

those now rapidly dying out. With the development of the iron and steel industry in the Dominion, the laying of keels, the bending of frames, and the rivetting of shipplates will follow as a natural consequence, for the Maritime Provinces will continue to breed seamen and shipbuilders just as has been the case in the past, and is at the present time. This is a period of transition, but it does not appear that it will be very long before the sounds of the shipyard will again be stirring the air centres suitable for ship construction. It is expected almost daily that the Dominion Government will offer an increased bonus to the firm or company which will establish a competent shipbuilding plant in the country. The amount already offered has not had the effect of inducing builders to lay down a plant, but the movement now afoot to increase the amount on offer to a sum which will enable an enterprising concern to see its way to start will have the desired effect. Nova Scotia is keen on advancing the scheme, and the decision now rests with a Government which certainly has the best interests of industrial Canada at heart, and which cannot be charged with niggardliness in forwarding the Dominion's welfare. The Dominion Iron and Steel Company is undoubtedly in the best position to take the matter up, and negotiations will be commenced with the company immediately it is decided to offer sufficient inducement. Nova Scotia would benefit immensely by the establishment of a large shipyard there, hence the evident anxiety of the local Government to secure the assistance of the Ottawa Government.

THE I. O. F. REFUSED.

Comment upon the decision of Mr. Linehan, Insurance Commissioner of New Hampshire, was recently made by the *Mirror*, of Manchester, in that State. It appears that Mr. Linehan refused to renew the license of the Independent Order of Foresters to do business in that State, as a fraternal society. Endorsing this action of Mr. Linehan, the *Insurance Press*, of New York, has this to say: "We take no stock in the fraternal froth and brotherhood blubber. The sweet words of Oronhyatekha about the fraternal bond are to us only a device to attract the outside. The lodge system, in our estimation, is only an ingenious scheme to impart a 'club atmosphere' to membership. The picturesque ritual is but a side dish—a relish, as it were—to make the taste of assessment insurance more palatable. The Independent Order of Foresters is an assessment association, and the promotion of its affairs does not appear to be without regard for the pride, power and purse of the management. All of which to a certain degree is permissible, provided the management openly declares its purpose and does not pose as toiling solely for the benefit of the 'beloved brethren.' But we do protest against the masquerade of the I. O. F. as a fraternal order when in reality it is operated under a system in poor and incorrect imitation of the principles of regular insurance companies."

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRIES.

J. R. F., City.—The statistical items mentioned under the heading "Free Raw Materials" on page 246 of issue August 21 were taken from the Government Blue Book, issued this month by the Customs Department at Ottawa, under date June, 1903, a valuable and timely issue. The complete Blue Book, containing full tables, will not be issued for some months yet.

A. C., Fredericton, asks how far back silver money dates. We may say that, according to Woodward and Cate's Dictionary of Chronology, silver money was first coined at Rome in 269 before Christ. Gold was not coined in Rome until 207 B.C. The first coinage of gold in England was about 1344 Anno Domini; in France it was earlier. Roman coins were in use in Britain until the Saxon kings made small silver coins called Sceattas. What were known as silver pennies were cut in two to form half pennies and into four to form farthings.

—A branch of the Bank of British North America has been opened at Estevan, N.W.T., under the temporary management of Mr. A. D. Severs.

GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Mr. J. J. Murray, formerly connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is reported to be about to erect a large cold storage warehouse near the C.P.R. station in Winnipeg.

For Canadian cheese in the Old Country, recent advices said there was a good demand without any speculative feature. Spot prices for white were 50 to 51s. per cwt., and 51s. for colored.

The Montreal Grocers' Association has elected officers as follows: President, Mr. Chartrand; first vice-president, E. Limoges; second vice-president, J. Menard; treasurer, Arthur Bastien; hon. secretary, Ald. Turner.

There is a great scarcity of Canadian salt in Ontario. The price now quoted at the mines is 95c. per bushel against 60c. formerly, but it is hard to obtain at any time. We understand, however, that the famine is being relieved to some extent by arrivals from the United States, which sell at a reasonable price.

Latest reports from London, England, stated that there had been an improvement in the demand for Canadian butter, but not sufficiently so to affect prices. Choicest salted brought 92s. to 94s., and saltless, 96s. to 98s., but several complaints were heard as to the latter becoming mouldy. This is a condition, it is significantly added, in which Australian and New Zealand butters are never found, for they are kept at a much lower temperature than the Canadian.

Messrs. Gordon, Ironsides & Fars, the well-known Canadian cattle dealers, have, we hear, purchased a 200,000 acre ranch in Mexico, upon which they expect to raise a herd of 20,000 breeding cattle. Mexican cattle shipped into Canada have in the past been, often somewhat low grade, but this has been due more to carelessness in management, etc., than to any intrinsic demerit in the southern country for cattle raising, for some recently shipped are reported to be going into the winter in as good condition as native Canadian cattle.

The meat-exportation scheme of Mr. Seddon, Premier of New England, is coming in for a good deal of attention in England, and some abuse. According to his calculations, each depot in the Old Country will, at the end of the third year, reap a profit of no less than 48½ per cent. Naturally, the London wholesale meat dealers do not like the scheme, and many of them call it ridiculous, as indeed such an enormous profit appears to be. The retailers, however, seem to look upon the idea with more favor, only they advise Mr. Seddon to direct his attacks not upon themselves, but upon the wholesalers who form a "meat ring" throughout the United Kingdom. They are, themselves, they claim, bound hand and foot, by this "ring."

According to the Cincinnati Price-Current, there is not much change in the quality of hogs offered, the supply being moderate. Total Western packing, 300,000, compared with 335,000 the preceding week, and 290,000 two weeks ago. For corresponding time last year the number was 245,000, and two years ago 325,000. From March 1st, the total is 10,505,000, against 9,700,000 a year ago—an increase of 805,000. The quality is irregular, a portion of the offerings being unsatisfactory. Prices have been advanced, prominent markets at the close averaging \$5.80 per 100 lbs., compared with \$5.60 a week ago, \$5.65 two weeks ago, \$7.45 a year ago, and \$6.45 two years ago. The speculative provision market was more active the past week, and some gain in values was noted. On the closing days of the week under review the most of the advance was obtained. Exports are said to be gradually enlarging. The export movement of products the past week shows a slight gain over the preceding week, and an increase over the corresponding week last year. The tone of the market in general is firmer, and domestic markets are stronger than a week ago.