

sent the chief commercial products of this last great fur reserve of wild animals, and in view of the danger of the extinction of the animals whose furs are fashionable, the committee suggested that districts should be leased by the Government, and a limitation placed on the take of certain kinds of skins. 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 in danger of speedy destruction from foreign whalers, and proposed that the Government should adopt measures for their protection. The climate of this region in some places resembles that of Western Ontario.

158. Subjoined is a list of the collections of furs sold by the Hudson's Bay Company in London. They are the largest collector throughout the country and this list shows the value of this region :—

STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF FURS AND SKINS SOLD BY THE HUDSONS' BAY COMPANY, LONDON, IN EACH YEAR FROM 1887 TO 1895, INCLUSIVE (COLLECTED IN CANADA IN EACH PREVIOUS YEAR).

—	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Bear	8,087	9,763	9,114	11,446	10,629	13,672	11,384	9,173	9,992
Beaver	83,589	102,775	82,992	73,264	64,246	56,935	56,224	46,779	44,151
Fisher	4,492	6,138	5,387	6,529	5,658	5,169	4,801	4,024	3,573
Fox, blue	35	72	77	22	38	82	49	34	69
“ cross	3,185	3,821	2,899	2,862	2,457	2,740	2,640	2,970	3,165
“ kitt.	128	250	68	306	856	538	299	203	134
“ red	11,651	17,005	14,238	11,918	13,948	11,104	11,857	15,810	12,850
“ silver	827	944	630	638	554	656	598	604	670
“ white	4,102	12,978	9,353	2,805	3,704	9,390	4,679	3,227	4,898
Lynx	73,850	78,555	33,706	18,712	11,445	8,294	8,614	12,813	20,258
Marten	50,842	72,939	64,179	72,707	64,689	73,439	99,314	108,997	105,266
Mink	64,215	82,923	43,641	35,288	29,363	42,694	57,879	51,163	50,540
Musquash	380,022	344,818	223,603	322,324	574,742	806,103	934,540	648,687	674,811
Otter, land	8,312	11,588	8,748	9,280	8,171	9,748	8,610	7,444	7,462
“ sea	10	9	11	15	9	6	8	11	1
Seal, fur	1,846	179	737	482	279	932	8,491	44,086	35,639
Skunk	10,920	16,322	11,297	10,680	12,583	10,642	9,182	6,785	8,828
Wolf	1,136	4,749	3,325	2,474	4,237	1,684	1,551	2,037	1,442
Wolverine	1,226	2,439	2,008	2,243	1,388	1,140	1,009	880	634

159. The Province of British Columbia occupies the mountainous district extending to the Pacific Ocean from the western edge of the prairie country east of the Rocky Mountains. The general surface of the country is broken, consisting of short ranges, detached groups of mountains, elevated plateaux and many valleys of various extent. Timber, minerals of unknown value and apparently an inexhaustible supply of fish are the principal natural sources of its wealth, but as the climate is delightful and extremely favourable for rapid growth, agriculture is making great progress.

160. There is probably more misconception about the climate in Canada than about that of any other known country, the idea entertained by many