

We are informed by Messrs Weddel & Co., London, in a circular, dated 30th ult., that the demand for Canadian creamery butter had been dull, but that prices were unchanged. Choicest was making 104s. to 106s. per cwt., with a few sales at slightly higher figures. Finest might be bought at 2s. to 4s. less. Shipments of butter from Canada to the United Kingdom since the 1st of May have been 40,000 packages more than last year, or roughly about 1,000 tons.

Speaking of the prospects for canned salmon a Pacific coast trade paper remarks: The aggregate of all canneries on the Sound is 1,150,000 cases. This may safely be taken to represent the pack. Probably 90 per cent. of the figures given is sockeye. Fraser river is credited with about 1,000,000 cases. Some few sockeyes are still being packed on the river. Fall fishing is going forward at coast points. There is in sight some 2,750,000 cases of 1901 spring salmon, which is an unprecedented pack. But with low prices prevailing and the heavy work that is being put into sales this year there should certainly be room for 15 to 20 per cent. more salmon than the 3,600,000 cases of last year's pack. This consideration includes all the factors which enter into the salmon consumption question. If, therefore, the pack reaches 4,200,000 cases there should be a reasonably good clean-up in the spring. With Alaska making a nominal pack there will be fully 4,200,000 cases this year.

A paper in Scranton, Pennsylvania, announces the return to that place of a pair of attorneys who had visited Canada in the interests of the Canada Beet Sugar Company, limited, to whom a charter was granted on August 29th. The company's capital is \$600,000, and its object is to build beet sugar refineries in Canada. A number of cities in Ontario have offered free sites. Among those considered were Baden, Berlin, Simcoe, Walkerton, Lindsay, Brockville and Belleville. The first refinery will be built in the town of Baden, which has offered a fifty acre free site and exemption from taxation for ten years. The plant is to be ready for operation and to receive the first beets by September 1st next year. The buildings and equipments will cost half a million dollars, and have a capacity of 20,000,000 pounds of standard granulated sugar per annum, which will require daily 1,000 tons of sugar beets.

### INSURANCE MATTERS

An advance in the rates of fire insurance on machine shops and foundries is announced by the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters, which met the other day. The basis of the schedule under which machine shops and foundries were rated was increased 50 cents. This means, we are told, an advance of 50 cents on one hundred dollars on this class of business and on other classes of metal workers. The explanation given of the increase is that it is to bring rates into harmony with outside places, where rates were increased by the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association last spring.

—A letter from the vice-president of the Halifax Board of Trade, Mr. J. E. DeWolf, received too late for last issue, confirms Mr. Allison's correction of our account of the Maritime Board of Trade meeting, in so far as regards the insurance discussion. Mr. W. M. Jarvis left the room during that discussion, it is true, but the other insurance men remained and not only talked but voted for Mr. J. E. DeWolf's resolution, protesting against increase in fire insurance rates.

A kindly humorist was George Outram, author of "Legal Lyrics," and we believe of the inimitable poem, "The Annuity." With his humor is mingled great good sense, as our readers may find if they read the subjoined stanza on Insurance, intended to be sung to the tune of "What Can a Young Lassie:"

The premium is ae thing—the duty's anither,  
It comes a'thegither to saxty pound three;  
An' ilk year at Yule it gars us sing dool—  
It's a terrible pull on a poor family!  
But the gudeman was failin' an' constantly ailing,  
'Twas high time that his life insured should be;  
And on ilk occasion it's some consolation  
That we'll a' be provided for gin he should die.

—An item of interest, not only to Canadians but to Imperialists throughout the whole empire, is the fact that the advantages of Cape Breton are becoming manifest to the British Admiralty. War vessels are bunkering at the Dominion Coal Company's pier at Sydney this week for the first time, and it is stated that the North American squadron will take coal there frequently in future.

—Mr. J. O. Cox, of Sydney, N.S.W., who represents extensive shipping interests in Australia, is in this country for the purpose of interesting the Dominion Government in the establishment of a fast steamship service between Canada and Australia. He says that Australians strongly wish to develop trade with this country, but that it is very difficult to compete with the Americans under existing shipping conditions.

—There are some people who will now realize the value of trees to a greater extent than they have before. Recently the owner of some property in Montreal brought action to recover damages for the loss of a large elm tree close by, which had been killed by brine and other liquids proceeding from a neighboring pickle factory. The court held that trees are an adjunct to property, which increase its value, and gave judgment in favor of plaintiff for \$60.

—Writing on the subject of commercial agents for Canada in the United Kingdom, a correspondent in the Maritime Provinces says: "I quite agree with your remark that the position of affairs in London in this particular is not satisfactory. Why should not all appointments be filled by persons who have resided in Canada for some years at least, and during that time have had proper opportunity to become acquainted with our varied trade requirements? Our correspondent learns that the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Bristol has urged the appointment of a resident Canadian agent. But query, will the Government make such an appointment if the High Commissioner objects? Or has that functionary the right of such appointment in his own hands?"

—The mayor of Detroit thinks he sees a prospect for closer business relations with Canada, and aims to have another convention in that city to discuss the question. The president of the National Association of Manufacturers, it appears, has been instructed by the executive of that body to call a convention of representatives of all commercial bodies to discuss reciprocity. Such gathering Mr. Maybury says, should be held in Detroit, and he has so informed Mr. Sears. It is too much to expect that American manufacturers will become advocates of reciprocity with Canada, but their association's last meeting in Detroit possibly taught some of the narrower spirits amongst them that the present high United States tariff is not eternal. Whilst we remember with friendly regard the efforts of many sensible and reasonable friends of Canada, in the states nearest to us, on behalf of freer trade with the Dominion, we may tell the American people who are so arrogant towards us that we can perfectly well afford to wait. And meanwhile we are not idle in the vineyard.

### CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, September 5th 1901, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	September 12th 1901.	September 5th, 1900
Montreal.....	\$20,882,427	\$15,985,923
Toronto.....	15,586,842	11,204,731
Winnipeg.....	2,285,143	2,138,060
Halifax.....	1,567,425	1,457,580
Hamilton.....	815,342	635,559
St. John.....	915,325	735,417
Vancouver.....	1,196,085	850,126
Victoria.....	680,437	377,060
Quebec.....	1,462,274	1,298,241
	\$45,391,300	\$34,682,697

Aggregate balances, this week, \$6,741,734; last week, \$5,315,580