

SHIPBUILDING IN HALIFAX.

That Halifax is well adapted for the building of ships is a conceded point; and that the time is not far off when such an industry will be carried on there on a large scale is probably but a matter of making its facilities well known. With this idea Haligonians are now pretty well imbued, and they have now issued a circular setting forth the chief advantages of Halifax in concise shape. Some of the points well taken are as follows:

Labor.—We have here the largest stable population in the Maritime Provinces, affording first-class, intelligent men from whom to draw the necessary mechanics and artisans.

Material and Fuel.—We have in Nova Scotia, or soon will have, the means of assembling the material required in the construction of shipping, and we are close to supplies of fuel as cheap as obtainable anywhere.

Harbor.—Halifax harbor is large, open the year round, and has the advantage of the protection of strong fortifications, a factor that some time might be important.

Climate.—Uniform weather, less severity in winter and no great heat in summer, give a greater number of working days throughout the year than are available elsewhere.

Repair Work.—Halifax harbor's geographical location is favorable for the obtaining of much repair work. It is conveniently situated for shipping that may be damaged at sea and require repairs. We have already a magnificent dry dock.

Market.—There is a growing tendency among provincial investors to put money into shipping, and other things being equal, into shipping constructed at home. A large fleet is required for the carrying of our own coal and iron. Our fishing vessels may and should be constructed of steel. There is a demand for shipping to supply our coastwise and passenger requirements.

Bonuses.—The city of Halifax offers \$200,000 and the province of Nova Scotia \$100,000 for the other side of the harbor \$100,000 is offered by the town and the province offers \$100,000.

FOR DRY GOODS MEN.

The flax mill at Thedford has been destroyed by fire.

Halifax millinery openings are to take place on Thursday and Friday, 19th and 20th inst.

A letter received recently from Belfast says that the demand for linen yarn is improving; stocks being well cleaned up. Prices are firming.

The Canada Woolen Mills Co. are going to increase the capacity of their Waterloo mills by the erection of another two-story building, and the addition of a shoddy plant.

Recent advices from England state that hosiery threatens to advance in price, but wholesale houses generally do not seem to think that much appreciation in values is justifiable in the present condition of the primary markets.

The employees of the Canadian Woolen Mills at St. Hyacinthe went on strike last week, owing to a 10 per cent reduction of wages, rendered necessary, the proprietors stated, by the unprofitableness of the last two years operations. Later news, however, states that the difficulty was satisfactorily arranged.

Scotch advices state that the price of flax in tow has risen £1 per ton, owing to heavy purchases by the Government. The Russian flax crop has been seriously damaged by drought, and there will be a considerable shortage of the low-grade article.

Speaking of the woolen market The New York Journal of Commerce says that the season in light weight fabrics in woolens and worsteds has now so far advanced that a fair idea can be formed of the general character of the season's business. The first round of orders on part of all the larger buyers has been recorded, and the demand now coming in is largely confined to purchases on the part of smaller buyers, who are always late, and as a rule adherents to a hand-to-mouth policy.

In four years the number of spindles in the Southern States of the American Union has increased from 3,670,290 to 5,819,835, while the number in the north has increased from 13,900,000 to 15,050,000. The actual increase of the south has thus been double that of the north, while the percentage increase is more than seven times as large. In five years the number of spindles in the south has, nearly doubled.

A feature noted by the Dry Goods Economist in fall fashions is the prominence accorded to articles of personal adornment and use made of leather. The coming of this development was not overlooked by manufacturers, and the result is an unusual variety of belts, purses, pocketbooks, chatelaine bags, etc., which, if properly displayed, cannot fail to bring large business to the retail store.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The Tasmanian Government has asked the Dominion for a supply of Canadian salmon, in order to stock the rivers of the former country.

It is confirmed from all sides that the quality of the coming currant crop will be unusually fine, and with moderate prices a large consumption may be expected as soon as the goods are received.

Contrary to expectations the peach crop in Essex county is very large. While a year ago owners of peach orchards, realized \$4 and \$5 per bushel for early Crawfords, they cannot now obtain more than \$1.

A new plan is being adopted by some of the Fraser river canneries whereby after a large catch, the excess of fish is put in cold storage until such time as the takings fall off and the factories have the time necessary to make use thereof.

The total pack of the Fraser river canneries this season bids fair to prove a record breaker. In 1897, the best previous year, the pack was 860,000 cases, while estimates for this year place it at at least 900,000. The Northern British Columbia pack will be something like 200,000 cases.

Cheese exports at Montreal last week were 65,760 boxes, which is a slight gain on same week 1900, but the total exports of the season are still far behind in comparison. Butter shipments for the week were 19,929 packages, which is 20 per cent. ahead of same week last year.

A Vancouver syndicate, headed by Mr. R. Martin, has been formed for the purpose of building a large fish salting and pickling factory at Portier Island, and perhaps another near the mouth of Skeena river. The process to be used is a secret one, and is said to be much superior to those ordinarily used.

The Victoria Government has been making some experiments in the preservation of fresh fruits. Pears and peaches packed in boxes for shipment were subjected to the vapors of hydrocyanic gas. The fruits were then taken out of the boxes and separately wrapped in tissue paper. Some of them were again treated with the gas, and the whole lot was placed in a dry room at a temperature of 40° F., and kept there for seven weeks. When the fruits were taken out, they were in an excellent state of preservation, especially those that had been treated with the gas a second time.

Exhaustive experiments made recently with various substances adapted for the preservation of eggs gave results as follows, the time limit being eight months: Eggs which had been immersed in salt brine—all spoiled; wrapped in paper, 80 per cent. bad; immersed in a mixture of glycerine and salicylic acid, the same; rubbed with salt, or imbedded in bran, or coated with paraffin, 70 per cent. were spoiled; of those subjected to a coat of liquid glass, collodion, or varnish, 40 per cent.; and of those which had been placed in wood ashes or had been painted with a mixture of liquid glass and boracic acid, or a solution of permanganate of potash, only 20 per cent. were bad. Almost all the eggs that had been coated with vaseline, or had been placed in limewater, or in a solution of liquid glass, were in good condition.