

Poor Prospects for Wool.

The outlook is anything but encouraging for the marketing of this season's clip of Canadian wool, which is large and of fairly good average quality. Ontario fleeces generally found its chief market in the United States, but since the McKinley Bill went into force the high tariff imposed upon it, virtually excluded it from that country except what found its way thither by the under ground route. The adoption of such means of forcing a market by attempting to evade the duty appears to be attended with considerable risks, as several lots of Canadian wool have recently been pounced upon by American customs officers after it had passed the line and confiscated without the slightest ceremony, to the serious loss of the owners. The situation as present therefore wears a perplexing aspect, as farmers have considerable wool on their hands which they cannot sell except at a big concession from former prices, and which they claim does not pay them for their trouble of producing and clipping it. Recent advices received from the west, state that notwithstanding the seizures of the United States customs officers, smuggled wool from Canada continues to find its way across the borders, although not in sufficiently large quantities to relieve the market of its surplus stocks to any appreciable extent. Some farmers have accepted the position and parted with their wool at the lower range of prices, but quite a number are still holding in the hope that something may turn up to advance values to the basis which they obtained before the McKinley tariff came into force. Those dealers in Ontario who were caught with the balance of last season's clip on hand have sustained some smart losses, and are not likely to take any further risks. Consequently they are not buying except at prices low enough to insure them from any further losses. The future of the wool producers of Canada is therefore not by any means a bright one. *Montreal Trade Bulletin.*

Much from Little

It appears now that the wheat crop of 1899 in this country (the United States) was very much above the estimates. Last January, when the final report came in, figured at about 400,000,000 bushels, the small crop people claimed that the amount was too big, for they said, the figures were based on measured bushels, and that if commercial bushels were taken each would be short of the government figures about five pounds, so they took off a twelfth of the crop, as figured, and called the production 366,000,000 bushels. That, they claimed, was the only correct method of figuring, and by fitting that style of calculation to the official figures it was easy to bring out the exact amount. As we draw toward the end of the year it is found we have already consumed, according to the official system of estimating, 286,000,000 bushels and have exported 100,000,000 bushels and have used for seed 55,000,000 bushels. That foots up an amount in excess of the total supply of 398,000,000 bushels, we had in their estimation to begin the year with. That is, in eleven months, we have used more than we had to use for the entire twelve months.—*Minneapolis Market Record.*

Packing Salmon in Glass.

Several prominent citizens were treated to an illustration of a new method of salmon packing

at the office of Morrow, Holland & Co., on Broad street, Victoria, on Thursday afternoon. The process is the invention of S. M. Okell, of Manchester, England, formerly a wholesale merchant and importer of canned salmon, Mr. Okell first commenced his experiments twelve months ago, and on Thursday, in the presence of several well-known gentlemen, a glass jar of hermetically sealed salmon was opened. The fish was found to be fresh and delicious and in every manner the process was successful. It is the intention of Mr. Okell to put up several hundred cases of salmon in glass jars and ship to England, with the view of creating a demand among the middle and upper classes for salmon packed in this manner. Mr. Okell stated that there was a great deal of English capital willing to invest in the idea. It is his purpose to establish a preserving plant in Victoria, which, this summer, will be devoted to the preserving of various small fruits, such as plums, berries, pears, etc., in glass jars, and next season to pack salmon in glass on an extensive scale.—*Victoria, B. C. Times.*

It has been announced that Germany has decided against any reduction being made in corn duties, as a general state of distress did not exist. The crop prospects, it was said, were better than they were a fortnight ago.

THE total net debt of Canada on the first of May last was \$234,142,372, a decrease of \$131,077 during April. The expenditure for May on capital account was \$3,791,635 compared with \$1,720,690 for the corresponding month last year. The surplus for the ten months elapsed of the current fiscal year is \$5,920,331.

At the recent meeting of the Bank of Montreal the scrutineers reported the election of the following gentlemen as directors for the ensuing year: J. J. C. Abbott, R. B. Angus, Hon. G. A. Drummond, E. B. Greenshields, W. C. McDonald, Hugh McLennan, A. T. Patterson, Gilbert Scott and the Hon. Donald A. Smith.

At a conference between the Toronto Retail Grocers' Association and the Toronto Wholesale Grocers' Guild it was agreed by the latter to recommend the Dominion guild to grant a discount of 3 per cent. off the price of starch in purchases of 10 boxes; 5 per cent. of 50 boxes, and 7 per cent. off 100 and over. It was discussed by the Dominion guild, and referred to the local guilds. These have all agreed to an allowance of 5 per cent. discount on 50 boxes and up, and these terms may now be considered to be in force. On 10 boxes, however, the Quebec and Kingston guilds will not agree to, and the matter will have to be threshed out again by the Dominion guild.

Cochrane, Cassils & Co., of Montreal, a house that for over forty years has been known as one of the leading wholesale boot and shoe manufacturing establishments of the Dominion, have moved to fine new premises at the corner of Latour and St. Genevieve streets, in order to make room for the steady expansion of their business. Their new factory is 123x52 feet five stories high or a total of some 32,000 square feet of flooring space (over $\frac{1}{2}$ of an acre) and gives employment to a large number of hands. Their output finds a market in every part of the Dominion, as they make a specialty of high grade medium class goods in all lines. It is safe to say that their reputation is unrivalled from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

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