

FOREST FIRES.

Forest fires have been doing an immense amount of damage in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, though at present it is impossible to even estimate the loss as valuable tracts of timber may have been burned. The village of St. Martins, thirty miles from St. John, is the greatest sufferer. There sixty-five buildings, or two-thirds of the village, were destroyed, and the loss is placed at \$65,000, with insurance of about \$10,000. In Sussex county, barns, dwellings and standing timber were consumed. At Titusville the sawmill of Theodore Titus was burned, entailing a loss of \$10,000, with no insurance. Albert, Westmoreland, Kent and Northumberland counties have suffered considerably, at Rogersville an area of twenty square miles being devastated, and the new sawmill of the Maritime Colonization Company, with a quantity of sawn lumber, being burned. The village of West Green Harbor, five miles from Lockport, N.S., also suffered severely, twenty-six buildings, including the Episcopal and Methodist churches, making fuel for the flames. These are just some incidents of the ruin, and unless heavy rains intervene to stop the flames it is hard to tell the amount of damage. In New Ontario the fires also did immense damage, large tracts of standing timber being consumed, and in some cases the season's cut and even the camps falling a prey to the flames. It is impossible yet to estimate the damage, though it is more than probable that the first reports which placed the loss in the millions are exaggerated.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

Galt bankers were treated to a little excitement on the night of May 30. They were notified by the Toronto detective department that an attempt would be made to burglarize one of the banks that night. Extra watchmen were put on but no burglars appeared.

The investigation into the affairs of the Western Loan and Trust Company is evidently to be thorough. Not only are P. S. Ross and Sons preparing a statement of its affairs, but President Ogilvie, assisted by James G. Ross, of Montreal, and J. J. Mason, of Hamilton, started on Tuesday to make a complete examination of the securities of the company.

There appears to be a large amount of Mexican silver in circulation about Leamington, and as the Mexican silver dollar is only worth 49.7 cents in Canadian money it is suspected that some sharper has brought over a lot of the coin and is thus doubling the amount of his investment.

John P. Wood, an Ingersoll man, is under arrest charged with passing Confederate money. He paid a Chinaman for his laundry with a \$5 bill and got the change. The Celestial notified the police, and when Wood tried the trick again with the same Chinaman he was taken in charge.

The Toronto Stock Exchange moved into their new quarters in the National Trust building on Tuesday, and marked the occasion by a nice luncheon, at which in addition to the members a number of leading bankers and others, connected with the commercial interests of the city were present. A. E. Kemp, president of the Board of Trade, responded to the toast, "Commercial Interests;" Mr. B. E. Walker spoke to "Banking Interests;" and Col. Mason and Major Pellatt to "The Canadian Soldiers." Other speakers were Capt. Wyatt, R. H. Temple, C. S. Gzowski, J. Lorne Campbell, R. A. Smith and A. E. Ames.

Oshawa sold \$55,000 20-year 4% debentures on Monday, a block of the issue going to Mrs. Wm. King, and the balance to the Ontario Loan and Savings' Co., in that town. The price obtained was 106½ for a part and 110 for the balance.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Baltimore reports a dull and easy market for both spot and future corn.

The olive crop in California is expected to be the largest ever gathered there.

Coffee is firm in New York. Arbuckles advanced the price of package coffee ½c. on Tuesday.

The first can of the new pack of Columbia river salmon has arrived in Philadelphia, and the quality is pronounced fine.

A cable from Patras reports an excited and advancing market for currants owing to reported damage to the crop by mildew.

The Straihroy Canning and Preserving Co. are having their cannery renovated, and are putting in new machinery, with a view to increasing their output.

Spices are unchanged and uninteresting in United States markets owing to absence of demand, but sellers are not weakening, and are holding steadily for unchanged values.

Receipts of coffee at Rio and Santos last week were 37,000 bags, against 39,000 bags for the previous week, 118,000 bags same week last year and 91,000 bags in 1898.

Advices from Smyrna are that the outlook for the coming crop of figs is favorable. Estimates of the possible output vary from 60,000 to 75,000 camel loads, and prices are expected to be moderate.

According to the St. John Sun, A. K. Loggie, of Chatham, N.B., has secured land at Vanceboro on which he will erect a canning factory. He will put up blueberries in the summer and fish in the winter.

Since our market reports have gone to press another advance has taken place in sugars, granulated going 5c. higher, and yellows 10c. higher. The rise is charged to the same conditions that caused the rise earlier in the week.

Twelve hundred bushels of beans, owned by A. D. McGuigan, of Aldborough, were destroyed by fire last week. The beans had been sold at \$1.55 per bushel, and were to have been shipped at once.

It is learned that the markets for new crop Formosa and Congou teas have opened; small settlements of Formosa have been reported made at 15c. for good cargo; fine Congou teas opened 20 per cent. lower than last year; lower grades about the same at 11½ to 12c.

A letter from Skibbereen, Ireland, says that no mackerel has been cured in that vicinity as yet, and that with the exception of some 275 barrels on the County Kerry coast none has been salted in Ireland. The catch is light, and the fish are bringing high prices fresh.

W. M. Black, of the Wolfville, N.S., chicken fattening station, is said to have made a great success of the poultry business. His incubators turned out 89½ per cent. and 92 per cent. of chicks, respectively, and he reckons his profits at \$1.50 on each of the hens he has kept in stock.

During the eleven months ending May 31st, 8,079 packages of molasses were imported via St. John, N.B. For the twelve months to July 1st, 6,441 packages came in. Sugar importations for the same period, 1900, 10,038 packages; 1899, 4,425 packages.

Considering the fact that the coming prune crop in California is estimated at 125,000,000 to 150,000,000 lbs., and that reports from different European producing districts point to large crops there, 3c. f.o.b. in bags for the four sizes is looked upon as a fair price in New York, but no one as yet is known to have made a firm price.

Five Chatham storekeepers and tobacco dealers, who had in their possession American tobacco and cigarettes on which no duty had been paid, have been heavily fined, the fine and costs in one instance amounting to nearly \$300. It is said large quantities of tobacco and cigarettes are smuggled in from Detroit, and sold in Essex and Kent counties.

According to San Francisco advice, says the New York Journal of Commerce, the pack of cherries in California, which is now in full swing, will be the largest in the history of the industry. According to some estimates it will amount to fully 300,000 cases. The canning of apricots it was expected would begin this week, and a price on the basis of \$1.20 is being talked of in some quarters. All fruits are expected to be considerably lower than last year, but opening prices are not expected until next week.

Says The Acadian Recorder: On account of the very large catch by the American seining fleet the price of salt mackerel has dropped to \$9 per barrel, and prospects for lower prices.