

Among the honorary vice-presidents are: Lord Dufferin, Lord Lorne, the Earl of Jersey, Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Howard, agent-general for Nova Scotia, Sir John Lubbock, the Marquis of Ripon, Sir Charles Tupper, Hon. Mr. Vernon, agent-general for British Columbia.

The Organizing Committee includes among its members: Mr. R. R. Dobell (R. R. Dobell & Co.), representing the interests of Canada; Sir Robert Gillespie, chairman of the Bank of British Columbia, as generally representing the interests of the Dominion of Canada; Sir Donald A. Smith, president of the Bank of Montreal, representing the financial interests of the Dominion of Canada.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The yield of strawberries is very large this year in many of the growing districts of Western Ontario.

The Aylmer, Ont., Canning Company have commenced work on a new building, 18 x 250 feet, for storage purposes and corn husking.

In a department store—"I want something nice in oil for a dining-room." "Yes, madam. A landscape or a box of sardines?"—*Life*.

If crushers of cottonseed had known that crude oil would sell at 20 cents per gallon, and refined at 24 cents, they would not have paid the relatively high figures for seed in the primary markets last autumn and winter.

To illustrate the scarcity of California dried fruits, their Montreal agent sent a message by wire this week, to the largest shipping-house on the Pacific coast asking about stock, and received the reply, "Have not six hundred boxes in stock all told."

There is but little interest taken in new China teas in Canadian markets, or at least, there is slender information about them. Ceylons are reported steady at the advance, in London. A cable of Wednesday from Japan says there is more firmness in the cheaper grades of tea there. The "Victoria's" cargo is on the way by rail.

A despatch from Halifax, dated Tuesday last, states that Prof. Faville, of the Provincial Horticultural School at Wolfville, N.S., has received advices from London that point to a light crop of fruit in England the coming season, due to extreme drought, and heavy late frosts. The apple crop in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, promises to be a large one this year.

The New Westminster correspondent of the *Vancouver News-Advertiser* writes, June 3rd: Two canneries are now packing spring salmon, Messrs. Ewen & Co. and F. Boutillier & Co. The fish are running fairly well, and a large number of fishermen are at work. The Lam Tung cannery on the North Arm, lately erected, will be ready for packing in a week or two.

During the month of April there was a falling off in the shipments of salt from England to the United States, British North America, Africa, and an increase in those to the West Indies, Central and South America, Asia, Australasia and Pacific Islands. Of the total 83,600 tons were shipped from Liverpool, compared with 102,724 tons last year, and 19,528 tons from Runcorn and Weston, compared with 11,695 tons.

A recent letter from the Island of Grand Manan, N.B., says: "The crisis in the war of prices paid for lobsters has come, and from \$4.50 paid on the 15th May per cwt. for lobsters the price has dropped to \$2 per cwt some days later. Lobsters have commanded the highest prices this season ever taken for that shell fish here, and probably will never go so high again, at least for a long time. Fishermen report a smaller catch of lobsters up to date than for this time last year, with a third more traps in the water than for any previous year of the fishery.

In regard to the statistical position of black and white pepper, W. T. Sargent & Sons, of London, write: The supplies from Penang during the last three and four years have been augmented by the old stocks, estimated at 6,000 tons, that have been stored in Acheen for some years back during the late Acheen war, so that only current crop may now be expected. The cultivation of tobacco plantations of late having been much more profitable in Sumatra than pepper plantations, is a feature not to be lost sight of. The reports from Singapore speak very positively that present crop will be considerably short, owing to neglected cultivation and bad weather.

The present season's operations should prove the work done by the salmon hatcheries in British Columbia. The Canadian Government has gone to considerable expense in attempting to develop the fishing industries of the Pacific Coast, but no one will complain of the expenditure if their efforts have been successful. The year 1896, as the fourth of the series, should, according to the predictions of fishermen, be a bad season, and if the pack be even moderately good the Dominion authorities may feel that their work is beginning to show results. Mail advices say that the early run of salmon known in olden times as the

"brickyard" run passed up the river without material benefit to canners, on account of the large meshes of the nets they are required to use by the department.

Framing a series of serio-politico-economic questions, principally about sugar, which he put to Mr. Fortier, of the Toronto Biscuit Co., and to Mr. Robt. Watson, of R. & T. Watson, the *Confectioner and Baker* received differing answers: "Suppose the politicians gave the workingman a 'free dessert' after dinner by taking the duty off candies?" I queried. Mr. Fortier replied, "Then there wouldn't be any candy makers left here. Our American friends would job their lots and knock the bottom out of our business." Then Mr. Watson, being asked the same question, replied: "Nobody is going to take the duty off candies. They are a luxury, and will be taxed in any case. It wouldn't matter if the duty were taken off sugar, because refined sugar is half a cent higher on the other side than it is here. No; we wouldn't be flooded with American sugar. But the Government might fix the duty on glucose, though. The duty on glucose amounts to about 140 per cent. And the wonder to me is that the Americans do not shove their glucose candies over here. The only reason why they don't is that Canadian goods are better than theirs, and the people wouldn't eat them." We hear, by the way, that the chocolate making enterprise of the Watsons has proved a great success. They have already twice enlarged their plant and are arranging further extension.

ITEMS ABOUT DRY GOODS.

A textile report from Leeds states that Canadian merchants are ordering freely for future delivery.

In Bradford mohair is very quiet and prices have dropped off 6d. or 7d. per lb. from the top price of last year.

Reports from the textile centres in Rhineland, Germany, state that business in ribbons and raw silk manufactures is very slow.

The flax crop of Manitoba is not used to any great extent for its fibre. This is owing to the dryness of the climate, which reduces the quantity and depreciates the quality, making the flax of the North-West valuable only for its seed.

The *London Globe* records the following as having been overheard in a draper's shop: "Do you keep Brown, Jones & Robinson's unshrinkable flannel?" "No, sir, but we can easily get you some if you want it." "Then let me take your order; I travel for the house."

It is announced that negotiations had been entered into which have resulted in the uniting of the business of Messrs. Jonas Brook & Co., of Huddersfield, with that of Messrs. J. & P. Coats, Ltd., of Paisley. Nothing further is known as to Messrs. James Chadwick coming into line with Messrs. Coats.

The present price of india-rubber is 17½ per cent. in advance of the standard value level in consequence of the requirements of cycle manufacturers for pneumatic tires. The production is said to be in the hands of a monopoly who are holding back supplies. It remains to be seen what effect this will have upon the water-proof cloak trade.

"The busiest term trade for years" is the general opinion of retail warehousemen in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and provincial towns. The heavy and furniture departments have been very busy during the past fortnight, and are likely to continue so for the next two weeks at least. In the dress departments in the retail houses trade is exceptionally active.

The transatlantic arrivals during the past week include Mr. C. Booth, John Eaton & Co., Ltd., Toronto; Mr. J. Bourdeau, Bourdeau & Son, Montreal; Mr. G. Sewell Page, B. Levin & Co., Montreal; Mr. E. J. Redmond, Redmond, Greenluse & Co., Winnipeg; Mr. J. C. McLimont, McLimont & Son, Quebec; Mr. S. F. McKinnon, Toronto; Mr. R. F. Taylor, Reid, Taylor & Bayne, Toronto; Mr. H. J. Grasett, Toronto.

Seats for shop-assistants are compulsory in New Zealand shops. Under the "Shops and Shop Assistants' Acts" of that colony, it is ordained, among other provisions, that every shopkeeper shall provide proper sitting accommodation for females employed in his shop, and if any shopkeeper fails to comply, he shall, for every week during which he so fails, be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds. No shopkeeper shall directly or indirectly prohibit or prevent, or make any rule or regulation prohibiting, any female employed in his shop from being seated when not actually and immediately engaged in the course of her employment.

It is unlikely that raw silk will ever bring the price that it did years ago, as a result of the immense production in China and Japan. In Japan and in Canton, according to the *Draper's Record*, imported French and Italian spinning machines are used, and the silk now spun in those countries is almost equal to the best and finest manufactures of Cevennes silk. It is not to be supposed that the production of raw silk in the world will be reduced, for new countries are constantly