

58,000 boxes less than in the corresponding week last year. In butter, however, exports show a moderate gain, the figures for last week being 23,247 packages, an increase of nearly 9,000 packages over the figures of the same week in 1903, and the total increase since the opening of navigation is about 15,000 packages. The cheese market is again weaker, about 8 to 8½c. per lb. being about the best figures for finest grades. Choice creamery butter is quoted on spot at 17½ to 18c., 9,000 dairy makes 14 to 14½c. per pound.

Dry Goods.—There is little new in this line since a week ago. Some moderate business of a sorting character is still reported, but there is apparently more or less of a conservative disposition on the part of retail buyers in the placing of orders for fall goods. Money is said to be coming in very fairly. Much dissatisfaction is expressed in the trade at not getting a reply to the representations of the deputation which went to Ottawa to ask the Government to defer the enforcement of the new tariff regulations, as regards woollens, until the 1st of August, and the Dry Goods Section of the Board of Trade has instructed the secretary to address a strong letter to the Department praying for a speedy decision, as business is suffering through the delay.

Groceries.—Trade is rather quieter, which is only natural as the season gets on to midsummer. Further easing off in price is noted in sugars, the factory price for standard granulated being now \$4.30 in barrels, and \$4.25 in bags; yellows range from \$3.70 to \$4.10. Molasses continues to rule easy. Owing to competition from American and British handlers of rice, the local milling company has given notice of a reduction in quotations to take effect July 1st, standard B. quality to be \$2.85, and other grades at proportionate figures. Evaporated apples are advanced, and are being quoted at 7½ to 7¾c. in a jobbing way. Dried fruits are neglected, and it is said some dealers have fair-sized stocks in hand, on which they stand to suffer a considerable shrinkage. A sale of layer Valencias was reported last week at 5½c., which cost about 8c. to lay down. Quotations of new pack salmon have been made, and are much higher than last year; River Inlet are figured to cost \$5.95, as against \$4.85 last year, and Fraser River, \$6.05. Canned vegetables are scarce and high, and packers will only book orders subject to circumstances.

Hides.—Business in this line is slack, but values hold steady at 9c. per lb. for No. 1 beef hides; 13c. per lb. for No. 1 calfskins; and 25c. each for lambskins.

Leather.—A fair seasonable demand is reported from local consumers, and a pretty steady export movement in sole at satisfactory prices. Values are all steadily held, sole being quoted on the basis of 23½ to 24c. per lb. for No. 2 manufacturers', and the production of

black leather is comparatively limited, with tanners quite firm in their ideas. Best Western splits are held at 20 to 21c., fine grades of harness at 30 to 32c., and other lines at proportionate figures.

Metals and Hardware.—Business is easing off as a whole, though some hardware dealers report quite a fair demand yet. Copper has shown some recovery since a week ago, being now quoted at 13¾ to 13¼c., but other metals rule easy. Tin is showing further decline, and is quoted in a jobbing way at 28½ to 29½c., while a sale of a round lot is reported at 27½c.; spelter continues easy at \$5.50, and lead at \$3.15 to \$3.20. There have been some large receipts of

sheets, plates, etc., lately; one Bristol steamer, now in port, bringing about 1,800 tons. Canada plates are quoted at \$2.20 to \$2.25 in a general way, though some large business is reported at \$2.15 for 52 sheets. In pig-iron bars, nails, wire, etc., there is nothing new.

Oils, Paints and Glass.—Little that is new can be gathered in these lines, except that business is getting quieter. Prices show no special changes. Linseed oil continues to be sold down to 43c. per gallon for raw. In fish oils there is practically little doing. Turpentine remains at 82½c., by the single barrel, and in other lines there are no changes to report.



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RECORD FOR 1903.

Policies Issued and Taken '03	\$4,278,850	Interest Earned, 1903.....	\$110,428
" " " " '02..	3,098,450	" " " " 1902.....	84,676
INCREASE 38%	\$1,180,400	INCREASE 30%	\$25,752
Business in Force Dec. 31, '03..	\$18,023,639	Surplus to Policy-holders, 1903....	\$473,963
" " " " '02..	15,289,547	" " " " 1902....	226,508
INCREASE 18%	\$2,734,092	INCREASE 109%	\$247,455

Average Interest Earned, SEVEN per Cent.

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