



The Fur Trade Game Directions

Object: Students will understand the fur-trade credit system between the Sauk and Meskwaki and The American Fur Company by role playing the part of the Sauk and Meskwaki hunters.

Preparation: Print and cut out four or five sets of the animal cards so there is one for each group.

Print four or five sets of trade-goods picture cards so there is one for each group.

The trade-good cards do not need to be cut out.

1. Divide the class into groups of four or five students.
2. Give each group one set of the trade-goods picture cards (for reference), the animal cards and one die.
3. Before the "hunting" part of the game that uses the animal cards and dice, there are **two options** for making the trade-goods shopping list:
 - A) **Option 1:** Each student will need a copy of Activity sheet A, B and C.
Students make their own shopping list using the following:
Activity sheet A, "Trade Goods 1817 - 1818" - A historical list of goods available and their cost
Activity sheet B, "Items Purchased on Credit" - A blank shopping list filled out by students
Using activity sheet A, students will choose items they think Sauk and Meskwaki families would need for the coming year and record those purchases on activity sheet B.
 - B) **Option 2:** Each student will need one of the five historical hunters' credit sheets (H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4, and H- 5) and Activity sheet C.
Students role play one of five real Sauk or Meskwaki hunters, using historical data from the hunters' credit sheets.
4. Now it is time to go hunting! Mix up the animal cards and lay them face down in the middle of each group's table.
5. Students take turns drawing an animal card and rolling the die. They should multiply the number on the die by the number on the card to obtain the quantity of pelts. Use activity sheet C, "Hunting Results, " to record the answers. Students continue taking turns until all cards are used or time allowed by the teacher, for the hunt has run out.
6. For either option, students then complete activity sheet C, "Hunting Results."
7. Are they in debt? Discuss the consequences of the fur-trade credit system using the information below.

Consequences of the Fur Trade and the Credit System

The success of the fur trade business depended on the credit system. The Sauk and Meskwaki did not have a cash-based economy; in fact, no native people did. As long as they had enough pelts to pay off their debts, all was well. With the passage of time, over-hunting diminished the animal population, causing the native people to fall deeply in debt. Their land was taken from them to pay off what they owed. If it is possible to play this game several times, it will enable students to understand how easily the native people got into debt and the terrible consequences to which this led. For more information, please read Crisis and Loss, pp. 48 & 49.

1) TRADE-GOODS

Rifle



Lead (to make bullets)



Shotgun



Bullet Mold



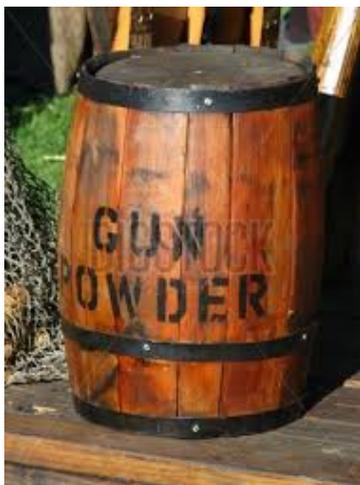
Gunflint



Lead Shot



Gun Powder



Powder Horn



2) TRADE-GOODS

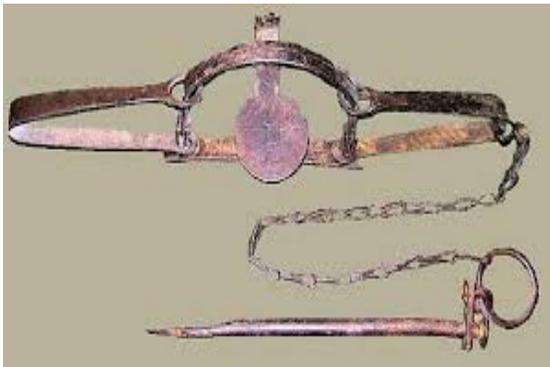
Muskrat Spear



Fish Spear



Animal Trap



Axe



Tomahawk



3) TRADE-GOODS

Half Axe



Tomahawk



Common Butcher Knives



Fine Knife



Bridle



Horse



Paper Mirrors



Hair Comb



4) TRADE GOODS

Scissors



Vermillion



Silk Ribbons



Salt



Tobacco



5) TRADE-GOODS

Scarlet Cloth Leggings



Shawls (plaid and calico)



Calico Shirt



Cotton Shirt



Breech Cloth



Blanket



Material



Silk Handkerchief



1

bear



1

beaver



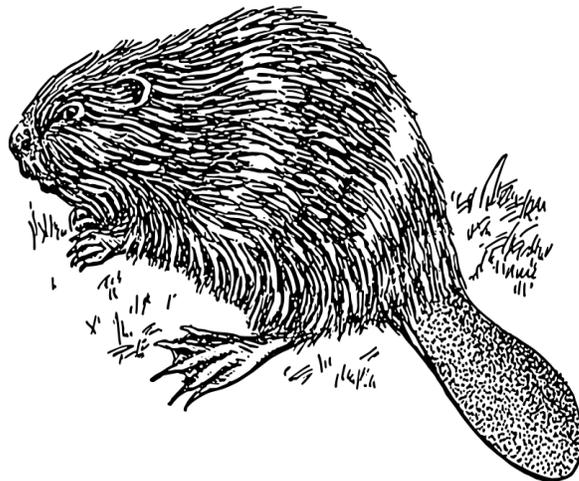
2

bear



2

beaver



3

bear



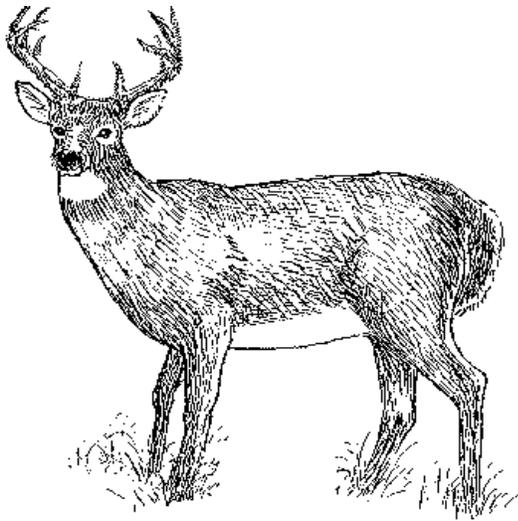
3

beaver



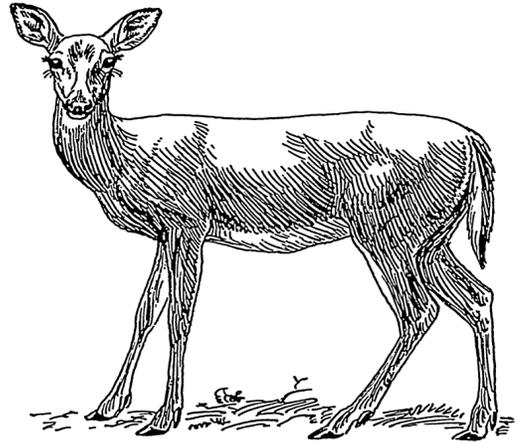
1

deer (buck)



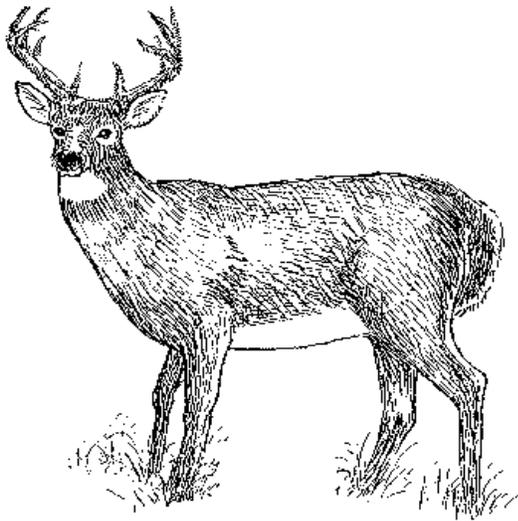
1

deer (doe)



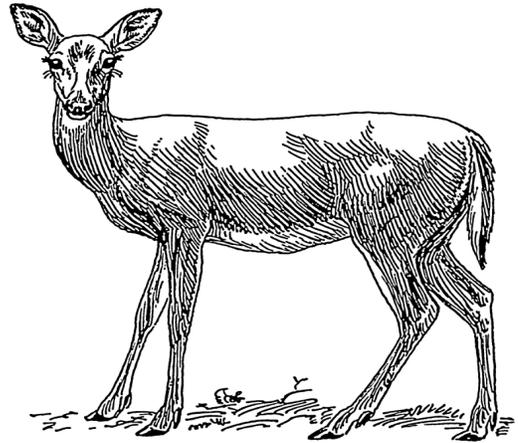
2

deer (buck)



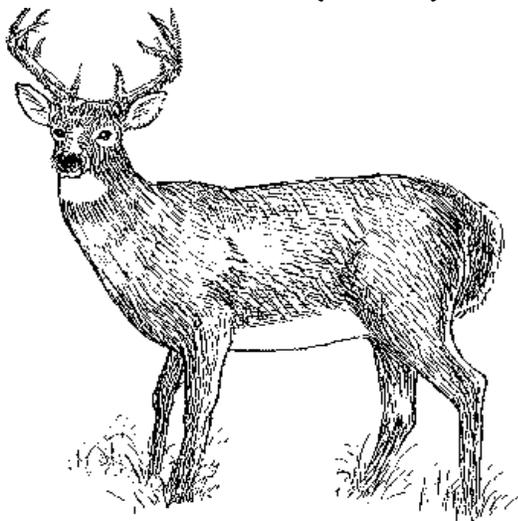
2

deer (doe)



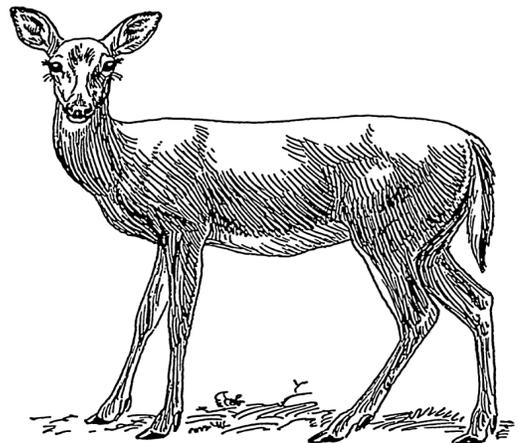
3

deer (buck)



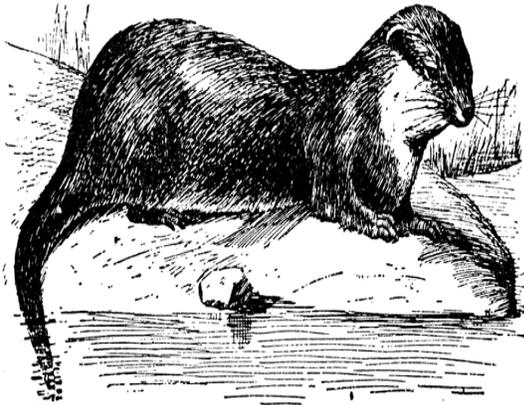
3

deer (doe)



1

otter



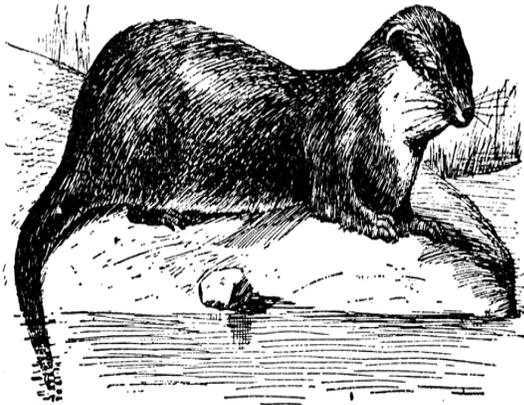
1

raccoon



2

otter



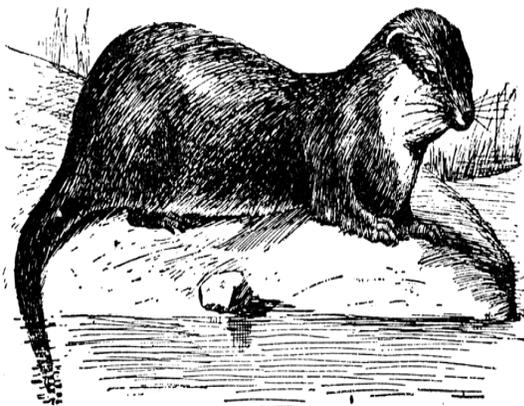
2

raccoon



3

otter



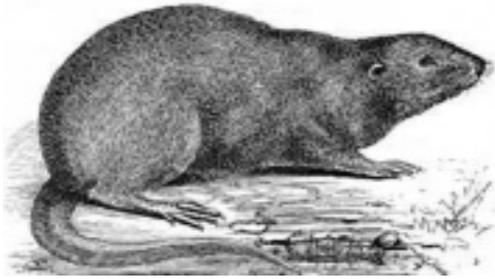
3

raccoon



1

muskrat



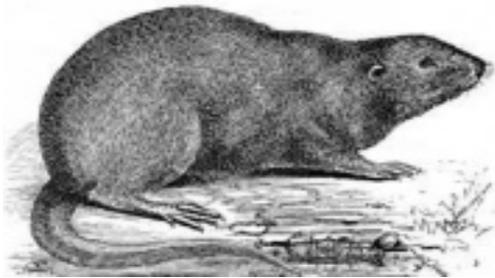
1

deer (buck)



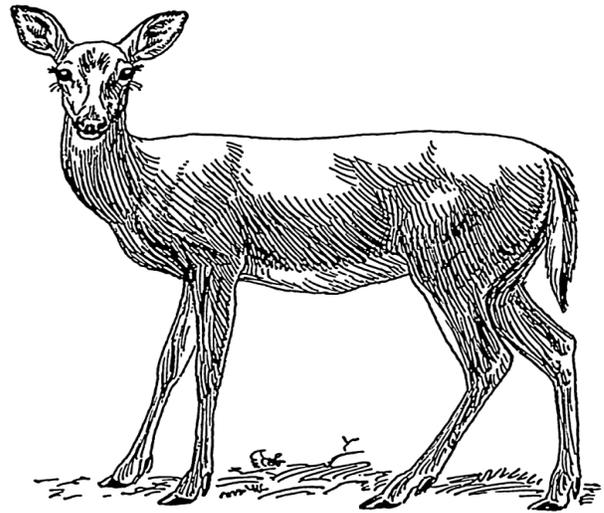
2

muskrat



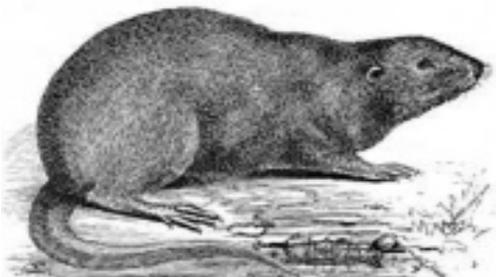
1

deer (doe)



3

muskrat



1

beaver





name _____ date _____

A

AMERICAN FUR COMPANY

Trade Goods 1817-1818

Hunting Gear	Cost
Rifles	\$35.00 each
Shotguns	\$20.00 each
Gunflints	\$ 1.00 per dozen
Gunpowder	\$ 1.50 per lb.
Powder Horn	\$ 2.00 each
Lead (to make bullets)	\$ 4.00 per 20 lbs.
Bullet Molds	\$ 2.00 each
Lead Shot	\$ 1.00 per 3 lbs.
Muskrat Spears	\$ 3.00 each
Fish Spears	\$ 1.00 each
Traps	\$10.00 each

Tools	Cost
Half Axes	\$4.00 each
Tomahawks	\$2.00 each
Butcher Knives	\$.50 each
Fine Knives	\$1.00 each

Metal Cooking Pots	Cost
Copper (small)	\$ 4.00 each
Copper (medium)	\$15.00 each
Copper (large)	\$40.00 each
Tin (small)	\$ 3.00 each
Tin (medium)	\$ 8.00 each
Tin (large)	\$20.00 each

Clothing & Cloth	Cost
Blankets	\$10.00 each
Breech Cloths	\$ 3.00 per pair
Leggings (scarlet cloth)	\$ 4.00 per pair
Mantlets (calico)	\$ 2.50 each
Shirts (cotton)	\$ 3.00 each
Shirts (calico)	\$ 4.00 each
Cloth (red flannel)	\$ 3.00 per yard
Cloth (calico)	\$ 1.50 per yard
Cloth (scarlet wool)	\$ 6.00 per yard
Handkerchiefs (black silk)	\$ 3.00 each

Other Items	Cost
Horses	\$50.00 each
Bridles	\$ 3.00 each
Hand Mirrors	\$ 1.00 each
Hair Combs	\$ 1.00 per pair
Scissors	\$ 1.00 per pair
Salt	\$.50 per lb.
Vermillion	\$ 8.00 per lb.
Tobacco	\$ 1.00 per lb.
Silk ribbon	\$.50 per yd.



name _____ date _____

B

AMERICAN FUR COMPANY Trade Goods 1817-1818 Items Purchased on Credit

The following goods should be bought in the minimum quantities listed below, but you may buy more!

Gunflints - 1 dozen
Gunpowder - 5 lbs.
Lead (to make bullets) - 15 lbs.
Lead Shot - 6 lbs.

Item	Amount	Price	Total	Workspace

Fur Trade Game

Add	Pelts	Money	Workspace
<p>Bear</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>T _____ = _____ X \$2.00 = _____</p>	<p>Total</p> <p></p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Price Per Pelt</p> <p>Total</p> <p></p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Beaver</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>T _____ = _____ X \$3.00 = _____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Deer/Buck</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>T _____ = _____ X \$1.00 = _____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Deer/Doe</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>T _____ = _____ X \$.50 = _____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Muskrat</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>T _____ = _____ X \$.25 = _____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Otter</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>T _____ = _____ X \$4.00 = _____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Raccoon</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>T _____ = _____ X \$.25 = _____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>

Add up Money Totals of all of the pelts.

Bear: _____

Beaver: _____

Deer/B: _____

Deer/D: _____

Muskrat: _____

Otter: _____

Raccoon: _____

TOTAL: _____

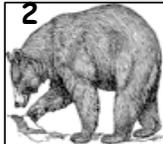
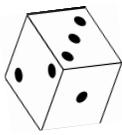
Pelt Money Total:

Trade Goods
Credit Total:

Calculate results.

Was it a good winter hunt?
Why or why not?
Write your thoughts on the back of this paper.

Fur Trade Game

Add	Pelts	Money	
Bear <u> 6 </u> <u> 4 </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> T <u> 10 </u> = <u> 10 </u> X \$2.00 = \$20.00	Total 	Price Per Pelt T <u> 10 </u> = <u> 10 </u> X \$2.00 = \$20.00	Workspace Animal Card X Die = <u> </u> Example: Bear 2 x Die 3 = 6
Beaver <u> 18 </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> T <u> 18 </u> = <u> 18 </u> X \$3.00 = \$54.00			 X 
Deer/Buck <u> 4 </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> T <u> 4 </u> = <u> 4 </u> X \$1.00 = \$4.00			
Deer/Doe <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> T <u> </u> = <u> </u> X \$.50 = <u> </u>			Pelt Money Total: \$152.50
Muskrat <u> 10 </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> T <u> 10 </u> = <u> 10 </u> X \$.25 = \$2.50			Trade Goods Credit Total: Option 2: The Elk (H-4) \$135 or results from Option 1 using activity sheets A and B
Otter <u> 18 </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> T <u> 18 </u> = <u> 18 </u> X \$4.00 = \$72.00			Calculate results. \$152.50 -135.00 \$ 17.50
Raccoon <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> T <u> </u> = <u> </u> X \$.25 = <u> </u>			Was it a good winter hunt? Why or why not? Write your thoughts on the back of this paper.

H-1

AMERICAN FUR COMPANY

Trade Goods 1817-1818

Actual items purchased on credit

by Ma-me-ash-she-ko

(Son-in-law of the Blue Chief, Sauk)

Item	Amount	Price	Total
Traps	2	10.00	20.00
Rifle	1	35.00	35.00
Gunpowder	10 lbs.	1.50/lb.	15.00
Gunflints	2 dozen	1.00/doz.	2.00
Small Tin Kettle	2	2.00	4.00
3 point Blanket	2	10.00	20.00
Fine Knives	4	1.00	4.00
Butcher Knives	10	.50	5.00
Molton Mantlet	2	4.00	8.00
Lead	15 lbs.	1.00/5 lbs.	3.00
Salt	2 lbs.	1.00/lb.	2.00
Breech Cloth	1	3.00	3.00
			\$121.00

H-2

AMERICAN FUR COMPANY

Trade Goods 1817-1818

Actual items purchased on credit

by Pe-a-mush-ka

(Meskwaki)

Item	Amount	Price	Total
Traps	2	10.00	20.00
Rifle	1	35.00	35.00
Gun Powder	10 lbs.	1.50/lb.	15.00
3 Point Blankets	2	10.00	20.00
Medium Tin Kettle	1	20.00	20.00
Fine Knives	2	1.00	2.00
Butcher Knives	8	.50	4.00
Tomahawk	1	3.00	3.00
Vermillion	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	12.00/lb.	3.00
Tobacco	5 lb.	1.00/lb.	5.00
Hair Combs	1 pair	1.00	1.00
Gunflints	3 dozen	1.00/ doz.	3.00
			\$131.00

name _____ date _____

H-3
AMERICAN FUR COMPANY
 Trade Goods 1817-1818
 Actual items purchased on credit
 by Wa-pe-key

Item	Amount	Price	Total
Rifle	1	35.00	35.00
Woolen Blankets	2	10.00	20.00
Butcher Knives	12	.50	6.00
Fine Knives	4	1.00	4.00
Gunpowder	10 lbs.	1.50/lb.	15.00
3 point Blanket	2	10.00	20.00
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ point Blanket	1	6.00	6.00
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ point Blanket	1	8.00	8.00
Vermillion	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	12.00/lb.	3.00
Tobacco	2 lb.	1.00/lb.	2.00
Scarlet Leggings	1 pair	4.00	4.00
Half Axe	2	4.00	8.00
			\$131.00

H-4 name _____ date _____

AMERICAN FUR COMPANY
 Trade Goods 1817-1818
 Actual items purchased on credit
 by The Elk

Item	Amount	Price	Total
Rifle	1	35.00	35.00
Large Copper Kettle	1	30.00	30.00
Woolen Blanket	1	10.00	10.00
Woolen Leggings	1 pair	3.00	3.00
Gunpowder	10 lbs.	1.50/lb.	15.00
3 point Blanket	1	10.00	10.00
1 ½ point Blanket	1	6.00	6.00
Butcher Knives	2	.50	1.00
Fine Knives	2	1.00	2.00
Half Axe	1	4.00	4.00
Shotgun	1	16.00	16.00
Lead	15 lbs.	1.00/5 lbs.	3.00
			\$135.00

name _____

H-5

AMERICAN FUR COMPANY

Trade Goods 1817-1818

Items purchased on Credit

By The Ridge, Sauk Chief

Item	Amount	Price	Total
Rifle	1	35.00	35.00
Traps	2	10.00	20.00
Gunpowder	6 lbs.	1.50/lb.	9.00
5 lb. Kettle	1	15.00	15.00
3 point Blanket	2	10.00	20.00
1 point Blanket	1	5.00	5.00
Butcher Knives	3	.50	1.50
Fine Knives	2	1.00	1.00
Gunflints	2 dozen	1.00/doz.	2.00
Tobacco	2 lbs.	1.00/lb.	2.00
Shotgun	1	16.00	16.00
Lead	15 lbs.	1.00/5 lbs.	3.00
			\$129.50