

memorial in which they asked the board to assist them in urging the Government to reconsider a decision to re-impose the wharfage charges on Digby pier. Their memorial was also signed by about one hundred flour dealers in the Annapolis valley, and with such an excellent endorsement to a proposition reasonable on its face, the board willingly added whatever value may be attached to its own endorsement.

A matter of considerable interest was that relating to the canning industry. Complaints were made that some canning concerns were shy in their weights and measures, and the following resolution was carried without a dissenting voice: "Resolved, That in the opinion of this Maritime Board of Trade, all canned meats, vegetables, fruits, fish, packets of tea, tins of lard should show in plain lettering the weights of contents; that all penalties should be imposed upon all packers and canners who do not so stamp their goods, and also that penalties should be imposed on all dealers and traders who expose such unstamped goods for sale."

Apple producers and shippers it seems are not above suspicion, as it was found needful to put this resolution on record: "That some steps be taken to secure better regulations regarding the packing and branding of apples, and that the attention of the proper authorities be drawn to the subject."

A resolution was also passed asking the Government to do all in its power towards preserving the lobster industry.

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island legislatures were urged to follow Nova Scotia's example in passing a law making statutory conditions for fire insurance risks. The insurance representatives themselves were heartily in favor of this idea.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, M. G. DeWolfe, Kentville, N.S.; vice-presidents, D. J. Mc-Lauchlan, St. John; W. J. Aitkin, Charlottetown; secretary-treasurer, G. E. Calkin, Kentville.

By an unwritten law it followed that the next meeting should be held at the place from which the new president and secretary come. So Kentville, N.S., a pretty and quaint central town, will be the meeting place of 1900. Mr. DeWolfe, who occupied the chair after his election, at this present session, is an enthusiastic Board of Trade man, and the Maritime Board will prosper during his tenure of office. It may be remarked that many members approve of a permanent secretary, and a notice of motion to that effect has been given.

The St. John Board were splendid hosts. They afforded a most enjoyable treat to the visitors in the trip to which they invited them up the St. John River, some twenty-five miles, with the accompaniment of an elaborate banquet, a band of music, and general good fellowship.

The weather throughout was the best of the season, perhaps a sign of approval of the ruling powers, since Halifax and St. John have joined hands in friendship, and mean, for the future, to spend the time hitherto exhausted in accusing each other of being fog-producers, in proving that they are the two best winter ports on the Atlantic coast.

St. John, N.B., 18th August.

T.C.L.K.

BUTTER SCARCE AND DEAR.

There is a remarkable scarcity of butter at the present time, and prices are very firm. The lack of supplies may be attributed to three grounds, (1) dry weather and a comparatively small make; (2) a good local consumption, and (3) a large export movement. This week a number of enquiries were sent as to the stocks of butter held at Ontario points, and the quantity being produced. Invariably the reply was that a shortage existed, and that by reason of the dry weather and poor pasturage the make was small. The local consumptive demand has been excellent. For choice creamery 28 cents is being paid in a retail way in Toronto. The inferior qualities of butter are firmer, and prices have within the past few weeks stiffened up 3 to 4 cents per pound. The lumbermen have been in the market picking up supplies and this has had its effect on the market.

The strength of the butter market is not due alone to local causes. The weather during the last month, in the United Kingdom and in the dairying countries of Europe, has been hot, dry, and very unfavorable for the production of milk; consequently, the make of butter and cheese there has been smaller than for the previous month. As a result,

heavier requests than usual have been made on the Dominion for supplies. We are advised by mail from London, August 11th, that, in colonial butter, Canada has taken a very prominent and profitable part. The import of Canadian during July reached 34,424 cwts., against 11,974 for June, and 13,383 cwts. for July last year. This important increase in Canadian butter shows that in the future Canada will be a very important factor to reckon with. The price for "choicest" Canadian has risen from 88s. to 90s. per cwt. a month ago, to 100s. to 102s. to-day, whilst "finest" is making 96s. to 98s. In Australasian butter not more than 200 boxes have arrived during the month. Reports on that continent are not favorable to a large make.

FRUIT IN WESTERN ONTARIO.

It can hardly be said that the present is a good fruit year, for while good results are reported in some districts with respect to certain fruits, others are very disappointing. Drouth has had its effect of late. Apples, for example, while a fair crop in eastern and northern parts of Ontario, are light in the extreme southwest, and very light in the Niagara district. A correspondent of The Monetary Times says of the Niagara district fruits: "There is a large crop of grapes, and the quality all right. Peaches, on the other hand, are very scarce, and plums a light crop. Rain is wanted very badly. Pears will be a light crop, as a good many are already (20th August) dropping. Apples are few and far between." In the county of Essex small fruits have been a good crop as a rule, with not the usual yield of peaches or plums, or apples. On Pelee Island the crop of peaches is a good one, and grapes are extraordinarily plentiful. As our correspondent put it last week, Concords will yield probably six tons to the acre and Catawbas three tons.

COTTON GOODS AGAIN ADVANCE.

Following the advance in cotton goods, which we announced last week, comes the announcement of further increases in values. Domets, which were advanced five per cent. last week, are up $\frac{1}{4}$ cent per yard. The "Loch Lomond" cotton flannellette has made a similar advance. A heavy ten-oz. ticking is also dearer by about five per cent. The manufacturers of white cotton are taking a hand in putting up prices, and cotton warps and yarns have made a five per cent. advance in the removal of a discount to that amount which has hitherto been given the trade. Stocks in the country are believed to be only moderately large, and orders are being freely booked for goods at the advanced prices. It should be remembered in considering these higher prices that values have for some time been abnormally low, as the result of keen competition in both Canada and the United States.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

Proof that the gang of tramps arrested last week at Hull, Que., are the parties who robbed the Standard Bank branch at Bowmanville, will be a great satisfaction. It is said that the town watchman has identified some of the men as the robbers.

The vice-president of La Banque Jacques Cartier, which suspended a few weeks ago, states that depositors, whose united claims reach close on a million dollars, have signed an agreement not to withdraw their deposits for a year if the bank reopens its doors. Mr. Hamelin is still confident that the bank is absolutely solvent, and only needs generous consideration at the hands of its patrons to justify the confidence of the depositors and the public.

It is not difficult to get up a cry against banks if they show a disposition to pursue and punish those who rob them. Curiously enough the same class of persons who raise this cry have been known to complain if a thief who restores money stolen from a bank is let off. The general manager of the Molsons Bank gives to the press an explanation of the reasons which governed his directors in the measures taken to discover who removed \$62,000 from their Winnipeg safe. We quite agree with Mr. Thomas in his view of the great injustice of allowing eight or perhaps ten persons to remain for months or years