

### Germany's Great Fur Market.

The Leipzig correspondent of the New York *Fur Trade Review* writes as follows, dated May 12th.

At the time of mailing our last letter the Eastern Fair was only half over; the latter part of the Fair proved much better than was expected, especially in American furs. Russian buyers took considerable parcels of raw musquash; quantities were also purchased by German furriers and the manufacturers of seal imitations, who fairly disposed of their seal colored musquash during the Fair. Single firms did a fair business in mink, lower grades being preferred by buyers; a few lots of best sorts also taken; medium qualities and colors were rather neglected. Superior grades of marten met with a slow demand; inferior grades were purchased by Russian and Turkish dealers. Skunk meet with a very fair demand for France, England, and Germany, and several firms sold out their stocks. Some parcels of raw racoon were taken for Russia, principally cheaper sorts being required; prime skins were purchased by Leipzig dyers, who have had a fair business in fancy colors, especially sea otter imitations; views generally for racoon are not very good, as black dyed skins meet with no demand. American opossum sold slowly; a new color, skunk imitation, to be introduced by one of our dyers, will do well. Trade in red fox improved toward the close of the Fair, as Russian and Greek buyers would not leave without goods; lower grade skins were preferred; owing to slow sale at first prices declined somewhat; the Turkish dealers also took inferior sorts of lynx. Common cat, cased, was in good request, but scarce; open skins sold slowly. Some important transactions in raw American otter were effected with Russian dealers: dark selected skins were taken for Germany and Galicia. Fisher sold slowly; tails brought  $4\frac{1}{2}$  marks in average. Russian, as usual, were the chief buyers of sea otter, but the present high prices prevented large transactions: the same is true of blue fox, which could not be sold out though in good favor. Seal skins sold fairly well in the latter part of the Fair; English and French dyers compete, the latter being preferred in many instances. American badger was in good request for France and Scandinavian countries. Beaver, best dark skins, has sold well for Galicia, Poland and Austria; business was also brisk in nutria, the Berlin cloakmakers being large buyers; prices are lower than one year ago. Australian opossum, in furs, seconds, and small skins, blue sorts, met a good demand for Galicia and Russia. Japanese foxes, blue dyed skins, were taken by many furriers as novelties. German dressed squirrels were taken for France and some for Germany; cheaper sorts mainly in favor; a brisk demand has been developed for tails, and prices have sensibly advanced, sales being made to fill English orders for boas. Russian squirrel sacs have been in request for France and England; Susliki sacs have been sold at moderate prices to mantle manufacturers; the supply is large. There is a brisk demand for black dyed Persians; dyers expect further good sales; importers have sold large parcels of raw skins; the Schiras have also sold pretty well; the supply is large this year. Black dyed Astrakhan is produced in large quantity, and finds a ready sale for the United States; original parcels are always taken; natural for dyeing are freely

purchased on speculation; grey krimmer is in good request and high in price; Ermino has been purchased by Leipzig firms to a larger extent than in former years; some skins have been taken for the United States and France. Parcels of white hares have been sold at present low rates; black dyed hares have lately been taken by Berlin mantle makers; black dyed white foxes are again in demand; moullins sell readily for United States; Russian black cats and cat sacs have been in better request.

### A Trade Nuisance.

Minneapolis is over run with "fire sales" This species of business is becoming an intolerable nuisance that should receive attention from the city council. The men who run these fraudulent sales, for that is what they nearly all are in truth, invade a city, burn off the ends of a few shoe boxes, being careful not to scorch the shoes, and then impose their inferior, and often, worthless goods upon the public.

If no one suffered but the fools who pay for their experience it would be of little account to the public, but when this irresponsible class of trade eats into the business of established dealers then it is a matter of public attention. A city owes it to reputable business men to see that they are protected in their rights. They invest their money in the highest rentals in the city, often in buildings, bear a share of public taxation and should not be left to the mercy of the leeches who eke out a living by defrauding the public, and evading the assessor.

The "fire sale" business has been carried far enough in Minneapolis. Other cities are suffering of course in the same way. The goods are shoddy and are grossly misrepresented to the seekers after "bargains."

The reputable retailers of Minneapolis should be protected from these trade sharks. The shoe dealers have considered whether it would not be wise to take action on this matter, but after deliberation they decided to let the public learn by experience that it is not economy to buy something simply because it is cheap. So the matter has been dropped.—*Commercial Bulletin.*

### Paints and Oils at Toronto.

A further decline has taken place in turpentine, owing to the more liberal supply and at lower prices. We quote on large lots only: Pure white lead, ground in oil, association guarantee, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Prepared paints, ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and gallon tin) Pure, per gallon, \$1.05 to \$1.10; second qualities, per gal., 85 to 90c. Colors in oil, (25 lb. tins standard quality)—Venetian red, per pound, 5c; chrome pellow, per lb., 9c; chrome green, per lb., 8c; French imperial green, 14c. Colors, dry—Yellow ochre (J.C.) in bbls. per lb., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; Venetian red (R.O. 2) per bbl., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; English oxides, in bbls., per lb., 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; American, in bbls., per lb., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; Paris green, per lb., 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 16c; burnt umber, per lb., 6c; chrome yellows, per lb., 12c; chrome greens, per lb., 12c. Linsced oil, in bbls., raw, per gal., 61c; boiled, per gal., 67c. Turpentine, in bbls., selected packages, per gal., 59 to 60c. Glue Common broken, in bbls., 10 to 11c; French medal, 12 to 13c; cabinetmakers', 17 to 18c; white, 16 to 17c. Castor oil, per lb., 10 to 12c.—*Empire*

Dry hides in the United States were reported very weak and  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1c lower the first of last week.



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