Montreal Fruit Sales.

The first large fruit sale for the season of 1902 took place to-day at the Montreal Fruit Auction Company's rooms on Mountain street says the Montreal Gazette of Friday last. The fruit offered was that ex steamship Fremona, which consisted of 62,000 boxes lemons, 834 boxes and 550 half boxes of oranges. The sale was started at 1.30 p. m. by Walter Keahns, the auctioneer, and in four hours he disposed of the entire cargo. A feature of the sale was the fact that lemons sold 40c to 50c per box lower than at the opening sale a year ago, which was due to the large offerings, and the further large quantities on the way to this port, but notwithstanding this fact, everybody interested in the fruit sold to-day seemed to be perfectly satisfied with the prices realized, as they were about the same as lemons have sold at in New York during the past week. The rang of prices was from $1.25 to $2.65 per box, as to quality, and condition. In regard to oranges, the bidding was strong for them, and as the offerings were small, and of good quality, ruled comparatively high, and show an advance of $1 per box over those realized at the opening sale last season. The range for boxes was from $2.40 to $2.80, and half-boxes from $1.30 to $2.10. The bidding was spirited throughout the sale, and a large percentage of the cargo was bought for American and Western Canada account.

London Tests of Disinfectants.

(London Globe.)

Some experiments on disinfectants which have been carried out by Drs. Klein, Houston and Gordon for the London county council, have resulted in a report which cannot fail to be of the greatest interest to the general public. From a copy of the somewhat exhaustive report, which we have received, one point is made abundantly clear, that what is known as Condy's fluid, and also bleaching powder, were in most cases useless as destroyers of the microbes selected. Of fluid disinfectants, carbolic acid (1 in 5), permanganate of soda bleaching powder, and corrosive sublimate (1 in 1,000) were tested, while of gaseous disinfectants, formalin and sulphurous acid gas were made the subject of experiments.

According to the summary presented by Dr. Shirley Murphy, the medical officer of the council, the typhoid bacillus was killed by all the disinfectants except the two already named, that of diphtheria was destroyed by formalin and surphur dioxide, and the cholera bacillus succumbed to all the disinfectants except Condy's and bleaching powder. The bacillus pyocyaneus was similarly acted upon, also staphylococcus aureus, but anthrax spores were only destroyed with certainty by perchloride of mercury, which, together with carbolic acid, was alone efficacious in respect to tubercle bacilli. It is worthy of note that neither formalin nor sulphur dioxide gave satisfactory results with the wood and cloth infected with this bacillus.

Cod Liver Oil Statistics.

The Reporter has received from its correspondent in Bergen, Norway, some very interesting statistics dealing with the Lofoten cod fishery and the production of cod liver oil during the season from the middle of January to the middle of March. The figures, which are published below, give the number of fish taken, the number of hectoliters of medicinal oil produced, the quantity, in hectoliters of fish livers remaining for the production of other kinds of oil, and the number of fishing boats arrived at the dates indicated, during the period stated above, of each of the ten years from 1893 to 1902:

Date.	Fish.	Oil.	Med. Livers remaining.	Boats.
1902 Mar. 15	7,900,000	5,788	1,533	3,832
1901 Mar. 16	5,500,000	6,806	3,610	3,892
1900 Mar. 17	3,400,000	4,222	2,627	5,098
1899 Mar. 18	6,300,000	7,742	4,792	5,101
1898 Mar. 12	4,600,000	3,368	3,500	6,296
1897 Mar. 13	7,900,000	6,270	4,720	6,977
1896 Mar. 14	5,200,000	2,690	1,725	7,912
1895 Mar. 16	20,000,000	6,467	7,400	7,364
1894 Mar. 17	12,000,000	5,360	7,920	6,183
1893 Mar. 19	16,300,000	12,845	20,100	6,003

It will be seen by the above statistics that while the number of fish taken this year is about the average, the amount of oil produced for medicinal purposes is considerably less than the average. This, as has been stated heretofore, is due to the fact that the fish livers this year are extremely lean, and the number of livers required to produce a single hectoliter of oil is a wordingly greater. To this fact may also be ascribed the small amount of livers remaining for the manufacture of oil other than medicinal.

Our correspondent states that the amount of cod liver oil produced from fish taken this season in the districts outside of Lofoten is also very small. The cause stated above applies equally to all of the Norway fisheries.

At this time there is nothing to add to previous reports regarding the market for Norwegian cod liver oil. In all markets of the world the firmness continues, although at present the consuming demand here is not particularly lively. Some fair sales were made earlier in the week, however.—Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter.

Canadian Northern Plans.

Wm. Mackenzie, head of the firm of Mackenzie & Mann, arrived in the city on Saturday last in his private car Antikokan. Mr. Mackenzie was seen by a reporter in the office of D. B. Hanna, general superintendent of the C. N. R. He had no new announcements to make.

"I have only lately returned from England," he replied in answer to the reporter's queries, "and consequently have not had time to discuss at any length new projects. We are going ahead with the various connection works now started. The line to Lake Manitoba and St. Laurent will be pushed; work is being pushed on the Prince Albert-Edmonton line; the Carman line extension and the Beaver extension are being gone on with as rapidly as possible. Much depends on the labor market, the amount of material available and other natural causes."

"Do you find there is any difficulty in getting steel?"

"Why, yes. It is impossible to get any rails on the other side just now. We have, however, secured 200 miles of steel this year."

"What are your plans for your summer service?"

"We have gangs at work getting our main line to Port Arthur into shape and expect by June 15 to have a fast passenger service there from Winnipeg."

Asked as to the intention of the company in regard to a main line through the west Mr. Mackenzie was non-committal. He was shown a reply sent by Premier Roblin to a delegation from Russell municipality, which stated that it was the intention of the government to make a contract with the C. N. R. to build through Russell via Neepawa, Clan William, Elphinston on to a point near Shellmouth. Mr. Mackenzie read this with interest, but did not volunteer any remark on it, except to say nothing had been decided. As to the propriety of the Canadian Northern, changing the main line through Russell municipality leading into the Territories, Mr. Mackenzie laughed. "We have one main line, our old main line that we have always had, why should we change it? What good does that do us or what good does it do the place through which we run. So long as we do run through the country what difference does it make whether it is called the main line or by another name?"

"Gives a better service probably," suggested the reporter, "and makes a shorter route."

"Well, any way there is nothing to say in the matter," said Mr. Mackenzie.

This closed the interview and Mr. Mackenzie said he did not know how long he would be in town or where he would go from here, but did not think he would make a trip of inspection over the branches.

Prison Binder Twine.

The subject of prison binder twine and its manufacture was up for discussion in the Dominion house a few days ago and the following debate ensued:

Upon the item for penitentiaries, Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick stated that it would be impossible to continue the business of manufacturing binder twine at Kingston profitably, under the terms of the resolution passed by the house last session. In accordance with that resolution the twine was kept on hand for sale to the farmers up till July 1st. Applications from 850 farmers were received for a total of 45 tons, leaving a balance of something over 300 tons on hand at the date named, which was sold by public tender to Henderson Blair, St. Johns, Que. There was a loss of $10,000 on the year's output. Mr. Fitzpatrick declined to take the responsibility for continuing the manufacture of binder twine under these circumstances and conditions, pointing out that when tenders were called for it was too late in the season.

Mr. Richard Blain stated that the government had not been manufacturing the kind of twine which the farmers wanted, and read a letter from the warden of the penitentiary, stating that on the 17th of June they were out of pure manila and standard, which were the two brands used in Ontario. If these kinds were manufactured the government could sell every pound of it.

Mr. Fitzpatrick replied that no difficulty had been experienced up to last year in selling it, and he relied upon the advice of the experts employed to supervise the work, who were appointed by the previous government. He asked Mr. Blain to state the proper quality of twine to manufacture.

Mr. Fraser advised the minister of justice to sell out the plant for old iron if he could not get rid of it any other way and stop the loss. He had never approved the government's undertaking to manufacture twine.

All the various features of the manufacture and sale of binder twine were discussed by Mr. Robert Holmes, Hon. Wm. Ross, Mr. Geo. Taylor, Mr. T. O. Davis, Mr. E. Cochrane and Mr. Lennox.

Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick, commenting upon the remarks and suggestions that had been offered, said it appeared that the officials in charge of the binder twine factory had not kept up to date, and intimated that while he would stand by competent officials, he could not retain men in positions which they could not fill satisfactorily. It might be that Mr. Taylor's suggestion, that an agent be sent out on the road to sell the twine, would be the best way of disposing of the twine.

Mr. Sproule, in a brief speech, opposed the abandonment of the manufacture of binder twine at the penitentiary, as its introduction had reduced prices by two cents per pound. If the manufacture was not to be continued at Kingston he suggested the plant might be moved to the Manitoba penitentiary, where it would be in the heart of the wheat fields.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said he was perfectly willing to consider the proposition that binder twine be manufactured at Stony Mountain penitentiary. He would also be happy to have binder twine officials at Kingston appear before the agricultural committee of the house for examination as to the conduct of the industry. The latter suggestion was accepted by the opposition and the item carried, with the understanding that the debate should be resumed when the supplementary estimates were under consideration.

Manitoba Farm Improvements—Farm Elevator and Granary of W. A. Card, Glenboro.

The Higher Prices for Meats.

A deafening clatter has been and is being raised over the alleged exactions of the beef trust, so called, which has not been in any way lessened by the further advance shown by beef and similar products last week. The higher prices for poultry and other farm products have added fuel to the blaze which has been started by a number of papers who aim to tell a number of poorly informed people what they want to know instead of what actually exists. In the columns of these journals reasonable causes for the advances are generally ignored, and the sole aim seems to be to flay the octopus of the meat trust. Various state and national law officers are understood to have been stimulated to activity by the storm that has been raised, and even the endless chain letter cranks have sought to utilize that medium to the end that the general public may be asked to refrain from eating meat of any kind till the trust is brought to a realizing sense of its enormities. While from some points of view the abstention from or the curtailment of the meat diet in the spring has some advantages, it seems to have not occurred to those advocating this plan of warfare that the retail butcher is likely to be the chief sufferer from the new method of trust treatment. Nor does it seem to occur to the trust hunters that as a plain business proposition this period of the year would be the least profitable time for the meat trust, if it exists, to advance prices unduly.

The facts in the case seem to argue that the number of meat-producing animals in the country to-day is rather smaller in proportion to population than ever before. The change from free range to more expensive stall feeding which has occurred in the past twenty years has not been favorable to lower prices, and the claim is made, apparently with justice, that were it not for the development of modern slaughtering methods, involving the utilization of the entire animal, the cost of meat would be much higher than it is. With corn at 60 cents per bushel instead of 20 or 30 cents, and other cattle food proportionally higher, there seems to have been little inducement for farmers to carry stock over the winter. The large cattle receipts of last fall and winter and the present small movement find confirmation here. With high prices for beef, consumption has in turn gone into hog products, poultry and other animal foods, with the result of depleting supplies all around. It is still too early to expect grass-fed cattle to appear in the market, and high prices are not improbable for some time to come. If for no other reason than that of animal food production, large yields of all the cereals, but especially of corn, are to be hoped for if meat prices next autumn and winter are not to reach prohibitive prices.—Bradstreet's.

Laborer (waving flag)—Yez'll hav' turn back. This sthreet's closed. Driver—What's it closed for Laborer—Bekase it's just been opened be the tillyphone company ter put down their wires. That's why it's closed.—Philadelphia Press.