

20c.; in 1899 it was 20c., and in 1898, 15c., while in 1897 when there was such a big run, it was only 7c. Before that year payment was made by contract. Besides the Fraser river there is the northern pack to be taken into consideration, which together with cohoes and humpbacks, will probably bring the sum total up to 1,200,000 cases. The problem is to dispose of this immense quantity of canned fish at profitable prices.

The canners on our western coast are agitated in mind over the present fishery laws which give the Americans a distinct advantage in cost of production. Our laws prevent the use of pound nets or traps, and allow only the catching of salmon in gill nets, while no protective measures whatever are adopted on the other side, and American fishermen are permitted to employ the pound net as well. The difference in the cost entailed in catching the fish is very great. While the canners on the American side were paying 4 cents per fish, those in British Columbia had to pay 10½c. or more. This makes an immense difference in the cost per case of salmon, a difference in favor of the American canners, indeed, of between 85 and 90 cents. As in force at present, the law is looked upon as a means of saving the fish, merely in order that they may be caught with greater advantage by American fishermen.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

It is estimated that between 1st May and 24th August last year Canada exported 43,273 tons of cheese and 4,218 tons of butter. Assuming that it takes 10 tons of milk to make 1 ton of cheese, and 25 tons of milk to make 1 ton of butter, then the total milk used in the manufacture of the above exported butter and cheese was 538,180 tons. This year the pastures have been far superior to last, and the yield of milk consequently much above that of last year. Taking into account also the fact that the spring was a fortnight earlier, it is only a moderate estimate to say that the yield of milk this year was 10 per cent. above that of last year. This would give the Canadian manufacturers up to 24th August 592,000 tons of milk to make into cheese and butter. They have exported 30,738 tons of cheese, equal to 307,738 tons of milk, and 4,936 tons of butter, equal to 123,400 tons of milk, or a total export of only 431,000 tons of milk converted into cheese and butter. There was, therefore, in Canada, on 24th August last, 161,000 tons of milk in the shape of cheese and butter. Calculating that the proportions of cheese and butter made this year were the same as the quantities exported, then 46,000 tons of milk were made into butter, and 115,000 tons into cheese. Assuming that the average weight of a cheese is 80 lbs., and the average package of butter 56 lbs., then there would be on 24th August 322,000 boxes of cheese and 73,600 boxes of butter in store in Canada ready for export. These figures are not the stocks in Canada on that date but the stocks in excess of last year. Calculated from British trade statistics.

INSURANCE NOTES.

The annual convention of agents and superintendents of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York, was held in Montreal last week, when some 300 employees of the company were present.

A provisional agreement has been entered into for the amalgamation of the capital, funds, assets, directorates, and staffs of the Phoenix Assurance Company and the Atlas Assurance Company, the name of the amalgamated company to be the Phoenix and Atlas Fire Office, limited. The new manager, we understand, will be Mr. J. Pipkin, at present the general manager of the Atlas.

At a trial of a million spins of the rouge et noir at Monte Carlo it was found that the reds and blacks resulted to within about .02 per cent. In tossing a penny 1,000 times, there were in the first 20 throws 9 heads and 11 tails; in the first 200, 92 heads, 108 tails; and in the whole 1,000 there were 485 heads and 515 tails. The deviations were thus 10 per cent. in 20 throws, 8 per cent. in 100, and 3 per cent. in 1,000. That is to say, the deviation is greatest in the larger number of cases, but the possible maximum deviation is a much smaller percentage of the whole, or, as an insurance aphorism expresses

it, "an abundance of well-distributed risks involve practically no risk at all."—Scottish Critic.

An action brought by Charles Bacon, of Madoc, to recover the sum of \$2,412 from the Liverpool, London and Globe, was decided in favor of plaintiff. On June 20th, 1899, plaintiff insured his house and three barns, together with their contents, in this company. About two weeks afterwards a fire took place on the premises and part of his property was destroyed. The company sent out an inspector, and the loss was adjusted at \$2,412. The plaintiff had received a number of threatening letters before he applied for insurance, and he showed them to the inspector after the fire. The company consequently refused to pay, claiming that the threatening letters were interpreted by plaintiff to mean that he would have the property burned; the result, however, being as aforesaid.

The directors of the Quebec Fire Assurance Co. announce that they have consummated an arrangement whereby in future all the company's policies will be guaranteed by the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., of Liverpool. It scarcely need be said that The London and Lancashire is one of the strongest and most progressive of the British Fire offices, offering a total security of \$17,153,235 to the public, and has paid in losses since organization \$50,500,000. The Quebec which in addition to being a local institution, is the oldest Canadian Fire Insurance Co. in the country, having been organized in 1818, is to be congratulated on an arrangement whereby it is placed in a financial position second to none. Since its inauguration it has successfully gone through many severe conflagrations. Its business will be managed as heretofore H. B. Bignell, a member of an old Quebec family.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Dr. H. F. Moore, of the United States Fishery Commission, has been on a visit to Prince Edward Island and other parts of the Dominion, making investigation into oyster fisheries and the best means of promoting their growth.

The Toronto Milk Producers' Association have re-elected by acclamation the following officers: President, James Chester; vice-president, J. W. Breakey; secretary-treasurer, Alex. McCowan; auditors, A. J. Patterson and A. J. Reynolds. The price of milk per eight-gallon can during the winter months will be \$1.15 per can, as usual.

The limit of the fruit area in Ontario has not nearly been reached, according to Prof. Macoun of the Geological Survey. He has been examining the territory between Niagara and the northerly extremity of Huron peninsula. When the land owners of this district go in for fruit culture, he says, they will raise great quantities of the finest fruits in the world, and the importance of Ontario as a fruit-growing district will greatly increase.

The Provincial Works Department a few days ago received the result of a test made of a shipment of fruit from Grimsby to Ottawa. The fruit was sent by freight in two cars, one of which was an ordinary car with an icebox in it, while the other was fitted with the Hanrahan cold storage system. The fruit in the ordinary car was of no use when it reached its destination, but in the latter it was found to be in splendid condition, although picked a week ago.

London mail advices of the 31st ult. report somewhat of a collapse in Indian teas, in part owing to the inferior quality of the new crop. The total yield of this season is placed at 184,250,000 lbs., practically the same as last year, but the amount available for the London market is estimated at 150,000,000 lbs., against 160,000,000 the previous season. Clean common sells at auction at 8 cents in bond. The situation of Ceylon is better, as reduced quantities are on offer, while the quality shows improvement.

Danish producers of eggs deliver their goods, each of which is required to be stamped with the name of the owner, to specified depots near the railroads, where the operations of examination and classification are effected automatically by a very ingenious apparatus consisting of a dark chamber for examination by transparency and a long table for classification. In the first process the eggs are placed in cups jointed to an endless belt. This carries them into boxes, giving them rotary motion. The belt is actuated by the operator in the dark