

Hudson's Bay Fur Sales.

The *Canadian Gazette*, of London, England, has the following to say of the London March fur sale: "the quotations given not varying materially from those previously published in THE COMMERCIAL. 'The prices realised have in most cases advanced, otter being 12½ per cent. up, fisher 10 per cent., silver fox 40 per cent., cross fox 20 per cent., red fox 3 per cent., mink 30 per cent., and bear 15 per cent.; but marten declined 7½ per cent. An interesting fact of the sales was the enormous price obtained for four silver fox skins, viz., £72 each. It is believed that no such figure has ever before been reached.' Compared with previous March sales the quantities offered were as follows:—

	1889.	1890.	1891.
Otter ..	8,748	9,280	8,171
Sea Otter.....	11	15	9
Fisher.....	6,387	6,529	5,658
Fox, Silver.....	630	638	554
" Cross.....	2,899	2,862	2,457
" Blue.....	77	92	38
" Red.....	14,238	11,918	13,948
" White.....	9,353	2,805	3,704
" Kitt.....	68	306	856
Lynx.....	33,706	18,712	11,445
Skunk.....	11,297	10,680	12,583
Wolf	3,325	2,474	4,237
Wolverin	2,008	2,243	1,388
Fur Seal, salted...	719	492	279
" dry.....	18	—	—
Marten.....	64,179	72,797	64,689
Mink	43,641	35,288	29,363
Beaver.....	14,269	1,692	827
Musquash.....	19,992	6,038	20,638
Bear, black.....	7,836	9,488	8,960
" Brown.....	1,068	1,512	1,411
" Grey.....	185	228	175
" White.....	55	56	83
Musk Ox.....	505	1,405	1,358
Badger.....	777	1,288	2,445
Ermine.....	3,521	5,697	5,417
Raccoon.....	200	125	157
Squirrel.....	935	520	473
Swan.....	109	93	38
Hair Seal.....	436	723	1,393
Weenusk.....	785	480	424
Deer.....	—	92	150

Summer Freight Rates.

At a meeting recently held at Montreal, at which representatives of the Grand Trunk, Northern Pacific, Canadian Pacific, the North-western Transportation company and Merchants' line were present, the rates given below were agreed on. They apply from Montreal and all points east in Ontario to Winnipeg by lake and rail routes, and are as follows:

First, \$1.42; 2nd \$1.23; third \$1.03; fourth, 87c; fifth, 72c; sixth, 70c; seventh, 55c; eighth, 55c; tenth, 47c. The ninth class rate does not apply, and is not given. The rates in force by the canal and lake routes will be less than the above rates by the following proportions: First, 16c; second 13c; third, 11c; fourth, 9c; fifth, 7½c; sixth, 5c; seventh, 5c; eighth, 5c; tenth, 5c.

These differentials were agreed upon on account of the longer time that it takes for freight en route to pass through the canals. No differential is allowed on transcontinental rates to points in British Columbia.

The above is the result arrived at by the concurring lines at their meeting, Thursday, March, 19th, and will go into effect and application on the opening of navigation. This will probably be during the latter part of April, or perhaps not until May 1.

Advertising the Country.

Osler, Hammond & Nanton has just issued three folders, intended to advertise lands which they represent in the west. One of these folders is devoted to the country tributary to the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan railway company. This company, for which the firm mentioned are general agents, has 1,000,000 acres of land between Regina and Prince Albert. The folder gives considerable information about the region, with Dominion land regulations. Also a map showing the location of the railway and connecting lines. The second folder is descriptive of the country tributary to the Calgary & Edmonton railway, for which Osler, Hammond & Nanton are also agents. This company has 2,000,000 acres of land along its line in Alberta, which is offered for sale. There is a railway map with this folder also. The third folder gives a map and particulars of the Ontario & Qu'Appelle Land Co., which owns 150,000 acres of land in the well known Qu'Appelle district. A very large number of these folders will be circulated, and they should help materially in making known the advantages of western Canada.

British Columbia's Mineral Output.

The annual report of the Minister of mines has been issued. From it we learn that the output of coal for 1890 was 699,000 tons. In 1874 the quantity was 81,000 tons, and in 1880 268,000 tons; 1885, 369,000 tons. It will be observed that the yearly output of the black diamonds is increasing at a very rapid rate. The total amount of gold produced in the province in 1890 is valued at \$381,555, and of silver at \$73,984. The three mining districts making returns are Cariboo, which is divided as follows: Barkerville, \$61,200; Sydney Creek, \$38,000; Quesnelmouth, \$62,800. Kootenay—Western division, \$35,000; Eastern division, \$7,400; Lillooet, \$71,455; Lillooet, Hope, Yale Lytton divisions, \$9,000; Osoyoos division, \$17,000 Similkameen division, \$23,450. Cassiar has yet to be heard from.

Wheat Shipments From Russia and India

The following shows exports of wheat, flour included, from the United States in 1890 compared with exports from Russia and India, with previous years, in bushels:—

	Bushels.	U. S.	Russia.	India.
1890.....	100,209,000	95,021,000	25,616,000	
1889.....	93,000,000	95,000,000	27,000,000	
1888.....	98,000,000	106,000,000	39,500,000	
1887.....	150,000,000	78,500,000	28,500,000	
1886.....	131,000,000	50,000,000	41,030,000	
1885.....	133,000,000	92,000,000	39,500,000	
1884.....	124,000,000	68,090,000	29,500,000	
1883.....	113,000,000	84,000,000	39,000,000	
1882.....	144,000,000	76,000,000	26,500,000	
1881.....	151,000,000	49,000,000	37,030,000	
1880.....	175,006,000	37,000,000	14,003,000	

John Hawley, hardware dealer of Lothbridge, Alberta, was in the city on business last week, and paid THE COMMERCIAL a visit.

The attention of shippers has been called to section 6 of the McKinley tariff, which requires the name of the country of production to be plainly marked, in legible English words on each and every package. This section of the Act took effect March 1. Each package must be branded "Canada," "Ontario" or "Manitoba" will not do.

The Cattle Trade.

A Montreal telegram of Tuesday last says: "As the outcome of the recent cattle investigation the Dominion government will appoint an inspector whose duty it will be to inspect cattle steamers before leaving Montreal. No space had been taken so far for exporting cattle, although at this time last year it was nearly all engaged. Space was offered to-day at thirty shillings per head, but exporters claim they would lose money considering the present state of the markets by accepting it. It is believed here the object of the syndicate, which has purchased the bulk of the distillery cattle in Canada, is to secure control of the entire live stock export trade of Canada and squeeze smaller exporters out, who believe they purpose endeavoring to control the price of steamer freights out of this port by threatening to ship stock they have purchased by way of United States ports if rates here are not made satisfactory.

Italian Orange and Lemon Crops.

Some excitement has been caused in the fruit trade by reports from Italy to the effect that the orange and lemon crops were destroyed by recent storms. President Contencin, of the Italian Chamber of Commerce, sends word that the damage to the orange and lemon crops has been enormous, and was caused by a gale of wind which swept all the leaves off the trees, leaving the oranges and lemons without protection. The crop, he estimates, will be reduced about 75 per cent. There are from 50,000 to 70,000 boxes of winter-cut fruits stored at Sorrento, leaving about an equal amount on the trees fit for shipment. Had it not been for the Sorrento would have shipped during the spring fully 300,000 boxes of oranges. The lemon crop suffered chiefly from hail, which chilled the fruit. Sorrento will not export this summer much over 20,000 to 30,000 boxes of lemons, instead of, as formerly about 100,000 boxes.

Sowing Onion Seed.

Experiments by professor Green at the Ohio Experimental Station confirm the experience of all successful onion growers, in showing the importance of giving onions an early start so that they may take hold of the soil before dry, hot weather sets in. Old horticultural writers taught the same thing a century ago. Onions are a thing which should be grown more largely in Manitoba, and this advice may be useful. The quantity of onions grown is not large enough for home consumption, and at the present time the article is exceedingly scarce in the Winnipeg market.

Prices for eggs reached 20c per dozen at Minneapolis, before Easter, which was a very high price for that market. The Minneapolis Commercial Bulletin says: "The probabilities seem to be that cheap eggs will not be seen during 1891. Meats and all kinds of bread-stuffs are too high to permit any quantity of eggs to accumulate in the country. People will eat eggs when meats get to extreme prices."

Bradstreet's reports the exports of wheat and flour (reckoned as wheat) from both coasts of the United States from July 1, 1890, to March 28 to aggregate 69,818,301 bushels against 81,638,156 bushels same time in 1889-90. This includes Montreal.