

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS.

The Sydney *Trade Review* under date of January 18th, in their American supplement says:—

Since the issue of our yearly review on 4th inst., the business for the new year has been unusually quiet all round, and but few signs of a likely improvement in the near future are visible. The low prices of most of our products cause an uneasy tone to prevail, and although the banking position is sound and money plentiful, there is a lack of confidence which tends to make business on a large scale extremely difficult.

In European merchandise there are but one or two lines which show any firmness, viz., cement and malt, but even in these the amount of business passing is not sufficiently large to call for special comment.

Most other lines favor buyers, and this is especially marked in fencing wire, caustic soda, and tinplates.

Eastern produce on the whole is easy. Woolpacks neglected, cornsacks dull, and rice considerably easier.

At the end of last year and for some time during this month fears were entertained that a strike of the Newcastle miners would take place against a reduction in rates for mining coal. Considerable friction between mine-owners and the miners took place, and eventually the strike was averted. We fear, however, that the cessation of the strife is but temporary, and has been brought about more by the inability of the miners, whose funds are exhausted, to stand the pinch of a strife, than by the force of argument.

Since writing via San Francisco on the 21st ult., business in American merchandise has been far from satisfactory either as regards volume or prices released. With the then approach of the Christmas holidays, etc. The last week of the old year was especially dull, and so far this year demand does not appear to have revived. Stocks of American merchandise in leadings lines appear to be heavy, and with rather full shipments, advised both for this and the neighboring colonies, the chances of an early improvement in values are extremely hazy. The full prices for many lines during the middle of 1894 seem to have induced shipments on so quickly an increasing rate that buyers have now no anxiety except to avoid being led into purchases consequent upon the apparently tempting prices quoted by many importers, and the major portion of the business done has been quite a retail character.

American 1 lb salmon, (duty 1d per lb) The receipts for the month comprise 4,192 cases per "Mariposa" and 700 cases per "Warimoo." So quiet has been the de-



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mand for all descriptions of tinned fish, that had the above shipments not arrived, not the slightest inconvenience would have been felt, nor would values have advanced. As it is prices have further declined, and we doubt if 6s could be obtained, duty paid, for a line even of best cannings. It is not, we are sure, that the public are tired of tinned salmon, but the masses have not the means to indulge in luxuries. It is useless, however, to advance theories, for the fact remains that 1-lb. salmon, like most other lines of tinned fish, is almost a dead letter in the market at the moment.

Salt salmon.—By the "Mariposa" and "Warimoo" some 1,300 half-barrels have come to hand during the month. These arrivals are early, but not so much for the coming Lenten season, still but little business can yet be reported. One line has changed hands at a very low rate, and we fancy the prospects for this article during the coming season are not particularly bright, unless an export enquiry should relieve the market.

Messrs. Fraser & Co., City Mart, report on the timber market as follows:—The year has opened with very dull inquiries for all descriptions of imported timber. No large sales of Oregon pine have taken place, and generally this line is for many reasons in a most unsatisfactory state. No quotations can be given. Redwood share in the general dullness. Laths and pickets in full supply, and commissions demanded by buyers.

SOME EXCELLENT INTEREST RULES.

The answer in each case being in cents, separate the two right-hand figures of result to express in dollars and cents.

Four per cent.—Multiply the principal by the number of days to run, separate the right-hand figure from product, and divide by 9.

Five per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 72.

Six per cent.—Multiply by number of days, separate right-hand figure, and divide by 6.

Eight per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 45.

Nine per cent.—Multiply by number of days, separate right-hand figure, and divide by 4.

Ten per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 35.

Twelve per cent.—Multiply by number of days, separate right-hand figure, and divide by 3.

General rule.—Multiply principal by number of days, and the product by double the rate of interest, and divide by 73,000 —*Canadian Journal of Fabrics.*

Let no man be discouraged because he is maligned and misrepresented. Let him remember that men do not fling stones at a dead cat. No one passes resolutions against a graveyard. It is he who has force and power who is envied by little souls.