

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

How Reciprocity May Affect the Various Industries— European Interest in Everything Canadian—Close Season for Sockeye Salmon Suspended.

(Staff Correspondence.)

Vancouver, August 26.

The big industry in British Columbia is lumbering, and many of the large operators are favoring the adoption of the reciprocity agreement, some of them being Conservatives. It is noticeable that American visitors are decidedly in favor of the proposal. Prominent American business men have been on the coast, men like Mr. A. J. Earling, president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, and though slow to talk on ordinary occasions have little hesitancy in expressing their opinion as to the great benefits of a measure of reciprocity. The new trade agreement will affect various industries differently. While the lumbermen are of the opinion they will benefit, the Taylor Milling and Elevator Company, with head offices in Lethbridge, may have to transfer their seat of operations. It was the company's intentions to erect a warehouse and elevator in Nelson, but state that if reciprocity goes into force they may have to move their headquarters to Spokane.

That British capital is wary of new conditions which would follow the adoption of the proposal is indicated by the remarks of Mr. E. T. Powell, editor of the Financial News, of London, who was here a few days ago. He thinks reciprocity would retard the investment of British capital in Canada, stating that the investor in the Old Country is something of a sentimentalist and likes to know that when he is investing his money he is developing some portion of the Empire. If British capital comes in less quantity, it would be only a temporary condition, as there is a vast amount of money in the Old Country for the profitable development of resources.

Interest Shown in Everything Canadian.

Mr. George E. Macdonald, a Vancouver business man, has returned from a trip to Europe, and states that deep interest was shown abroad in everything Canadian, British Columbia, with its wonderful climate and vast resources, being in especial favor. Of late there has been one or two French visitors on the coast looking into investment possibilities, and Mr. Macdonald says that while in Paris he learned that there was a remarkable movement of French money to the Dominion for investment purposes. Parisian capitalists were much alive concerning Canada.

That the speculative element has to be largely eliminated from investments is shown also in regard to mining. There arrived here this week Messrs. Louis Meyersbach and Hugh F. Marriott, of London, and G. G. S. Lindsey, of Toronto. These gentlemen have been travelling through Canada inspecting the mineral fields. As is known, Mr. Meyersbach is a director of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Limited, of London, the successor of Wernher, Beit & Co., and of Mr. H. Eckstein, of London and Johannesburg, and has large holdings and enormous capital. Mr. Meyersbach stated that it is not the policy of the company to buy prospects or undeveloped mining properties, but were prepared to buy producers that passed examination. In other words, the owners of properties had to show their faith by developing the deposit to the extent that it became a mine. Development of some of the mineral districts of British Columbia has been retarded because the owners of claims think that purchasers are possessed of as much optimism regarding their properties as the owners, and that the sale should take place with little or no work having been done. Generally a large initial cash payment is requested. Mr. Meyersbach's remark that his company is willing to pay the price shows that all money put in will be returned to the owner of the claim who produces a mine. The party will inspect the new silver-lead field at Hazelton and also the Portland Canal district.

Sockeye Salmon Close Season Suspended.

The question is naturally asked, with the suspension of the close season for sockeye salmon, if the end of the industry is in sight. Much Canadian capital is invested in the salmon fishing industry in British Columbia, but of late years the pack has been lessening very appreciably. One of the reasons declared by the canners to be the principal cause, is that indiscriminate fishing is indulged in by Americans. They have the fairway of the fish dotted with traps, and to make doubly sure use vast purse seines hauled by gasoline boats. No close season has been observed, the object evidently being to get as many fish as possible for momentary profit. As to the Fraser River, the hatching is all done in Canada, and this year the canners were successful in their petition that, owing to the smallness of the

pack, the close season from August 25th to September 15th be declared off. This will doubtless mean few fish reaching the spawning grounds, but it is argued if the Americans are to deplete the fishery Canadians might as well get a share of the spoils while they last. The pack on the Fraser this season is 50,000 cases, compared with 175,000 cases on Puget Sound.

Game Warden May be Deposed.

The force of observing the law on the American side is shown by the report in a Bellingham paper of the prosecution of the Pacific American Fisheries and the Carlisle Packing Company for the violation of the thirty-six hour close law. The procedure has been to keep traps open irrespective of the close season mutually agreed upon by canners on both sides of the line. It seems that a game warden, who is a deputy fish commissioner, undertook to issue warrants against these two companies as an example to the rest. Now it is proposed to depose him from office for usurping the offices of the regular fish commissioner. The trap owners evidently concluded that they would not be interfered with by the commissioner according to past experience, and the unwarranted and unjustifiable action of the deputy will mean his dismissal.

BLACK ANTIMONY

Found to be Grossly Adulterated—Inland Revenue Department Makes Interesting Report.

That the drug known as Black Antimony was grossly adulterated was the charge made some time ago to the Inland Revenue Department.

During March, April and May the department made a collection of seventy-seven samples and the following report gives the results of their examination; it will be seen that the charges of gross adulteration are fully sustained. The following synopsis gives these results in brief:—

	Samples.
Adulterated, as containing no antimony.....	21
Very impure sulphide of antimony.....	9
Impure sulphide of antimony.....	8
Sulphide of antimony.....	39

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Black Antimony not Defined.

Black Antimony is not defined by the British Pharmacopoeia; but the purified sulphide is defined as Antimonium Nigrum Purificatum. This is the crude sulphide separated from siliceous material and from arsenical compounds. Neither is Black Antimony found in the United States Pharmacopoeia, since 1890. In the seventh biennial revision of the U.S.P. it is thus described:—"Native Antimony Sulphide, purified by fusion, and as free from arsenic as possible."

Under the designated tests it is required to dissolve in hydrochloric acid, without leaving more than one per cent. of residue. The United States National Dispensatory, 5th Edition, p. 223, describes it as dissolving in 10 parts of hydrochloric acid, without leaving more than one per cent. of residue.

Samples Examined Were Adulterated.

Black antimony is not now employed in human medicine, but it is very largely used as an alterative and anthelmintic for horses and cattle; and is an ingredient of very many condition powders.

No exact standard of purity exists for this article. It is, however, quite certain that it should be essentially the sulphide of antimony, known as stibnite; and the samples examined were adulterated when they contain no antimony whatever. This is the case with 21 samples, or 27 per cent. of the entire collection. Where foreign matter to the extent of nearly 50 per cent. is present, the samples have been declared very impure; and where more than 5 per cent. of matters insoluble in hydrochloric acid is found, as impure.

Many of the adulterated samples, consisting as they do of metallic iron, silica and carbon (graphite) have had an origin such as to preclude the possibility of any honestly mistaken intent; and are entirely and knowingly frauds, not necessarily known as such to the immediate vendor, but certainly known to the original producer.

The Bank of Montreal, fiscal agent for Calgary, Alta., will advance \$3,000,000 on the unsold debentures of the city, which aggregate about \$4,500,000. This amount will be advanced in monthly instalments of \$500,000 each, and the treasury orders for the amount will be issued to the bank monthly by the city.