

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

In 1890, Quebec granted exemption from taxation to mining properties for ten years. The Canadian Mining Institute has been informed that the exemption will be continued for another ten years.

The Palmerston Pork Packing Company have commenced operations. The factory has a capacity of 2,500 hogs a week, and a Manchester, Eng., firm will handle the output. Seven hundred farmers hold stock in the concern.

The Paisley Pork Packing Company, limited, with a subscribed capital of \$10,000, have purchased the old Northern Hotel property in Paisley, and intend fitting it up immediately for the manufacture of cured pork.

The quantity of raw sugar refined last year in Greenock, which used to be an important sugar refining point, was only 115,000 tons, which is less than half the output of that place in 1884. The decline is attributed to European export bounties.

The president of the Kentville Board of Trade says that the fruit, root and cereal crops of the county have been large and of excellent quality, and in the main profitable returns have been realized by our producers. It is estimated that the apple crop alone of the past season will not realize less than a million of dollars.

Higher prices for tin and solder, higher prices for labels and packing paper, are elements in the advance of canned fruits, vegetables and meats. Cases must be higher, too, as lumber is up. An exchange says that the prices fixed for tin cans for the coming packing season at Baltimore represent an advance, as compared with same time last year, of 8½ cents per doz. on 2-lb; 10½ cents on 3-lb., and 30 cents on gallon tins.

There have been for several years attempts by English people and by New Yorkers to effect a combine of the Fraser River salmon canneries, but without success. A Vancouver despatch of 25th January, however, says a British Columbia syndicate has been formed, superseding the pools which had been arranged, in default of a general plan of co-operation. The canners met to discuss the prospects and before they dissolved agreed upon an arrangement, which for protective and operative purposes makes the 45 canneries on the Fraser one big institution. All the canners signed the agreement, except two, and these represent four canneries, the directors of which reside in England. However, says the report, the compact is practically complete, for the representatives of 44 of the 48 canneries have already signed the agreement. The compact entered into is cast-iron. It involves two questions, the price of salmon and the size of pack; two questions on which the life of the industry in British Columbia depends. The canners rejoicingly believe that the new regulations of the season of 1900 will enable them to retrieve their losses of the last two years.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

The Gore District Mutual Insurance Co. has given \$1,000 to the Patriotic Fund.

At the annual meeting of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. at Portage la Prairie hail insurance was discussed, and it was decided to get the opinion of each member as to the desirability of establishing a hail insurance branch.

Attorney-General Gibson, when waited on by a deputation from the Dominion Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Owen Sound, refused to express an opinion regarding the mode of distributing the surplus at the close of the liquidation of the association. He pointed out that if the directors desired a judicial determination there was simple machinery provided in the Ontario insurance act for bringing the matter before the Master-in-Ordinary.

Life assurance was very active in Michigan during 1899. Most agencies show a gain over the previous year. The New York Life wrote nearly \$4,000,000 in the twelve months, the Mutual Life, of New York, wrote \$2,000,000 in the upper peninsula of the State alone, and the Equitable, \$1,659,000 in the lower peninsula. Canadian companies did a good share. The Sun Life, of Canada, issued upwards of \$1,000,000, and the Canada Life issued \$659,631 in the state.

A Melbourne life insurance company offers a life pension of £1 a week to the first Australian who gets the Victoria Cross.

A very creditable increase in business for 1899 is shown by the Royal-Victoria Life Insurance Company. The new business shows a good advance on the previous twelve months, but the total in force is 84 per cent. greater. Another feature on which the management may congratulate themselves is the fact that death claims are very greatly less.

—The Guarantee Company of North America, with which Mr. Edward Rawlings has been so long connected, held its annual meeting in New York last week. The gross revenue of the company for 1899 was \$236,857, and the aggregate of bonds it has in force is \$43,282,000. In addition to the usual six per cent. there was a bonus of two per cent. divided, making eight per cent. returned to shareholders for the year. The assets of the company are \$1,011,865, the surplus to shareholders, \$556,205.35, and the total resources, \$1,375,865.04. The following directors were elected for the ensuing term of office: Edward Rawlings, president; Hartland McDougall, vice-president; E. S. Clouston, George Hague, John Cassils, Wm. Wainwright, Robert Kerr, Montreal; H. W. Cannon, New York; E. C. Smith, St. Albans, Vt.

—Toronto people have lately approved of the course taken by Judge Macdougall in sentencing to heavy penalties footpads and burglars who prey upon society and make life and property unsafe by day or night. The people of Montreal, too, will thank Judge Desnoyers for dealing sternly last week with half a dozen burglars, and a resetter of stolen goods. Thomas and Robert Elliott, brothers, were condemned to five years and three years in the penitentiary, for burglary, and Thomas Hooley, who received the clothing that they stole, was sent down for two years. Edward and Harry Lightfoot, also brothers, were sent down for three and two years. Two other old offenders, A. Beaudoin and T. Bernard, got seven and five years. Montreal has been tormented for months by burglars, and it may be hoped that these arrests and severe sentences will have a deterrent effect

—The annual statement of the Halifax Banking Company is to hand. It shows profits of \$59,913 for the year, which is almost 12 per cent. on the paid capital of \$500,000. After paying 7 per cent. dividend the sum of \$25,000 is added to Rest, making that fund \$400,000, and \$6,062 is carried forward. The bank's deposits are now \$3,130,000, of which \$2,417,000 is subject to notice. Current loans are about three and a half millions, and the proportion of overdue debts, real estate and such assets is very small. The bank has fourteen branches in Nova Scotia, and two in New Brunswick. Its business is a steady one and its stock commands a good premium.

—In answer to an application from this office for a copy of the Chief Analyst's report of Scotch whiskies, Mr. Edward Miall, the commissioner, writes: "The said report was not intended for publication, and the information obtained by some reporter in reference thereto was not in accordance with facts. The attempt to discover anything respecting alcohols by analysis is abortive. We cannot even decide whether it is made from grain or potatoes, if well rectified."

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Feb. 1st, 1900, compared with those of the previous week :

CLEARINGS.	Feb. 1, 1900.	Jan. 25, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$12,007,712	\$13,448,918
Toronto.....	8,253,890	8,713,377
Winnipeg . . . . .	1,727,569	1,952,083
Halifax . . . . .	1,308,443	1,203,492
Hamilton . . . . .	684,926	807,760
St. John . . . . .	558,691	549,595
Vancouver . . . . .	624,936	615,195
Victoria . . . . .	.....	.....

Aggregate balances, this week, \$.....; last week, \$.....