

## SALMON PRESERVES.

The new morning paper sapiently observes that the question for us is "how to draw into the pockets of all classes of British Columbians the largest possible share of the surplus cash of the wandering gunner and fisher." In order to accomplish this object, it takes up the parable of Mr. Commissioner Wilmot, "himself a keen angler," who "pressed a witness from the Skeena as to the likeness of the spring salmon to the salmon of the Restigouche (E. Canada), and having satisfied himself that there was no natural difference between the two fish, the chairman asked whether any one had ever made any serious attempt to catch the spring salmon of the Skeena with a fly. The answer was in the negative." Our contemporary continues: "Commenting on this, Mr. Wilmot said, 'I ask these questions because I am aware that fishing (fly fishing), on the Restigouche is let for an annual rental of \$10,000, \$20,000 or \$30,000, and I cannot help considering that if your salmon should be found to take a fly, you would have no difficulty in letting your rivers at similarly high rentals. It is not so very many years ago that the Restigouche was first known as a fly fishing river.'"

Were this idea of the "keen" Mr. Wilmot carried out, say, for instance, on the Skeena, where would be the important salmon industry upon that river; how much, we ask, of the surplus cash of the wandering gunner and fisher would find its way into the pockets of all classes of British Columbians, particularly of those cannery and their employees, together with the merchants of Victoria who are so largely interested in this industry? In England, Scotland and elsewhere at the east, the national policy is to reclaim and to turn to industrial advantage the wastes "over which the game have been accustomed to roam, and at the same time to shorten the scope of those obnoxious game laws which would be the almost inevitable attendants of carrying out the views of keen sportsmen and "keen anglers" of the Wilmot class. By his attempt to shape the course of the inquiry into this particular way, it is manifest that Mr. Wilmot has no idea of the magnitude and importance of the salmon trade of this province. When its day is over, then will be Mr. Wilmot's opportunity to inaugurate the policy of preserving what is yet left for anglers who are as keen as he is and are anxious to become the embodiments of Dr. Johnson's caustic description of what a fisherman really is. It will be remembered that he spoke of something with a hook and bait at one end and a fool at the other.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

A BILL reducing the duty on barley from 30 cents to 10 cents per bushel has been introduced at Washington by Congressman Fitch, who represents the brewing interests of New York city. This is a tribute to the merits of Canadian barley, with which the New York breweries find they cannot dispense.

THE Dominion revenue for February was \$23,500,000, and the expenditure \$20,068,000. The debt was reduced during the

month by \$900,000. In this connection, it is worthy of note that the exports of Canada in 1891 amounted to \$12 per head of the population, compared with \$26 per head in the United States.

THE Trade and Navigation returns for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1891, show that, under the law admitting free of duty all machinery for mining purposes not manufactured in the country, there were imported into Canada of these articles \$78,412 worth, of which \$66,238 came from the United States. The amount brought into British Columbia was \$1,861. During the previous year the total value of such imports was \$21,748, only \$740 reaching British Columbia. Of that total \$11,798 were brought free into Ontario from the United States by special order in council.

THE Canadian egg trade with England is, it would appear, capable of being largely developed, while the export of eggs from Canada to the United States is crippled by the high duty imposed by the American Government. On the 1,115,481 dozen eggs sent by Canada across the line from October, 1890, to June 1, 1891, \$55,000 was paid in duty. From October, 1890, to 30th June, 1891, there were shipped into the United States only 1,115,481 dozen eggs, while during the seven months between 1st May and 30th November, 1891, there were shipped to Great Britain from Montreal alone 2,233,757 dozen.

THE statistical returns of the British Board of Agriculture for 1891 show that while the area of land in Great Britain on which grain is grown has decreased within the last twenty years fully 18 per cent., the total area of cultivated land has increased by about 150,000 acres. This augmentation is, however, largely devoted to the cultivation of grass. The returns also show a large increase in the area occupied by small fruits and market gardens, and proves that the farmers of Great Britain are finding the cultivation of small crops more profitable than grain growing. There is, too, a large increase in the number of cattle in Great Britain in spite of the large droves of cattle and quantities of dead meat imported from other places. This no doubt has no little to do with the persistent attempts on the part of the British farmers and their friends to shut out Canadian cattle.

ACCORDING to the American Contractor, in twenty-seven towns and cities of the United States 66,622 buildings were erected in 1891 at an estimated cost of \$255,000,000, or at an average of \$3,825 for each building. In New York the number of new buildings was 2,827, and the total cost \$56,000,000, or about \$20,000 each. In Boston there were 1,847 new buildings, costing \$16,000,000, or \$8,650 each. Chicago built 11,805, costing \$51,000,000, or \$1,500 each; while the 9,991 new buildings of Philadelphia represented an expenditure of but \$20,000,000, or an average of \$2,850. Philadelphia is, however, a city of homes. It erects nearly four to one erected in Boston, and two and one-half to one erected in New York. Philadelphia builds homes; New York builds warehouses, flats and hotels. In Philadelphia there are no

municipal taxes on personal property, and the State tax comes chiefly from licences and from great corporations.

## EMPLOYER vs. EMPLOYEE.

To the Editor of the Commercial Journal.

SIR,—Having read your remarks in THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL re the dishonesty of employees and your advice to employers, I think you have looked over some important points. My commercial experience of twenty-two years in various parts of the world has proved to me that employers look too much to two classes of men to fill their best positions—1st, men who will be "smart and tricky" in their interests; and 2nd, those that flatter their vanity by servility and toadyism.

If employers would only think for one moment they would see that a man that would do a shady thing in their interest would do two in his own; or if a toady, he is that to make up for brains. An honest, truthful, straightforward man should be valued when found and treated with justice.

Yours, etc.,

COSMOPOLITAN.

## FRASER RIVER SALMON.

The *News-Advertiser* notes the return of Mr. H. Bell-Irving after an eight weeks' trip to England and Scotland. He left Vancouver on January 8th, and on the return journey had the distinction of being aboard the *Majestic* when she beat the record across the Atlantic. During the trip she made an average of 20.41 knots per hour, or about 23½ miles from Queenstown to Sandy Hook.

Mr. Bell-Irving gave considerable attention to the salmon business when across the ocean, and reports the market improving, though prices are apt to rule low for some time to come owing to the heavy stocks held in San Francisco. The effects of the failure of Baring Bros. still are felt to a slight degree in the commercial world, with the result that capitalists are chary of speculation. In the salmon trade, however, Mr. Bell-Irving had to note with satisfaction the important fact that Fraser River salmon is decidedly rising in public favor, which has so stimulated the demand that prices are almost equal to the Columbia River pack, which for a long time has been most sought after. The Columbia River salmon are lighter in color and slightly richer than those of the Fraser, but there now seems to be a fondness for those of a deeper color, as the British Columbia Sockeye. Careful packing, too, Mr. Bell-Irving says, has much to do with the price. The buyers want no scraps in small pieces thrown into the tins, and when this point is attended to a better price can be got. The Skeena River canneries of the Anglo-British Columbia Packing Company will be run at full capacity this year, but there will be one or two of those on the Fraser idle, as the required number of fishing licenses may not be attainable.

The water pipes for which Bell-Irving & Paterson have the contract are now being made in Glasgow, and will likely be shipped in the Fernbank, due to sail about April 1st.