

**Fur Trade Matters.**

Out-of-town readers, says the *New York Fur Trade Review*, should exercise unusual care in shipping furs to avoid concerns, in whatever section, sending out price lists in which quotations are unquestionably far above reasonable market rates; reliable firms can, will, and do pay full market values. Excessive figures are certain to prove deceptive, for they are given to lure the thoughtless; the buyer making the assortment, if intending to pay at all, can readily grade the average far below the actual worth of the goods—or intending to make no returns, give no attention whatever to the average.

The Leipzig correspondent of the *Fur Trade Review*, writing on November 10, says: "Russian dealers have purchased a good class of winter musquash, of which they keep only the backs, selling the other part here for linings; best grade belly plates are quite freely taken for Franco for seal dyeing; lower sorts are purchased for northern Europe; trade in back linings has also been somewhat better than in the summer months. Natural black musquash is in less demand than formerly, only the lower grades being occasionally taken for linings; the now London prices on brown musquash are considered too high, and we caution shippers to avoid paying high prices for skins to enter into next season's consumption; lining manufacturers still carry full stocks. Mink has sold only slowly, as prices are not yet low enough; mink tails remain very dear, but only best tails wanted. Demand for skunk not as good as usual at this period of the year; the future for raccoon depends upon Russia, and at present middling and low grades serve for linings, prime and large skins for collars. Views for beaver are still uncertain, because the maulle trade uses more nutria than beaver. Dark otter sells fairly as usual; last year's average, light and dark skins, should be the rule for spring prices. Marten has sold only to a limited extent; views for fisher are unfavorable; large stocks remain; sea otter will do well if the Russian duty is soon adjusted; fine and medium parcels of blue fox have been purchased for Russia and Roumania, but prices are depressed; badger is dearer than in the spring, and firm. There has been a fair demand for ermine, and prices have advanced from fifty to sixty per cent.; supply in Russia limited owing to large Chinese purchases. Large parcels of sable have been brought here; there is a good supply of pale skins. Sales may improve later, as our ladies favor the collarlette of sable. Dyed white fox has been purchased for France; very little request for black dyed hares, and limited sales only on Russian wolf and bear. Wolverine has found ready buyers.

Jas. McMillan & Co., in their last circular says: "The advices from Europe are not very favorable and they advise not paying too high prices in buying. There is a tariff war between Germany and Russia, who are large consumers of furs. Germany dresses and dyes a great many furs for the Russian market. This war interferes with the business. Buyers should be careful and not pay too high prices for furs caught in the fall, as they are not prime. Prime or No. 1 furs are white or red on the flesh side; unprime are blue or black. Bear and beaver caught in the summer or early fall are actually not worth the express charges. Those caught in the months of October and November will grade No. 2 and 3. Skunk become prime earlier than any other kind of fur. Some skunk received in November graded No. 1 this year. Mink caught in December are the best of any time of the year, as they are fully prime, and where they have not been damaged in trapping or skinning will grade No. 1."

Following are the dates fixed for future fur sales at London. C. M. Lampson and Co. will hold sales as follows:—

- January 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 22.
- March 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.
- June 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
- October 22, 23, 24, 25, 26.



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The Hudson's Bay Co. will offer, January 15, about 5,000 salted Northwest coast seal skins.

January, 1894, sale:—This sale will be held on January 15, when the following quantities will be offered: Beaver—Yorkfort, 19,381; Moose River and East Maine, 8,194; Canada, 11,563; Equimaux Bay, 247; Northwest Territory, 6,669—total, 46,054 skins. Musquash, Yorkfort, 532,770; Moose River and East Maine, 42,453; Canada, 61,595; Equimaux Bay, 93; Northwest Territory, 10,468—total, 647,379 skins. Rabbit, 57,645 skins.

March, 1894, sale: This sale will be held on the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th of March, at which sundry furs will be offered. The following are the importations:—Badger, 3,234 skins; last year, 2,574; bear, black, 7,474 skins; last year, 9,492; bear, brown, 1,021 skins; last year, 1,270; bear, gray, 202 skins; last year, 213; bear, white, 103 skins; last year, 62; fisher, 3,938 skins; last year, 4,765; fox, cross, 2,622; last year, 2,415; fox, kitt, 203 skins; last year, 305; fox, red, 16,031 skins; last year, 12,108; fox, silver, 611 skins; last year, 611; fox, white, 3,217 skins; last year, 4,711; lynx, 12,775 skins; last year, 8,259; marten, 108,915 skins; last year, 97,692; mink, 49,881 skins; last year, 57,541; musk ox, 1,164 skins; last year, 871; otter, 7,335 skins; last year, 8,411; raccoon, 130 skins; last year, 195; seal, fur, salted, 88 skins; last year, 403; seal, hair, dry, 1,905 skins; last year, 1,369; skunk, 6,834 skins; last year, 9,166; wolf, 2,080 skins; last year, 1,519; wolverine, 874 skins; last year, 949.

Hon. Mr. Rowell has returned from his trip to Australia, and reports the people there quite enthusiastic in favor of extending commercial relations with this country.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Commercial Travellers' association was held at Montreal on Dec. 9. David Watson was elected president over Lawrence A. Wilson. The contest was a spirited one.

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