

territories, where the climatic conditions are much more varied than the difference in climate between the two sections where farms are now established. In a further extension of the number of experimental farms, the dry belt might be taken into account with a view of testing a system of irrigation. At any rate, there is a vast region of otherwise valuable country which will require irrigation. If some system of irrigation can be successfully inaugurated, the value of Western Canada to the Dominion will be greatly increased.

THE SALMON.

It will be interesting to know something of the salmon, about which so much is said in a commercial way. Very few who know the taste of this luscious fish are familiar with its habits. We will speak of the salmon as it is known in the Fraser river, of British Columbia, where the greater portion of the western supply of this fish, both fresh and canned, is taken. There are a large number of kinds of salmon in British Columbia waters, but there are only three varieties taken to a large extent for food. The salmon usually puts in an appearance in the Fraser river along about the middle of March. The variety which arrives first is known as the "spring salmon." This is the largest and finest species of this fish. These fish are caught and shipped largely in a fresh state to points as far east even as New York. The run of spring salmon was quite large in the Fraser river this year. The spring salmon do not run in as vast numbers as the kinds which arrive in the river later in the season. The canneries do not pack spring salmon as a rule to any extent, as prices are high in the spring and the run usually not heavy enough to make it worth while commencing operations. Sometimes some of the canneries begin operations on spring salmon before the later varieties arrive. Prices in the spring range from 50 cents to \$1 per fish to fishermen who have their own boats. The weight of the spring salmon is about fifteen pounds.

The variety known as the sockeye arrive in the river usually about the middle of July. This is a smaller fish, weighing on an average about six pounds. It makes up for its small size, however, in the vastness of its numbers. The sockeyes are usually by far the most numerous, and when they commence to run the canneries are all started to work. This is the variety canned principally. Large quantities are also frozen in a fresh state in freezers erected for the purpose, for shipment later on, as a market cannot be had for them as fast as they are caught. The sockeyes usually continue to run until the first of September, when the nets are hauled out on account of the close season. The close season lasts for one month, and no sockeye nets are allowed to be used during that time. By the time the close season is over there are not usually many of these fish left, and those caught are thin and not good quality.

Following the sockeye comes another variety called "coho" salmon. These fish usually put in an appearance in the river during the latter part of September, or first of October. This year they came early and in great numbers,

and are still running in the Fraser to some extent. They usually continue to run for about two months, but are not as a rule in as large numbers as the sockeyes. The coho is nearer the size of the sockeye.

Though not usually in large numbers, the spring salmon continue to run throughout the season. Some of the spring variety are white fleshed, while others are red. The white do not command ready sale, though it is claimed by some that they prefer them to the red. At times the white fleshed predominate. The canners usually resume operations to pack the coho salmon after the expiration of the close season, but this year nothing was done in packing these fish, owing to the large run of sockeyes earlier, and to the low prices for canned stock. The heavy run of fish this year was a surprise, as the run was also large last year, and there is a belief among fishermen that the fish are not likely to appear in large numbers two or more years in succession. It was also a belief with many that the fish which went up the river never returned to the sea, but died. This idea is now exploded. Though it is no doubt true that a good many die, it has been proved that many also return to the sea. The Dominion Government established a fish hatchery some years ago on the Fraser river, and in this establishment millions of salmon eggs are annually propagated. There are about seventeen canneries on this river, and two establishments are engaged in taking the fish for shipment fresh.

WILL GROW MORE WHEAT.

One of the effects of the McKinley bill, with its high duty upon barley, will be to drive Eastern Canada farmers more into raising wheat, instead of barley. This will probably decrease the demand in Ontario for Manitoba wheat, though a certain quantity of hard wheat will be wanted for mixing. Canada will thus have more wheat and less barley for export, and instead of sending barley to the United States, we will send a few more million bushels of wheat to Great Britain. Thus the situation will be evened up. Instead of competing with United States farmers in their own market, with our barley, we will compete with them in British markets, with our increased surplus of wheat. The matter seems to be about as broad as it is long, barring the probability that in some parts of Canada growing barley would be more profitable than wheat, were there not this artificial barrier of high duties on exports in the way.

PECULIARITIES OF CIVIC TAXATION.

Last week we copied an article from the *Winnipeg Tribune* upon the anomalous tax system in vogue in Winnipeg. There is another peculiarity of the manner in which taxes are levied in Winnipeg which was not mentioned by the *Tribune*. It is a well known fact that taxes are very much higher on some streets than others, in instances where there is no apparent reason for such discrimination. For instance, in the case of two streets close to and running parallel to each other through the same part of the city, and each only suited for private residences, there would appear to be no

good reason for any great difference in the valuation of the property for purposes of taxation especially where the public improvements on one street are of about the same nature as on the other. Yet there are cases of such a nature in Winnipeg, where property is assessed very much higher on one street than on the next parallel street, though the civic expenditure upon each street has been about the same. On the one street the residents, at their own expense, have planted rows of trees and leveled up and boulevarded the street in front of their residences. On the other street, though in just as good a locality, and with the property just as valuable, the residents have not taken the same interest in improving the appearance of their surroundings. The reason is that on one street the residents are property owners, while on the other they are tenants. In the first instance the people who have at their own expense undertaken to beautify the city are rewarded by having their taxes increased 25 or 50 percent. above that of their neighbors on the next street. This is another of the tax anomalies of Winnipeg, which is certainly peculiar in its nature.

LEGAL MONOPOLIES.

The territorial assembly passed an ordinance at its meeting last winter, granting something of a monopoly to the territorial lawyers. The intention of the Act was to give legal gentlemen resident in the territories, the sole right to appear in the local courts. The Act has been disallowed by the Dominion Minister of Justice, whereat the *Regina Leader* complains that while Manitoba lawyers can appear in territorial courts, territorial lawyers are debarred from appearing in Manitoba courts. The legal gentlemen of Manitoba have for some time enjoyed a monopoly, through the passage of an Act some years ago, restricting outsiders from practicing in this province until they have complied with certain local regulations. This is a species of protection which is not creditable in its nature, as it is reasonable that the greatest freedom should exist between the different portions of the Dominion.

SETTLERS FROM DAKOTA.

An important feature in immigration into Manitoba this year is the influx of settlers from Dakota. These are mostly Canadians from the eastern provinces, who settled in that state years ago, but who have become discouraged by a succession of poor crop years. Settlers from Dakota drive across the boundary all along the frontier, and their arrival is hardly noticed in the country, but the immigration from this source is considerable this year, and is likely to increase in the future, especially if Dakota should have another poor crop next year, in which case a large influx of settlers might be looked for from that quarter. These Dakota farmers have had experience in prairie farming, and as they are largely Canadians, they are about the most desirable settlers we could receive.

Geo. V. Hastings, of the Keowatin flour mill was in Winnipeg last week.