

DALBY & CLAXTONReal Estate, Insurance,
Mining & Financial**AGENTS.**

—AGENTS FOR—

The Yorkshire Guarantee and Securities Corporation, England.
Alliance Assurance Company (Fire), England.
The British Columbia Fire Insurance Company, Victoria.
The Great West Life Assurance Co., Winnipeg and Victoria.
The Royal Canadian Packing Company, Claxton, Skeena River.

64 YATES ST., VICTORIA.**A LUCKY DISCOVERER.**

Before Watts, the discoverer of the present mode of making shot, had his notable dream—said to be induced by over-indulgence in stimulants—the manufacture of shot was a slow, laborious, and, consequently, costly process. Great bars of lead had to be pounded into sheets of a thickness nearly equal to the diameter of the shots desired. These sheets had then to be cut into little cubes, placed in a revolving barrel, and there rolled, until by constant friction the edges wore off from the little cubes and they became spheroids. Watts had often racked his brain trying to discover some better and less costly method, but in vain. Finally, after spending an evening with some companions at an ale-house, he went home, went to bed, and fell asleep. His slumbers, however, were disturbed by unwelcome dreams, in one of which he was out with "the boys," and, as they were stumbling home, it began to rain shot—beautiful globules of polished, shining lead—in such great numbers that he and his companions had to seek shelter. In the morning, Watts remembered his curious dream, and it obtruded itself on his mind all day. This led him to speculate as to what shape molten lead would assume in falling through the air, and, finally, to settle the matter, he ascended to the top of the tower of St. Mary Radcliffe, and dropped slowly and regularly a ladleful of molten lead into the moat below. Descending to his surprise and delight, he took from the bottom of the shallow pool several handfuls of the most perfect shot he had ever seen. Watt's fortune was made, for from this exploit emanated the idea of the shot tower, which ever since has been the only means employed in the manufacture of the little missiles which are so important to sportsmen the world over.

THE FOOD OF MERCHANT SEAMEN.

Recently a committee of British ship-owners, representing London and the outports, entered upon an inquiry in London on the subject of food supplied to merchant seamen. George Laws, the general manager of the Shipping Federation, handed in three victualing scales, the first being that of food supplied in the British Royal Navy, the second the minimum scale required under the Merchant Shipping Act of 1851, and the third a special long voyage sailing ship scale. In the first instance the committee de-

PAINTS, VARNISHES, ETC.,*MIXED PAINTS, DRY COLORS, CALSOMINES,*Coach Colors in oil and
Japan, Coach Varnishes,
Window Glass, Plate GlassOrnamental Glass and
all kinds of Painters' and
Artists' Requisites.**A. RAMSAY & SON.**ESTABLISHED
1812.**MONTREAL.**

cided to prepare a new scale based upon existing requirements, to be subject to alteration in certain latitudes. Evidence will be taken on the basis of this scale, and if it should meet with general approval it will be recommended for general adoption.

In the course of the proceedings Dr. Saunders warned the committee against allowing coffee to be supplied mixed with chicory because of the great extent to which adulteration was practiced; and, with regard to butter, supported a suggestion that the words "or margarine" should be added in the scale after butter, this substitute being necessary in order to guard against the large amount of adulterated butter which is now being sold. Dr. Saunders said he had analyzed many samples of Danish and Normandy butter, and found both adulterated.

Mr. Scrutton said his firm had been paying 26 cents a pound in the belief that they were getting pure butter, but after the revelation made by Dr. Saunders, he thought the members of the committee ought to make private inquiries on the subject.

When the members of the committee adjourned for lunch they sat down to ordinary seamen's fare as prepared by the practical demonstrator of the Glasgow School of Nautical Cookery, and the dishes which found most favor were sea pie made in three "decks" and ground rice pudding.

SALMON.

Greater interest in the general industrial situation is manifest as the packing season approaches. A month hence, the salmon packers on the Columbia River will commence a new series of operations. A piece of information of some considerable importance has been made public during the past week. It is to the effect that the Columbia River salmon packers, after many meetings and protracted discussions of industrial and commercial conditions, have finally decided to effect an organization on the lines of the Alaska Packers' Association. We are advised from reliable sources that an organization of Columbia River packers has been effected, and that in the coming season, by a systematic plan of operations, the expenses of packing will be considerably reduced, and that the necessities of the market will not be exceeded in the aggregate pack of the river.

The Alaska packers, as is now pretty well known to all our readers, have organized a great stock company, and the entire pack of Alaska salmon in the

coming season will be as closely held and as carefully managed from an industrial and commercial standpoint as if it were the business of a single cannery.

The British Columbia packers have a strong and harmonious organization. Last season, steps were taken to prevent a pack in excess of the probable requirement of the market. The same course will be pursued in the approaching season.

All around the industry on this coast is more thoroughly organized and better prepared than ever before for a season of profitable operations. While it is hardly probable to further concentrate or centralize the business of the packers, it is not improbable that the different organizations will act in harmony one with another as far as possible, and from all appearances the season of 1893 will be a memorable one in the salmon packing industry of the Pacific coast.

There is no salmon here now except that which is held by jobbers. The supply is very limited and hardly sufficient to satisfy ordinary jobbing demand until new goods are in the market. The stock east is a light one, and the foreign markets are in a very encouraging position for this time of year.—*S. F. Herald of Trade.*

A fire in the large building in Sherbrooke known as the Mooney Art building, in which are the Public Library and Art Hall, did damage to the extent of \$5,000, insured.

In speaking about shoe blacking the other day, a gentleman who has given the subject some attention advanced the somewhat novel but plausible theory of the manner in which the dull material is converted into a shining surface. "The principal ingredient in good shoe polish," said he, "is bone-dust, which is nearly pure carbon. You know that a diamond is the purest form of carbon, and that nothing else glistens so brightly. Well, the polishing brush is made of hair, and hair is a good conductor of electricity. Now, I will explain how I account for the polish on your shoes, as a schoolmaster would elucidate an abstruse problem. By using the polishing brush on the surface of your shoe, electricity is created by the friction, and you know electricity crystalizes. Well, this is the whole thing in a nut shell: The friction of the brush creates electricity; the electricity crystalizes the blacking and the blacking is converted into diamonds of infinitesimal size. So that whenever you polish your shoes the dusky paste is transformed into glistening gems, and your feet are actually decorated with diamonds."