

limits, and they yield three quarters of all the furs sold in the markets of Leipsic and London, which are the great fur markets of the world. Beaver, which were formerly so abundant, have become very scarce indeed, and their fur has gone up in value more rapidly than that of any other animal, but as they are easily domesticated, and, in addition to their valuable skins, make capital food, it has been suggested that preserves should be created in suitable parts of the Territories, to be attended to by the Indians, who would thus be furnished with sources both of profit and food.

Buffalo in
America.

95. Thirty-six buffalo were reported to have been killed during the year, but it is most probable that they were actually killed outside, though possibly by residents in, the three districts. The buffalo, which ten years ago could be counted by millions, is now practically extinct; as far as known there being none left in Canada except a herd of about 68, kept at Stony Mountain, Manitoba, which are semi-domesticated, and with which successful crosses with domestic cattle have been made. The total number left in the United States is variously estimated at from 600 to 1,000.

Cross be-
tween buf-
falo and
domestic
cattle.

96. In the second report of the Committee appointed by the Senate to collect information regarding the natural food products of the North-West, it is stated in regard to the reproduction of the buffalo as a food supply, that in the changed condition of the country, the presence of those animals would probably disturb the present agricultural training of the Indians, and interfere with the farming and herding efforts of the white settlers, but attention was called to the evidence received with reference to successful crosses between a Buffalo bull and Durham cow, and a Durham bull and Buffalo cow, at Stony Mountain,