerous species take their places. There are now in the cultivated portions of Upper and Lower Canada more Mink Martens, Muskrats and Fishers than there ever were in the most palmy days of the Hurons or the Algonquins. The reason is evident: the larger animals cannot now prey upon the smaller creatures as they once could. The exportation of the most valuable furs has therefore increased very much within recent years. Strange as it may appear it is nevertheless true that there are more baits set for fur bearing animals now by white people than there ever were by the original sons of the forest. The professional white trapper is aided on all sides by the settler and the lumberman. The most important of the fur bearing animals of Canada at present is the Mink. The skin is small but fine, and costs from \$3 to \$5. It has for some years formed the staple material for ladies' goods, but shows signs of giving way in favour of South Sea Seal and Persian Lamb. The value exported during the past year may be set down at \$200,000. A very large quantity enters into local manufacture. The Marten is a skin of similar size to the Mink, but of much poorer quality. The ruling price during last season was \$1.50. The whole product of the country is shipped to Europe. The number of skins caught in Canada may be estimated at sixty thousand to seventy-five thousand, and the value \$50,000. The most abundant animal is the Musquash. About one million of these small skins are obtained in a year. The fur, when dyed, is made into ladies' goods, and when exported is used instead of Beaver for making Beaver and Felt Hats. The value of the skins here is from 12½c to 20c. The Fox manages to elude the many traps set for his total destruction, and continues to swell the yearly catch of furs; as many as 15 to 20,000 are caught in a year. The price is, however, low—\$1.00 to \$1.50. The skin is sold to the Greeks, who use it as trimmings for coats. Bears are now found only in outlying settlements, and the catch is comparatively unimportant. Lynx, Fisher, Otter, Skunk, Raccoon and Badger are all exported in moderate quantities. Of these Fisher and Otter command the highest price. Beaver is largely used for home manufacture, as well as exported. The price per lb. has ruled from \$1.00 to \$1.50. Ladies' goods—capes, muffs, &c. are now being made from this skin when plucked. The business of exporting furs is very speculative. In the case of war, or even rumours of war, luxuries are the first to fall in price, and next to diamonds furs are perhaps the most easily dispensed with. The caprice of fashion may in one month cause a decline in price utterly ruinous to the dealer. It is, however, necessary that some should be engaged in the enterprise, and, as in all other speculative businesses, there are those who come out of the exporting fur trade with a fortune secured.—*Montreal Herald*.