

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 five years. The figures have been kindly furnished by the manager in Montreal:—

RECEIPTS of Furs by Hudson's Bay Company.

Kinds of Fur.	Number of Skins.				
	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Bear	1,399	1,528	2,037	1,900	1,800
Beaver	22,848	22,174	18,787	20,000	16,000
Fisher.	1,197	1,120	1,377	1,500	1,100
Ermine.....				1,000	800
Fox	669	756	1,150	1,900	1,400
Lynx.	2,655	3,830	4,107	4,400	3,200
Marten.....	19,264	18,986	16,708	17,000	11,000
Mink	10,002	7,757	6,420	7,000	6,000
Musquash ..	81,103	74,572	55,285	72,000	79,000
Otter.....	2,768	2,550	3,010	3,000	2,800
Skunk.....	228	420	478	600	200
Wolverine....	24	21	27	30	14
Wolf				16	30
Total.....	142,157	133,714	109,386	130,346	123,344

There has been, it will be seen, a steady falling off during the last five years, and it seems evident that some such course as that suggested by the committee of the Senate is, if feasible, highly desirable, if the principal fur-bearing animals are to be saved from gradual extinction.

14. The Province of British Columbia occupies the mountainous or hilly region that extends to the Pacific Ocean from the western edge of the great plain or prairie country lying east of the Rocky Mountains. The general surface of the country is mountainous and broken, consisting of short ranges, detached groups of mountains, elevated plateaux and many valleys of various extent. An apparently inexhaustible supply of fish, timber and minerals of unknown value are the principal natural sources of its wealth, but the climate is delightful and extremely favourable for rapid growth, and agriculture is now making great progress.

Physical
features,
British
Columbia.

15. There is probably more misconception about the climate of Canada generally than about that of any other known country, the idea still prevailing among large numbers in Europe and elsewhere

Climate.