

## SCOTCH CURE FOR NOVA SCOTIA.

## More Money Can be Made by Old Country Process of Treating Herrings.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Halifax, N.S., December 14th.

The unusually large amount of labor-trouble in Nova Scotia has adversely affected trade. The trouble between the steel and coal companies with a partial tie-up of the former has been bearing heavily on Cape Breton merchants, and jobbers in Halifax have felt its effects. The Springhill mines have been having more or less trouble right along; and now the mines are idle (or partially so), owing to some alleged grievance of the boys in the mine. Over 800 men are now idle. All the section men on the Dominion Atlantic Railway have been on strike for higher wages. Their pay is considerably less than that received by section men on the I.C.R.

## The Winter Mails.

Several local capitalists have purchased the plant of the Nova Scotia Brush and Broom Factory, which has been operating here successfully in a small way for 35 years, and will conduct it hereafter on a large scale.

The carrying of the old country mails continues to be about the most interesting topic here. The C.P.R. Empresses are calling at this port, under compulsion, but the ships are dropping anchor in the stream, and passengers' baggage and mails are transferred awkwardly by lighters.

Shipping men claim that there would be a considerable saving in time if the steamers were to come into the dock.

## Fishing Bounties.

The Government officials have been here receiving application from fishermen for their annual bounties. The application indicate that the year has been a good one. Last year Nova Scotia secured about \$160,000 in bounties, nearly double the amount paid to any other province.

Nova Scotia has 5,485 vessel fishermen and 18,969 boat fishermen. The number of claims paid was 12,671, and the total value of boats and equipment was over four million dollars. Since 1882 up to 1904 over three and one-half million dollars had been paid to the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces.

## Benefit of the Scotch Cure.

There is still a considerable difference in the ideas of holders of fish and buyers. The latter do not feel justified in paying much over five dollars and the fishermen expect more. Reference was made in this correspondence recently to the purchase of a large quantity of fish in the Lunenburg market, at a price around six dollars, for export to Portugal. The fish in question should now be on the market in Oporto, and the price now prevailing there would not nett over \$5.50 on the deal, so that further experiments of the kind on the part of Newfoundland buyers are not likely to take place.

Controversy has raged in the press over the Scotch herring cure, and the Scotch methods of fishing by steam drifter which has been experimented with here for the past two or three seasons. Some of the shore fishermen are opposed to the innovation and the experiments, which are costing the Dominion Government a good deal of money.

The catches of the drifter have not been large; and it is yet unsettled as to whether this method of taking fish is suited to our coast; but there is no doubt that the Scotch method of curing is vastly superior to our own, and that fish put up by that method realize much higher prices.

Shipments already made to New York and other markets show an enhanced value of two or three dollars a barrel as a result of the new cure.

Shore fishermen have been making large catches of fat mackerel recently which has helped out considerably, as the other shore fisheries have not been good.

## The West India Delegation.

The proposal made by Messrs. Pickford and Black, of the West India Steamship Line, that Canadian Boards of Trade should send a delegation to the West Indies to discuss trade relations and opportunities for extending trade between the two countries, has been very favorably received, and the Boards of Trade of Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, and St. John have agreed to send delegates, who will leave Halifax on the "Olenda" on February 15th. The points to be called at are Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, Barbadoes, Trinidad and Demerara. The proposed visit has aroused great interest in the West Indies, and the papers and Boards of Trade there are advocating it very strongly.

There is much criticism of the way in which local fruit is being packed this year. There has been a shortage of first-class fruit, but a good many growers are packing the best they have, irrespective of grade, and marking it Number One. The inspectors are more vigilant than usual, but a good deal necessarily escapes them. The growers, however, are gradually beginning to understand that "Number One" in their own orchards is not Number One according to the requirements of the Act. Prices of fruit have advanced considerably since the first of the season.

## NEW BRUNSWICK INTERESTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

St. John, N.B., December 14th.

The Hotel Dufferin, one of the leading hotels of the city was sold to-day by Mr. E. LeRoi Willis, to Messrs. Frank Foster, John Bond, and other St. John partners, who plan many improvements.

The St. John Board of Trade at its annual meeting on Monday elected Mr. J. H. McRobbie, wholesale and retail shoe merchant, president. Mr. McRobbie has been a very active member of the board and was one of the commission that recently prepared a new Assessment Act for the city which with one prepared by another commission for the city of Fredericton will probably be before the legislature next session. Each suggests radical changes in the existing system. Mr. McRobbie in assuming office urged the adoption of the commission's system, and asked the Board to exert its influence to have the city continue the policy of wharf building for the ocean-going steamers. The Common Council has ordered plans for another steamship berth of 600 feet, which it is hoped to have in readiness next winter.

## Footwear for the West.

A group of St. John and Amherst capitalists have just secured control of the Amherst boot and shoe business. This is one of the most successful of the Amherst industries and the new owners, including Messrs. Waterbury and Rising, and J. M. Humphrey & Co., leading wholesale shoedealers of St. John, will push the business more energetically than in the past; and will make a special effort on the Western trade. The new company was promoted by W. B. Tennant, of St. John.

A discovery of mica in large quantities was made last week in a stone quarry in the city limits of St. John. The commercial possibilities of the find are being investigated.

Navigation on the St. John River closed last week. The season was an unusually long one, and is understood to have been much more successful than the year previous. Lines that were run at a loss in 1905 are said to have made money this year.

## Exhibition Buildings in Danger.

There is some excitement here over an order of the Militia Department for the removal of the exhibition buildings from their site, which is owned by the Government. It was never supposed the land would be required. The buildings represent a large capital outlay, and to tear them down will practically put St. John out of business as an exhibition centre. The Government wants the ground for a shed for the modern guns sent here for the local artillery.

The sale was made a few days ago of a large block of land opposite the Customs House. It is one of the finest unoccupied sites in the city, and was purchased by John F. Gleeson, a local real estate man, who gave out that he was acting for St. John and Montreal capitalists. Who they were has not been disclosed, nor is it known what use they intend to make of the property.

## MONTREAL'S PORT TRADE.

The increase of coal imported to Montreal from Nova Scotia this year was 100,000 tons, the quantities for 1906 and 1905 being 1,357,265 and 1,253,663 tons. A trifle of American bituminous coal came in last year by sea and 33,407 tons by canal; this year only 13,000 tons by canal. The following is a comparison:—

	Tons, 1905.	Tons, 1906.
Dominion Coal Co. ....	1,020,044	1,043,403
Nova Scotia Steel & Coal .....	94,849	142,581
Port Morien .....	5,262	.....
Port Hastings .....	41,700	34,405
Intercolonial Coal Co. ....	24,082	48,025
Acadian Coal Co. ....	42,865	59,861
Scotch and American .....	24,861	.....
Scotch and English .....	.....	28,900
American bituminous (by canal) ....	1,253,663	1,357,265
	33,407	13,000

St. Lawrence and the Lakes carriage reached large figures. The Montreal Transportation Company had 50 carriers in commission, and carried eastward 13,000,000 bushels of grain, compared with 5,000,000 in 1905. Coal carried was about the same, but flax-seed showed a great increase. We have already given the income and outgo of the Harbor Commission: the sea-going vessels increased in number, and the inland ones as well.

Canadian steamers entering the canal basin and their tonnage showed an increase; so did American, but passengers were fewer by 17,426. Wheat passing down the Lachine Canal this year was 8,411,165 bushels, compared with 13,003,606; corn, 1,466,846 against 4,965,000; oats, 2,109,830 against 2,362,090; barley, 770,126 against 2,510,979.

## Giving R

**Dairy Products.**—Doing, and prices have made of butter is no readily absorbs all 0 from 25½ to 26c. is dairy readily brings 2

**Dry Goods.**—The tail business in bot better sorting order by wholesalers, who stocktaking and hig travellers are getting said to be coming i are well employed o hand. All late advanc

**Flour, Feed, etc.**—season, and there is which are light; and \$1 a ton. We quot winter ditto, \$4.10 t rollers, \$3.65 to \$3.75 Rolled oats, quiet at

**Furs.**—New-caug but with the snow r expected receipts wil choice black bear, \$1 small; No. 2 large, \$6 and small. Badger, N dark, \$7; No. 1 brow No. 1, \$3 to \$3.50. \$10 for No. 1; wolver \$6 to \$7 for fine N inferior skins; marten, Columbia skins migh winter caught; fall otter, \$20 to \$35 for \$18; coon, No. 1 black skunk, No. 1 all bla prime broad stripe.

**Groceries.**—Busi fair volume of distri goods. Raisins of a California 3-crown l 10½c. to lay down, 9 to 9½c. There Sultanas of very or Filatra currants in cleaned ditto at 9 to for standard granula prices is looked for are yet in first han lots; in a jobbing w is comparatively litt very firmly held, in under 17c., and Inc tendency.

**Hides and Talle** deal of killing done offerings of hides a hold steady at 12 t from tanners. Lam tallow is quoted at 2

**Metals and Ha** metals is less active almost as busy as in \$25 for best scotc furnaces are still full \$2.15, and both cut inch iron pipe seem Canada plates are \$4.35 for fifty-twos galvanized sheets, \$ turned iron, 22 and plate, \$2.55 for qua 40½ to 47c., also co zinc appears to be 7½c. in an ordinary

**Oils, Paints and** few travellers on th suming a holiday ch some dealers are q