

those states is more like our own, and there is a greater probability of securing varieties suited to our climate from this quarter than by sending east for stock. It is very desirable that every opportunity for cultivating and experimenting with fruits and forest trees should be extended to the people of Manitoba, in order that varieties suitable to the climate may be discovered. The prohibition which has been applied to nursery stock shuts the people here out of their most valuable source of supply for such stock. The exception which has now been made in favor of cottonwood is of some value, but it is a comparatively small thing compared with the disadvantage of the prohibition which remains. Besides, cottonwood is a native of Manitoba. The trees can be had at home, consequently it is not necessary to send to the United States for them, while the apples, plums, crabs and other fruits which might be experimented with here to advantage, cannot be obtained at home. It is greatly in the interest of Manitoba and the Territories that the prohibition of nursery stock should be removed, so far as this part of the country is concerned, owing to the exceptional conditions prevailing here. Special restrictions might be enforced as to the source whence the stock came and also for a careful inspection of importations, but the total prohibition should be removed. Those who wish to experiment with fruits and forest trees, so much needed in this prairie country, should not be shut out from their most valuable source of supply.

Regarding the cottonwood, while it is in some respects a valuable tree for the prairie, it has been found to be badly affected with rust, causing the trees to die out at an early stage in their existence. At the Brandon experimental farm a great many of the trees have died on this account.

Hudson's Bay Co. Changes.

D. Taylor, for a number of years past manager of the Hudson's Bay company's business at Calgary, has been appointed to an important position in Winnipeg. George Sharp, who has for some time been the company's manager at Vernon, B. C., succeeds Mr. Taylor as manager at Calgary. C. McGinn, late of the Winnipeg staff, has been promoted to be manager of the company's store at Vernon. Mr. Hunter, until lately the company's accountant at Macleod, Alberta, has succeeded G. W. Gill as manager at Pincher Creek, Alberta. Mr. Gill having retired from the company's service.

Pacific Coast Salmon Industry.

The following estimate of the salmon production of the Pacific coast which has been made by a coast paper indicates that the pack of British Columbia is even larger than the figures given to The Commercial two weeks ago would indicate. Some interesting

information regarding this great industry is also appended:

"The salmon season has just been concluded and in the canneries of British Columbia are over 740,000 cases of salmon, valued at about \$3,700,000, awaiting shipment to the United Kingdom. Last year a fleet of five sailing vessels carried the pack, but this season, the catch being so much larger than that of last, eight ships are loading. The total pack of the Pacific coast will amount to over 4,000,000 cases, all told, valued at about \$20,000,000. The canneries of Alaska have put up 2,000,000 cases, Puget Sound 750,000, Columbia River 500,000, Fraser River 490,000 and the Northern British Columbia inlets and rivers about 250,000.

"The salmon industry, which includes the fishing and packing, is one of the most interesting and peculiar of the industries of British Columbia. Fancy an investment of over six million dollars entirely dependent on the vagaries of a fish, whose habits and peculiarities are even yet but little known. True, every year the salmon appear at about the same date, and in about the same place, and proceeding in practically the same course they finally reach the headwaters of the parent stream where, four years before, they were spawned, and having reached their destination, they, too, spawn, and then, bruised and battered, they give up that life which they have fought so hard to preserve in order to fulfill their destined end in perpetuating the species.

"So far as the habits of this remarkable fish have been studied since the business of catching and preserving them reached such dimensions, it has not been learned where the fish come from, when they appeared on the coast, nor where they go to when they descend the stream in which they began life, and to which they return after life in the sea to spawn and die.

"Year after year the salmon are first seen off the northern coast of Vancouver Island and the opposite mainland, where they run in the Nans and Skeena rivers at about the same time, beginning about June 15 to 20th. The run continues on these rivers and the adjacent inlets for about the same time, six weeks, as it usually does on the Fraser, and while it is in progress there the fish make their way south down the west coast of Vancouver Island. On they go through the Straits of San Juan de Fuca, into the Gulf of Georgia. The majority go up the Fraser. Usually the first shoal arrives in mid-July. The salmon, coming so mysteriously as they do from a long sojourn in an unknown part of the ocean, are evidently impelled by strong instinct at the period of maturity to return to their parent river, there to deposit their spawn. The quarter of the ocean in which they spend the greater portion of their lives after leaving the river is a matter of much speculation. Some think the fish cross the ocean and may be found in the ocean north of Japan, while others aver that the fish came each year out of the cold water of the far North Pacific, or even from the Arctic waters, through the Behring Sea.

"The annual appearance of immense numbers of fish and the positive assurance that, though entirely absent for ten months of the year yet the fish would return to the same rivers at about the same time every year, has been the foundation on which the industry was built that caused the article known as "British Columbia Canned Salmon" to become known in every part of the world."

British Columbia Fruit.

The Macpherson Fruit Co., Winnipeg, received a carlot of very fine fruit from the Vernon district of British Columbia on Saturday last. This is the first straight car of British Columbia fruit to come to the Winnipeg market this season. Last year quite a quantity of fruit came to Winnipeg from the Pacific province, but this year the crop in that region has been almost a failure, owing to excessive rains when the fruit trees were in bloom, which interfered with the fertilizing of the bloom. The Vernon district, which is in the interior, escaped this drawback to a great extent.

The car of fruit referred to is composed mostly of prunes, of the German and Italian varieties, with some pears and crabs. All the fruit is fine quality and it has been carefully handled and packed, after the California fashion, consequently it came to hand in first-class condition. This shows that British Columbia fruit is all right when properly handled. Last year a considerable portion of the British Columbia fruit received here was in poor condition and was sold at a loss to the shippers. A few small lots received this year also came hand in bad shape and sold at a loss. It is doubtful if there will be any more of this class of fruit received this year, as the supply in the Vernon district is not large and there is a good home demand for the fruit.

Cycle Changes and Prices.

The constructional changes in cycle manufacture for next year promise to be few and nothing radical. Tubing will remain at about 1 1/8th inch and flush joints will, of course, be perpetuated. Crank hanger construction, bearings, etc., are now giving every satisfaction on the score of wear and easy running, and except, perhaps, in a few minor points, makers will be content to let well enough alone. Abnormally large sprocket wheels are going out of favor, both because no advantage is gained, and because considerable extra weight is necessarily added. It is doubtful if the front sprocket standard will run over 24 or 26 teeth in 1900.

The free wheel boom which began in England during the past summer, is extending to this country, and may be expected to be on in full next spring. This innovation has been thoroughly tested and the companies putting it out for the coming season's trade express themselves as delighted with the way the public are falling in with the idea. Some go so far as to say that in two or three years more fixed pedals will be out of date for touring and comfortable riding.

It is quite a little too early to talk upon the price question, but our information leads us to presume that there will not be much change from the present figures. The officers at the head of the recently formed Canadian trade amalgamation aver that they are not in the business for their healths, and until they announce their policy the independent makers will say nothing. In view of the fact that steel and other raw material entering into the make-up of a bicycle, have been largely advanced in price, it does not appear possible that the factories can make any cut in their finished product.—Cycling.

Canadian Pacific railway land sales for the month of September were 25,550 acres, realizing \$85,800. For the corresponding month a year ago 18,000 acres were sold for \$57,016.