

stone, "while the petroleum area is so extensive as to justify the belief that eventually it will supply the larger part of this continent." Furs are at present the chief commercial products of this region, which is the last great fur preserve of the world, and in view of the great danger of the extinction of animals whose furs become fashionable, it was suggested by the committee that fur districts should be leased by the Government, and a limitation placed on the catch of certain kinds of furs. The lakes and rivers abound in fish, especially whitefish and lake trout. The committee pointed out that the valuable whale fisheries of the northern coasts of Canada were being rapidly destroyed by foreign whalers, and suggested that the Government should adopt some measures for their protection. The climate of this region in some places resembles that of Western Ontario.

Fur trade,
Hudson's
Bay Com-
pany.

13. Some idea of the size and importance of the fur trade may be obtained from the following figures of the receipts of furs at the Hudson's Bay Company's warehouse, in Montreal, during the last three years. The figures have been kindly furnished by the manager in Montreal:—

Kind of Furs.	Number of Skins.		
	1887.	1888.	1889.
Bear.....	1,399	1,528	2,037
Beaver.....	22,848	22,174	18,787
Fisher.....	1,197	1,120	1,377
Fox.....	669	756	1,150
Lynx.....	2,655	3,830	4,107
Marten.....	19,264	18,986	16,708
Mink.....	10,002	7,757	6,420
Musquash.....	81,103	74,572	55,285
Otter.....	2,768	2,550	3,010
Skunk.....	228	420	478
Wolverine.....	24	21	27
Total.....	142,157	133,714	109,386

There has been, it will be seen, a steady falling off in the number of skins, though the three years aggregate a total of