

to any of the following articles, and that such articles shall in cases be subject to the duties mentioned in schedule, viz., wines, multiquors, spirits, spirituous liquors, liquid medicines and articles containing alcohol, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes. Provided, further, that the reduction shall only apply to refined sugar when evidence is satisfactory to the minister of customs is furnished that such refined sugar has been manufactured wholly from raw sugar produced in British colonies or possessions.

#### SUGAR DUTIES.

That it is expedient to repeal items 435 and 436 of schedule A to "The Customs Tariff, 1897" and to substitute the following therefor:

435. All sugar above number sixteen Dutch standard in color, and all refined sugars of whatever kinds, grades or standards, testing not more than eight degrees by the polariscope, \$1.03 per one hundred pounds, and for each additional degree one and one-half cents per hundred pounds. Fractions of five-tenths of a degree, or less, not to be subject to duty, and fractions of more than five-tenths to be dutiable as a degree.

436. Sugar, not above number sixteen, Dutch standard in color, sugar drainings or pumpings drained in transit, Melado or concentrated Melado, tank bottoms and sugar concrete, testing not more than seventy-five degrees by the polariscope, forty cents per one hundred pounds, and for each additional degree one and one-half cents per one hundred pounds. Fractions of five-tenths of a degree or less not to be subject to duty, and fractions of more than five-tenths to be dutiable as a degree. The usual packages in which imported to be free.

#### TOBACCO.

That it is expedient to provide that items 445 and 446 of schedule A, "The Customs Tariff, 1897," shall be repealed on and after the first day of July in the present year, 1898. That it is expedient to provide that on and after the first day of July, in the present year, 1898, the following items shall be added to schedule B to the customs tariff, 1897.

436. Tobacco, unmanufactured, for excise purposes, under conditions of the inland revenue act.

That it is expedient to provide that on and after the first day of July, in the present year, 1898, in addition to the excise duties at present levied on manufactured tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, there shall be levied and collected the following excise duties, that is to say:

(A) On all foreign raw leaf tobacco, unstemmed, taken out of warehouse for manufacture in any cigar or tobacco manufactory, ten cents per pound.

(B) On all foreign raw leaf tobacco, stemmed, taken out of warehouse for manufacture in any cigar or tobacco manufactory, fourteen cents per pound. Provided that the weight upon which such duty shall be computed shall be with reference to the standard mentioned in paragraph C of section 247 of the inland revenue act.

Mr. Fielding reminded the house that on the fall of the Belgium and German treaties on the 1st of August next, the claim of other nations to receive favored nations treatment will also fall and Canada will then be at liberty to extend her preference to British countries alone, though the reduction of 25 per cent will take effect from July 1st, and for

the one month from July 1st to August 1st, will have to be extended as it is now a number of other nations.

#### British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, April 4.—A trip among the wholesalers and leading retailers of Vancouver elicited the fact that the outfitting trade was somewhat slack at present and it was not expected to improve much until the opening of navigation up north. The lull is felt most by the flour and feed and the clothing stores. As is noticed by customs returns, the figures are higher than ever before in Vancouver and for the first time in the history of the province, the terminal city, Vancouver, leads Victoria. The customs officials further reported that the large returns were not due directly to the outfitting trade, as outfitting goods figured very little in the returns. The big invoices were for the ordinary legitimate every day trade of the city.

In the wholesale markets there were many changes. In dairy produce California creamery is the only butter in the market, although the coming Australian liner it is expected will bring a large consignment of the Antipodean article. California creamery has advanced from 24 1-2 to 27 cents wholesale. Eggs are also scarce besides a few local eggs the southern hen fruit is the only product in the market. These have advanced from 19 to 20 cents. Ashcroft potatoes have fallen off 50 cents and are now quoted at \$19.50 wholesale. Fruits are all lower and are quoted as follows: California lemons, \$2.75; naval oranges, \$3; seedlings, \$2; bananas, \$2. In cured meats prices are the same, but lard in this is quoted 2 cents higher, namely 10 cents. In fresh meats beef is up half a cent; pork a cent; veal a cent; chickens 5 cents, now 16 cents a pound; turkeys 4 cents, now 19 cents a pound. So that with the exception of fruit the tendency of prices are decidedly upwards. The people of Vancouver and Victoria were bitterly disappointed at the action of the Canadian senate throwing out the Yukon railway bill. All prominent citizens on being interviewed admitted that provided the railway was not built the Pacific coast Canadian outfitting trade would be seriously affected, but they thought that the government was equal to the occasion and would carry on the road as a public undertaking. For the time being politics cut no figure on the Canadian Pacific coast British Columbians all want the road.

It has been ascertained that the government are determined this time to let the duty on fresh salmon stand. Cannermen—that is most of them—make out a plausible case against the imposition of the duty which they strongly object to. They say that the duty was imposed with a view of bestering the condition of the fishermen, who were obliged to compete against the Fort Robert traps on the American side. Fish being sent from these traps in vast quantities and sold cheaper than the fishermen could supply them direct to the cannermen. The cannermen say that if the duty is there to stay it will drive them out of the business or drive them over to the States, as with the traps the Americans can put up salmon 50 cents a case cheaper than they can and undersell them in the London market,

consequently the last condition of the fisherman would be worse than the first.

It is now announced that the British Columbia cannermen have sufficiently elaborated their combine to secure a reduction of 25 per cent in the output this season, the salmon pack of 1897 having proved unprofitably large and glutted the chief market, that of England.

The board of directors of the B. C. Fruit Exchange met this week and it was practically arranged that Mr. Hutcherson, the manager of the Exchange make a trip to Manitoba and the Northwest to secure markets and arrange for the shipment east of British Columbia fruit.

#### Fur Trade Notes.

News has reached Edmonton from Fort Smith, in the north country, that fur and fish have been very scarce during the winter.

A bill has been introduced in the U. S. congress to repeal the law preventing the importation of seal skins under certain conditions.

A silver fox among a collection of furs forwarded by a Winnipeg house, is said to have sold for \$135, or about \$675, at the recent London fur sales.

The next series of sales in London will be held from June 14 to 16 inclusive, by C. M. Lampson & Co. Lampson & Co.'s October sales will be held from Oct. 25 to 27 inclusive, which will complete the regular fur sales for the current year.

#### Dairy Trade Items.

Sales of cream separators this season by Winnipeg dealers have already been very large. The use of separators is becoming general in Manitoba.

The auction sale at Liverpool of 15,000 boxes of Canadian cheese has resulted much better than had been expected, prices realized being equal to 3s to 40s.

S. M. Barre will start his creamery in Winnipeg in about ten days. Mr. Barre has taken another store in the Robert block, in addition to the two stores in this block previously occupied by him, thus giving him three of the stores in the block in all. One apartment he is now fitting up as a cold storage warehouse.

#### An Easter Number.

The April Canadian Magazine is an Easter number with a handsome and appropriate cover. The leading article is "Rome During Holy Week." There are Easter stories by Madge Merton, Katharine L. Johnston and A. Hooper. "Mural Decoration," by G. A. Reid, R.C.A., is very instructive, and "The Academy Exhibition," by Norman Patterson, deals with the recent exhibit of pictures made by the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. Current Events, Book Reviews and National Sport receive the usual attention. The next number will open the eleventh volume of this popular magazine.

The Montreal board of trade wants the Teslin Lake railway extended to an ocean port in Canadian territory.

The Montreal board of trade has endorsed the resolution of the British Columbia legislature opposing the granting of a charter to the Kettle River Railway company.