

River, near the Rockies, the regular price of a trade musket was Rocky Mountain sables piled up on each side until they were level with its muzzle when held upright. Now these sables were worth in England about three pounds apiece, while the cost of the musket did not exceed one pound. The price of a six-shilling blanket was, in like manner, thirteen beavers of the best quality, beaver then being worth thirty-two shillings a pound, and a good skin weighing a pound or more.

But in the course of time the Indians began to know better the relative value of the muskets and their furs, and to object most decidedly to the one being piled along the barrel of the other, which report sayeth was lengthened year by year until it attained colossal dimensions,

Indians should confine their exertions to the more valuable creatures, and thereby kill the goose of the golden eggs. Furthermore, the company has always exercised a sort of paternal care over the people that might, in some sense, be regarded as its wards. Liberal advances are never refused to trusty trappers in case of need, and to the credit of the red men be it recorded that rarely are these obligations evaded, the company's experience being that in this respect the redskin can set an example well worthy of imitation by his pale-faced brother. And finally, when the Indian grows too old to trap and hunt as of yore, he is allowed to become a pensioner upon the company's bounty, and there is hardly a fort that has not a number of such hangers-on. The best possible reply



FORT EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

so that the trade gradually became to be less jug-handled.

The company has shown no less farsightedness than humanity in its dealings with the ignorant Indians, to so large an extent in its power. Its laudable position with regard to the use of spirits in trade has been already mentioned, and although, during the disastrous rivalry with the Nor-Westerns, the Hudson's Bay did, for a time, fall away from grace, and fight fire-water with fire-water, so soon as the struggle ended in coalition prohibition once more prevailed. Then every care has been taken to prevent the extermination of the fur-bearing animals, and whole districts have been "laid over" from hunting for years at a time. Another sagacious principle was to pay a proportionately higher price for inferior furs, such as musk-rats, lest the

that can be given to those who have made it their business to abuse the company for alleged ill-treatment of the Indians, is to be found in the fact that to this day the company is looked upon with the utmost affection and veneration by them. The writer already quoted relates that often, when he complained that the Indians charged him for any services rendered much more than they would have charged the company, he was met with the conclusive answer, "Yes, I know we do; but if you took care of us in our old age, and treated us as well as they have treated us, then we would do this for you at the same price."

Lieutenant Gordon, who was in command of the three expeditions dispatched by the Marine Department of Canada into Hudson's Bay for the purpose of determining the possibilities of that inland