

Furs in England.

The London, England, correspondent of the *New York Fur Trade Review*, writes:—

"Your July number of the *Review* just to hand, and almost the first words we caught sight of in it were "business is already extremely active." We are very pleased to think that at least in one part of the world the fur trade is good, for here it is just the reverse; and were it not for the shipment of seals from this market to yours, trade indeed would be deplorable. Of course there is a little trade about amongst the mantle houses, and squirrel lock linings are still selling pretty freely amongst them; the only other article which seems to be in demand is natural blue moufflons, and on account of the high price being paid on your side for the whites, these natural colored skins have been selling here at very low prices. Good sized parcels having changed hands recently at from 59 to 66. At such figures there cannot be any profit, but what is lost on these is more than made up by the sale of the whites.

Mink—A slight demand for this article has been noticed recently, but stocks here are very low indeed; the high prices running at the last auctions stopped buyers from purchasing for this market, so the result is that at the moment there are very few skins available.

American Opossum dyed skunk color—This is an article now being got up very nicely in Leipzig, and the mantle houses here have rather taken to it, so that we expect it will have a good run during the coming season.

Japanese Fox dyed blue seems to be growing in favor with the mantle houses, and numbers of mantles are now trimmed with it, and when the skins are nicely dyed the effect is pleasing.

Persian Lambs are selling very slowly; the demand is not to be compared with last year.

Australian Opossum, natural and dyed black, are being used on the cheaper kinds of mantles.

Sable is not selling so freely as was expected, there is just a slight demand, which may develop as the season advances.

Bear—black, brown and grizzly—are selling at very low prices, and stocks have been very considerably reduced during the last month.

Whitecoats—We have now full particulars of the total of Newfoundland seals of this year's catch. On June 3 there were sold 22,000; June 24, 51,000; July 8, 40,400; and on July 15 there are offered 129,000; total, 242,400, and a very large proportion of these skins are furriers' whitecoats, and of very good quality generally.

British Columbia Furs.

The earliest fur shipment ever made from British Columbia to the London market was that which left the Hudson Bay Co.'s warehouses here last week, over the Canadian Pacific.

In the past these shipments have generally been made by water, but hereafter it is the intention to secure quicker dispatch by freight ing overland. The ship will carry the salted hair seals but none of the furs. The shipment of a few days ago was made up of local purchases—the furs sent down from the Naras and Skeena river posts—but no interior furs. These comprise the main supply, and may be expected to come in at any time now and with these already sent, they will in all probability reach London in time for the great January sale.

Last week's shipment was contained in 22 large bales, valued roughly at about \$40,000, and comprising approximately 10,000 skins. Of these the principal varieties were divided as herunder: Bear, 1,000; beaver, 1,500; lynx, 150; mink, 5,000; martens, 1,500; otter, 300; wolves, etc., 200; tom cats, 8.

"I call Tom cats 'Serenaders' in listing them," remarked R. Horton, the furrier and packer of the Hudson's Bay Co., in giving a *Colonist* man a few pointers on the furs of the season.

"Oh, yes," he continued, "we ship the Serenaders' skins to England. There was one beauty in the lot that went the other day. It was from Spokane—the skin of a tame cat that had run wild. Some of the bear skins that went with it were fine ones, too, I tell you.

"There was one grizzly's coat that measured nine feet by six—not a pleasant customer to meet in life. Our British Columbia grizzlies compare favorably in size and quality with any California ever produced. The trouble in this province is they're hard to get at. There is no scarcity of them in the mountains, and our hunters are not afraid to tackle them. It is a different thing to shoot a grizzly now, since magazine rifles have come in, to what it was twenty years ago.

"A few white bears reach us, but not many. They make a very pretty, but not particularly good skin. Still they sell well; whims have much to do with it. One of the black bears I'm now packing up is all arranged for a masquerade costume. It has the head to cover the Indian's head; the four paws for the arms, and the legs for the wearer's legs. There is a hole for him to get in, and the suit is well put together. It came down from Kamloops. Oh, we see lots of funny things like that.—*Victoria Colonist*.

British Grain Trade.

The *Mark Lane Express* of August 3rd in its weekly review of the grain trade says: "English wheat advanced 3d. The provincial markets report great exhaustion of the wheat reserves. It is estimated that at the end of August only one-nineteenth of the old crop will be carried over as compared with the usual amount—one tenth. Foreign wheats were firmly held at an advance of 6d. Flour was 3d better. Grinding barley advanced 6d. Corn was buoyant at a rise of 9d in the London markets and is in the provincial markets. Oats was 6d dearer. Beans, Peas and Rye were steady.

Furs at New York.

There has been a brisk demand for furs and skins, and leading articles are perfectly firm in price. Seals sell better than the most sanguine dealers expected they would, and it is evident that the present supply is insufficient for the general requirements of the trade. Astrakhan is exceedingly popular, and is being made up by all fur and cloak manufacturers; the demand shows no tendency to diminish; stocks of skins in all grades are small. Pulled, sheared, and black coney are in excellent request, and prices are advancing. Mink and skunk are in general favor; dyed opossum, moufflons, and other fancy furs are being very extensively used in the production of attractive articles.

The activity noted early in the season continues, all the manufacturers being engaged on orders for specialties in garments and leading fashionable articles in small furs. Mink daily advances in favor, and will assuredly take the leading place we predicted for it nearly a year ago. The cloak trade is readily paying better prices, and taking finer goods than at the beginning of the season. Sellers can have no excuse for disposing of their goods at cost this season. The supply of musquash, principally spring skins, is quite large at Leipzig; we would advise shippers to exercise their best judgment in forwarding this article to Leipzig, as sales in that market are limited.—*Fur Trade Review*.

Leather Prices at Toronto.

Prices are: Sol slaughter, medium heavy, per lb, 24 to 26c; sole, Spanish, No. 1, per lb, 24 to 26c; sole, Spanish, No. 2, per lb, 22 to 24c; sole, Spanish, No. 3, per lb, 20 to 21c; calfskin, Canadian, light, 65 to 70c; calfskin, Canadian, medium, 70 to 75c; calfskin, Canadian, heavy, 65 to 70c; calfskin, French, \$1.05 to \$1.30; upper, light, medium, 33 to 35c; splits, 20 to 27c; buff, 14 to 16c; pebble, 14 to 15c; harness leather, prime, 15 to 18 lbs, 25 to 27c; harness leather, light, 24 to 25c; oak harness, American, 45 to 50c; oak harness, English backs, 65 to 70c; oak bridle and skirting, English, 75 to 80c; Cordovan vamps, No. 1, \$5.50 to \$6; Cordovan vamps, No. 2, \$5 to \$5.50; Cordovan goloshes, \$11 to \$12; Cordovan sides, No. 1, 16c. Cordovan sides, No. 2, 13c; Cordovan sides, No. 3, 11 to 12c; oak cut soles, \$4.50 to \$3; hemlock taps, \$3 to \$3.75, cod oil per gal, 45 to 50c; Degras, per lb, 4 1/2 to 5c; japonica, per lb, 6 to 6 1/2c; oak extract, 4c; hemlock extract, 3c; lampblack, 20 to 30c; sumac, per ton, \$65 to \$70; roundings, white oak, 20 to 25c; roundings, black, 15 to 20c; roundings, hemlock, 15c.

The first sale of Canadian store cattle for some weeks was held in Aberdeen, on July 27, when the cargo of 430 head off the steamer *Cremon* was disposed of. The cattle last \$3 to \$5 per head. It is evident from this that the stocker trade is a failure this year. Earlier shipments, it will be remembered, lost heavily. This will again check the shipment of stocker (half fed) cattle. This will not be much of a loss to the country, as it would appear to be better to finish fattening the cattle at home before exporting. When feed is plentiful in the old country, half-fed cattle have sold well there, where they are fattened up for beef. Under ordinary conditions, however, it should be cheaper to fatten the cattle in Canada, than to ship them across the ocean for the finishing touches. This year feed is scarce on the other side, hence the poor demand for stockers.

Nelson Bickerdike, says the *Montreal Gazette* of July 30th, bought over 100 stockers (half fed cattle) from J. L. Head, of Manitoba today, at prices ranging from 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c. Mr. Head also sold 100 head of fat Manitoba cattle at 4c per pound. These cattle were shipped to Montreal a short time ago.

The stock of J. J. Golden, auctioneer and general dealer, Winnipeg, will be sold by auction, on August 13. Stock amounts to \$4,197, and 272 book debt.