

The 1904 pack of salmon on Puget Sound is figured at 286,630 cases, of which 123,419 were sockeye, and 106,856 cohoes. In 1903 the total pack was 464,014 cases.

Raisin growers in the region around Fresno, California, are organizing a syndicate with a capital of \$2,000,000 to act as agent or factor for the sale and distribution of the entire crop, and to deal in raisins on its own account.

Professor James W. Robertson, who lately retired from the position of Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying, in order to undertake the erection and management of a magnificent new structural college at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que., was waited upon at his home recently by the members of his late staff and presented with a beautiful mahogany hall clock.

The New York Board of General Customs Appraisers has just made an interesting decision of interest to vegetable raisers and dealers. Onion importers have contended that sixty pounds constituted a bushel, but the authorities have used a fifty-seven pound bushel, and in 1891 decided that duty was properly assessed on a fifty-seven pound basis. The board decided that 57 pounds constitute a bushel.

Some of the bakers are complaining that much of the wheat which has come forward of late has been of an inferior quality, so far as bread-making is concerned. As a consequence a good deal of mixing has had to be resorted to in order to get a fair grade of flour, and in some cases some ingenuity has been exercised by mills with orders ahead at low prices to get out whole. Complaints are coming in from bakers as to the character of a good deal of the new flour which evidences a lack in gluten, quality and appearance when baked.

A trial shipment of some twenty-five cases of British Columbia fresh herrings—in 1-lb. round flat cans—to Melbourne, Australia, has not been a success. British Columbia packers have apparently a lot to learn before they can produce an article to equal the Scotch herrings—put up in oval cans—which command a very extensive sale throughout the Commonwealth. The Vancouver herrings appeared to be "over-cooked," as the fish was considerably broken and mushy, while the liquid contents was much inferior to the bright oily liquid in the Scotch cans. It is estimated that Australia imports yearly, about 15,000 cases—each containing four dozen 1-lb. oval cans of fresh herrings.

#### DRY GOODS.

In the New York dry goods stores, among the chief new novelties are moiré ribbons of the finest quality. Warp prints are great favorites also, and so are surface prints. A large business is reported as being done in these lines.

Satisfactory reports come from the woolen mills in Nova Scotia. The Oxford mills, at Oxford, and the Hewson mills, at Amherst, which manufacture a high grade of tweeds, are doing a prosperous business, and the Hewson mills are to be enlarged with a view to export business. Scarcity is looked for in blankets, owing to the great demand. Already some mills have withdrawn quotations, while others have advanced their prices.

The offerings at the wool auction sales, in London, on 25th inst., numbered 12,657. This large quantity was well absorbed by continental and home buyers. Weaknesses were noted occasionally in fine greasy, owing to a slackening demand from Americans. Scoureds as a rule were firm, well-grown crossbreds selling readily. Coarse grades were 5 per cent. easier. Cape of Good Hope and Natal scoureds sold briskly, but greasy was occasionally withdrawn.

E. C. Tripp, of Atikokan, Northern Ontario, is operating a novel form of farm. It is devoted to the raising of silver, grey and black foxes. His farm comprises sixteen acres, which is fenced with wire netting, ten feet high, sunk to bed rock and water level. Inside this enclosure are the breeding pens. Mr. Tripp assumes that his enterprise will shortly be worth a gold mine, on account of the fact that

black and silver grey fox skins are getting scarcer each year and he will reap the benefit of a rising market. Another strange ranch, at Banning, is that of Louis Selberry, who is raising skunks. He secured six of these little animals, and as they are very prolific he had 48 the next year. Last year he killed 400 of the skunks, and is said to have realized \$4 a piece on the skins, and this winter he expects to kill nearly a thousand. Occasionally he has found one entirely black, which he has kept separate, and now has quite a number of the little black animals.

The season in Belfast, from a dry goods and linen point of view, has not been a bad one. The American market in the early part of the year showed a hesitancy that was rather discouraging, but latterly buyers have been operating with more freedom, and during the past fortnight or three weeks quite a respectable amount of business has been done. Prices continue very steady, and the opinion expressed from time to time that there would be no break in values has proved correct. As to the future, no particular change is looked for. Flax may stiffen a little, which would mean a fractional advance all round, but so far as can be judged current figures will rule for some time.

The Dry Goods Economist says, referring to raw silk, that an indifferent attitude on the part of buyers has continued, and it is evident that no general interest will be displayed in the near future. This condition was predicted and more or less discounted, so that there is little disappointment among handlers of raw silk. But the most important effect of the continued sluggishness of trade is the weakness which has developed in Yokohama. It has been admitted that the market has been out of proportion to certain of the other producing centres, and the slight reduction of prices is not a matter of surprise, as this market does not seem to be able to stand any long-continued period of dullness. It is perhaps more mercurial than any other centre from which raw silk is obtained and the new prices which have been established are not regarded as stable, any increase in demand causing reelers to advance their limits again. But the majority of domestic manufacturers at least are supplied for current wants, and although it is generally believed no large quantity of raw material is owned by manufacturers, the latter are not likely to come into the market until they receive duplicate orders. Whether this delay will be of sufficient length to prevent any recovery of prices is a question which few are willing to answer.

The demand for linen damasks is said of late to have fallen off, but the statement is not confirmed on careful enquiry, says a Manchester report. Linen damasks have been much improved in design and weave of late years, while the medium-priced goods cannot be regarded as dear, in view of the wearing qualities of the material. Belfast makes of linen damasks, in the lower and medium grades, may have been cheapened too much by the introduction of cotton warps, but it is scarcely true to say that the linen damask has receded into the background. By organization it is even thought likely that the sales of damasks and other linens might be increased, notwithstanding the competition of cotton goods.

A report from Bradford, Yorkshire, says that the demand for coarser-fibred crossbred colonial sorts of wool continues very large. As the supply of the home grown article of similar character is now nearly finished, every confidence is expressed here that the present unusually high rates will be sustained. The great fall in the price of American cotton would, under ordinary circumstances, have the effect of decreasing the use of these low crossbred colonial wools; but the unusually large demand for America, and for the purpose of making various kinds of cloth for the war in the East, appears likely to counteract any tendency towards lower values at present. The values of both alpaca hair and mohair are very firm at the recent advance. There can be no doubt that, in addition to the great demand for bright dress fabrics for the United States and Paris, there are indications of an increased demand in the home trade. Several of the buyers of leading West End dress houses have recently given it as their opinion that bright dress goods will be more generally worn in fashionable circles in the coming summer.