

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

It is estimated that Indians of the Rat Portage district have earned \$30,000 this season by picking blueberries.

Woodstock ratepayers have expressed themselves in favor of granting a bonus of about \$15,000 and a free site to the Canadian Dressed Poultry Co.

Large shipments of canned salmon from the Fraser river in the north are being got ready for export. It is stated that quite a quantity from Puget Sound is awaiting at Vancouver to be shipped to the east over the C.P.R.

Representations are being made to the Ontario Department of Fisheries to the effect that the close season should begin earlier, as the present heavy exportation of salmon trout spawn may cause a serious diminution in the numbers of that fish.

It is estimated by parties interested in the Labrador fishery that the catch this season will be nearly 100,000 quintals short. If this calculation be correct, a loss of \$350,000 will follow, which will have to be borne by the supplier. The shore catch is also below the average, so that one estimate of the total loss to fishermen and suppliers will exceed half a million dollars. Other estimates, however, do not make the shortage so much as this.

British Columbia is gradually becoming known as a fruit-producing country. Arrangements have now been made for the shipment of a carload of mixed fruit from New Westminster to Winnipeg. Most of it will be from the famous Chilliwack valley. Italian prunes and Bartlett pears will form the bulk of the consignment, and every care is being taken to ensure its arrival at its destination in good condition.

According to an order-in-council recently passed by the Dominion Government the person who actually packs fruit as well as the person in whose behalf it is packed shall be liable for any violation of the act passed at the last session of Parliament. When an inspector sends a pre-paid telegram or letter to the name and address marked on the package it shall be considered due notice to any packer under the act.

Some little time ago we referred to the commendable enterprise shown by Mr. Edwin Battye, of Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, in stocking his ranch with improved breeds of cattle in the face of difficulties sufficient to daunt any less energetic man. Now this gentleman has returned from a visit to the Old Country, where he succeeded in purchasing a dozen head of thoroughbred shorthorns at the famous Henry Dunham's sale at Lincoln, besides some in Scotland, and one from Sandringham.

Advices last to hand from London said: Canadian creamery butter continues slow of sale, although there has been more enquiry this week and prices are slightly better. Choicest brands are fetching 106s. to 108s.; finest, 102s. to 104s., and dairies, 90s. The arrivals of Canadian butter last week were 12,481 cwt. The spring in Australia and New Zealand is late this year, and the first shipments of butter from those colonies will not arrive before November. As a late spring naturally means a short make of butter for the season, supplies from Australasia are not expected to exceed, and it is very probable they will not equal those of last year. During the months of September and October, 1900, the import from Australia was 68,520 boxes, and from New Zealand 13,524 boxes. Thus this year there will be during these two months a deficiency of supplies of 2,051 tons of Australasian butter to be filled up from some other source.

SHOE AND LEATHER TRADE.

A letter from Trinidad, addressed to the Maritime Merchant, says that the present would be a very good time for Canadian manufacturers of boots and shoes to make a bid for the colony's trade in that line.

Toronto factories are actively employed, and some of them report working overtime one or more evenings per week. A good demand is coming in from almost all parts of the country, especially Manitoba, though British Columbia prospects are by no means bright.

The strike difficulty in the Ames-Holden shoe factory in Montreal has now been amicably adjusted, the company having agreed to accept the mode of arbitration proposed by the men.

The leather trade in Toronto is looking up, and a much greater degree of activity is visible therein than was the case a month or two ago. The settlement of prices on a firm, uniform basis is no doubt accountable for this improved state of things.

It is stated that Northampton boot manufacturers are almost at their wits' end to check American competition. It seems that now in many retail shops throughout the country Northampton goods are being sold as American. It is affirmed that English manufacturers are only too glad to turn out American styles, because they can be made cheaper than an average English boot of the same kind. The manufacturer who revealed this trade secret significantly added, "The public will soon find out the difference when the wet weather comes."

The matter of adjusting differences equitably with dissatisfied customers is a most important one in the shoe store. By a little too much heat and haste in deciding against an applicant for redress in unsatisfactory shoes, retailers often sacrifice a customer who, had he been retained, would by his future trade make up the slight rebate demanded more than a hundredfold. Besides this, if the demand was a just one, the resentment of the offended patron will work damage to your trade beyond the sphere of his own patronage. Therefore, if a retailer's natural temperament is totally unsuited to the ordeal of hearing complaints, judging dispassionately as to their justice, and calmly dealing with this inseparable part of the trade, it will be much better for him to relegate this delicate task to one of his trustworthy aids to settle.—Shoe and Leather Reporter.

FINANCIAL ITEMS.

The present year thus far is much ahead of last year, or of the last four years, in aggregate capital furnished in the London market for new loans or new companies. The aggregate offered for subscription up to 7th September was £135,870,827, while in the same period of last year it was £129,984,000, and in three other preceding years, £106,320,000, £123,121,000 and £107,124,000. The figures given above for the present year include the £4,000,000 of the New South Wales loan.

Returns from Provincial clearing houses in England furnished to The London Economist show that while Newcastle and Bristol show increases in bank clearings during the eight months ended with August, compared with the like eight months of 1900, the cities of Manchester and Birmingham are each $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. behind last year, while Liverpool is $1\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. behind. The aggregate clearings at Liverpool from 1st January to 31st August this year were £107,167,800; at Manchester, £161,473,700; at Newcastle, £55,551,000; at Birmingham, £35,523,000, and at Bristol, £19,492,000.

The abstract of the condition of National banks of the United States on July 15 last, shows a wonderful increase in the banking business in three years. A comparison of the figures with those of July 14, 1898, shows an increase of 583 in the number of banks, and of \$107,470,528 in the capital, surplus and undivided profits. The circulation increased \$129,142,513, but this was almost entirely due to the change in the law. The aggregate resources increased \$1,698,234,597, or more than 42 per cent. The loans and discounts increased \$793,224,437, or nearly 37 per cent., and the individual deposits increased \$918,480,269, or more than 45 per cent. It is particularly to be noticed that in spite of the recent law encouraging the formation of small banks, the increase in the number of banks in the three years is only 16 per cent. In periods of inflation there has been a prodigious expansion in the banking business, but it has been accomplished by the multiplication of banks. At the present time the expansion is due to the great increase in the business of existing banks. The banks brought into existence by the law of March 14, 1900, have added very little to these statistics.—Bulletin.