

Fur Trade News.

The Leipzig correspondent of the Fur Trade Review writes as follows on February 11: "Since the date of writing our letter for the February issue of The Review we have had a very low temperature and much snow throughout all Europe and also the northern parts of Africa. Leipzig fur merchants who visited the London sales returned home the latter part of January, but the goods which they purchased are only beginning to arrive. The large firms who sell London goods with a certain advance on the original cost are experiencing a good request for such original lots of marten and mink, and we feel confident that we shall have a fair business in both articles this spring. The Burmah mantle trade has given some supplementary orders for mink and some racoon has been purchased by customers in the province to meet the new demand resulting from the severe weather. The new supplies of spring musquash will probably meet with a good demand; seal colored musquash has of late found a better sale than previous to Christmas; some demand has been shown for the mink-tail colored musquash; musquash linings have sold more slowly. Very few transactions are noted in American opossum, but an improvement in the article is expected at the Easter Fair. There has been an improved demand for nutria and fresh imports of raw skins have been quickly purchased by our dealers. The really good skins are very scarce this year and there has been a very active request for small dressed skins since the first of January. Australian opossum is cheap in general; considerable parcels of raw skins were taken for Russia; dressed skins for Austria. Dyed wallabies, black and brown, meet with continual favor; wombats sell slowly now. In Russian furs, white fox skins that have arrived since the beginning of the year, sold quickly but high prices. Black Persian lambs have been purchased in large parcels for furrers of southern France and parcels of raw skins have been taken by Canadians. Broad-tails are offered only in small quantities and have been purchased to some extent for France and the United States. There has been some active speculation in Astrakhan lambs, but high prices, though no one seems to understand why the article should be dearer than heretofore. Americans purchased carefully and complain very much of the new rates. This article would probably not be so high and firm if it were not for the fact that about 50,000 skins had been lost through the wreck of the Elbe. As usual, gray krimmer has been purchased for Canada and owners have asked high prices. Some transactions in squirrel linings of German manufacture have been noted. In white hares trade has been fairly good, various old stocks having been sold out. Ermine is now offered at rather more moderate prices than one year ago, but transactions have not been important of late. White and black dyed Thibet has found a ready sale. Some parcels of Russian marmot have been purchased for black dyeing, but business in this article is not as active as previous to Christmas."

The correspondent of the Fur Trade Review at Victoria, B.C., writes as follows on Feb. 7: "The sealing fleet, with the exception of two schooners, have sailed for the future scene of their operations, but with an outlook before them entirely different from that of past seasons. Fifty-two vessels have sailed, and exactly one-half of the fleet, twenty-six vessels, have cleared for Japanese seas, leaving the rest to hunt off British Columbia and Pacific coast waters. On the latter half of the fleet 178 whites and 602 Indians are employed, whilst in the Japanese fleet out of 605 hunters aboard only 100 are Indians. The number of Indians on the coast vessels is due to the fact that spearing only will be allowed under the international regulations,

but in some cases entire white crews have been engaged to use the spear. Of course, on vessels where the gun will be allowed, white hunters receive the preference. Seal are reported to be very plentiful on the coast, but even this does not dispel the gloom under which the present season opens. Last year hunters in many cases received \$4.50 per skin, and in no instance did they get less than \$3. Owing to the small prices realized in London at the autumn sales owners absolutely refused to offer a fixed price to their hunters this season, and after two months' haggling and grumbling the best the latter could get was the one-fifth lay and a \$50 advance. Taking \$9 as a high average price last season, 1895 hunters will not get over \$1.80 per skin, and probably not more than \$1.50. Boat pullers' and boat steers' wages have correspondingly decreased, and had not times been so unprecedentedly hard on the coast it would have been impossible to man the fleet. To most of the men it was practically take what you can get and go to sea or starve. Many of the best hunters who, in past seasons have made from \$2,000 to \$2,500 and saved their money have quit the business for the present and will not again try their luck afloat unless times improve and wages advance perceptibly. In several instances owners even at the present reduced rate of wages could see no possible profit in a venture and have leased their schooners to the captains upon a similar "lay" agreement rather than incur the expense of outfitting. The entire season's catch of the Victoria fleet could have been contracted for at \$9 a skin, but though a rumor was current for some time that Liebes & Co., had offered to take the catch at \$12 per skin, the report had no foundation in fact, and none of the big dealers appeared ambitious for a speculation in the 1895 take even at the lower figure quoted."

Montreal Hardware and Paint Prices.

The heavy iron and metal market continues dull, despite the continued decline in values and buyers strictly adhere to purchases for immediate wants. Further shading has transpired in many of the leading lines, no doubt in the hope of inducing a more active demand. From the outside there is little to note of interest, though if the troubles in the coal mine region are serious it may affect American values and exercise some influence on our prices, especially as spring is opening up. Pig iron is dull, and sellers are willing to shade to induce business. Round lots of Nova Scotia pig have been placed at \$16.50 to \$16.75 as a range on it. Nothing is doing in Scotch pig either for import or from store here, but Summerlee and equal brands can be quoted at \$20.50 to 21, and Carnbroe and Eglinton \$19 and \$19.50 respectively. Easiness is the rule in bar iron, though we quote \$1.60 car lots can easily be had for less money. Holders of tin plates show a disposition to realize, and as a result sales have transpired of round lots at 10c less than a week ago, and we quote cokes, \$2.50 to \$2.75. Charcoal are unchanged at \$3.25 to \$3.75 as to grade. Terne plates are quiet and unchanged at \$5.75 to \$6. Prices have been shaded 5c on round lots of Canada plates, which we quote \$1.95 to \$2.05 as to quantity. Sheet iron is quiet and steady on the basis of \$2.15 to \$2.30 for No. 28 gauge. Round lots of tin have been placed pretty low, 14c being spoken of, but we quote 16c for ordinary quantities. Lead is unchanged at \$2.90 to \$3. Spelter has been reduced 25c during the past eight days and we quote \$4 to \$4.25. There is no change in zinc sheets, which we quote at \$1.50 to \$1.75. Antimony is the same, 9c to 10c. Hoops and bands quiet at \$1.80 to \$1.85 for domestic and \$2.00 to \$2.15 for imported. In galvanized iron import orders for spring delivery have been accepted under a basis of 4c for No. 28, Queen's head, and we

quote 4c to 4½c, with Morewood 5½c to 5½c. There is a fair demand for tinned sheets at steady prices. No. 24, 5½c to 5½c, and No. 26, 6c to 6½c, with the usual extras. It is understood that jobbers have been shading prices on cut nails, orders having been filled at the net figure \$2 for jobbing lots. Makers on their part state that the list is being adhered to, viz: \$2.10 with the rebates of 5c and 10c, according to quantity.

Cement and Naval Stores.—We quote: English brands cement at \$2.05 to \$2.15, and Belgium at \$1.90 to \$2 per cask. A fair jobbing trade has been accomplished in fire-bricks, the demand being good for small lots at prices ranging from \$15 to \$22 per 1,000 as to brand. Turpentine is firmly held at the recent advance. The impression here among holders is that the values will steadily go up until the new crop commences to come in. We quote: Turpentine, 49 to 50; rosins, \$2.50 to \$5, as to brand; coal tar, \$3.25 to \$3.75; cotton waste, 4c to 5½c for colored and 6½ to 8c for white; oakum, 4c to 6c, and cotton oakum, 9c to 11c. Cordage, Sisal, at 6½c to 6c for 7-16 and upwards, and 14c to 15c for deep sea line. Pure manilla, 9½c for 7-16 and upwards and 9½c for smaller sizes.

The petroleum market for Canadian refiners continues strong and a further advance of ½c per gallon has taken place, which is due to the fact that Canadian crude is scarce on account of the recent heavy frost, which froze all the pipes of the wells up. The demand on spot for both Canadian and American continues good and an active business is doing. We quote: Canadian refined at 12½c in shed in Montreal for round lots, and 13½c to 14c for smaller quantities, with a discount of 2 per cent. for cash. American petroleum is quoted at 16c in car lots and 17c for smaller quantities.

Paints, Oils and Lead.—There is considerable cutting going on in the price of glass and a reduction in consequence has to be recorded. In cod oil the feeling has been stronger and prices have advanced 2½c per gallon, recent sales having taken place at 37½c to 42½c, as to quantity. Seal oil is unchanged at 40c to 45c, as to quality. Castor oil is steady at the recent decline, viz., 5½c to 6½c. We quote: Choice brands white lead Government standard \$4.75; No. 1, \$4.50; No. 2, \$4.25; No. 3, \$4.00; No. 4, \$3.75; dry white lead, 4½c; red lead, pure, 3½c to 4c; do. No. 1, 4c; zinc, white, pure, \$7.25; glass, \$1.15 to \$1.20 first break; \$1.25 to \$1.30 second break per 50 feet; \$2.70 to \$2.80 for third break per 100 feet; linseed oil, round lots, raw, 56c to 57c; boiled, 59c to 60c; putty in bulk, \$1.85.—Gazette, March 8.

Where Ontario Wheat has Gone.

The scarcity of wheat in Ontario has undoubtedly been partly caused by farmers feeding it pretty extensively to their live stock, instances being reported to us within the past few days, in which two growers of wheat West of Toronto fed to their hogs and cattle 4,000 and 2,000 bushels respectively rather than accept the low prices ruling. One of these rural denizens was in the city last week with a car of horses, and he stated that for the last two years he has not sold a bushel of wheat, as he could realize almost double the price by putting it into pork and beef. This may account for the difficulty millers in the West have found of late in securing their usual deliveries of wheat. Still, it is hard to estimate the amount of stocks in farmers' hands.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

The New York Shipping and Commercial List and Price Current is the oldest commercial paper in America. It was established in 1795 and has therefore attained the age of a centenarian.