

ers buying lots flat, that is, a price for a number, with a certain tare for hides." He declares "the loss per annum to this province reaches into thousands of dollars, because they will not comply with the instructions issued by your board some two years ago. The hides inspected for the year ending June last were: No. 1, 9,850; No. 2, 5,274; No. 3, 845; total, 15,969."

"Do you preach extempore, or do you take notes?" was asked of an old colored preacher. "Well, sah, there was a time when I took notes, but I've found it safest in this deestrick to insist on habin' de cash down."

RATES OF TARE ON MERCHANDISE.

We find in the columns of our valued contemporary, the *Shipping and Commercial List*, of New York, the rates of tare which were prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury under section 2898 of the revised statutes of the United States, on certain descriptions of merchandise. The list will prove a handy one for many of our readers:

Almonds, bags, 2 per cent.	
bales, 2½ "	
frails, 8 "	
Alum, casks, 10 "	
ground, sacks, 2 lbs. per sack	
Barytes, 3 per cent.	
Cassia, mats, 9 "	
Cheese, cks. or tubs, 10 "	
Chicory, bags, 2 "	
Cocoa, bags, 2 "	
ceroons, 8 "	
Cinnamon, bales, 6 "	
Coffee, Rio, dble. bgs. 2 "	
single " 1 "	
all other, actual tare.	
Copperas, casks, 10 per cent.	
Currants, casks, 10 "	
Cinchona bark, crns. 10 "	
Hemp, Manilla, bales, 4 lbs. per bale	
Hamburg, Leghorn, Trieste, 5 lbs. per bale	
Indigo, ceroons, 10 per cent.	
Melado 9 "	
Nails, bags, 2 "	
casks, 8 "	
Ochre, dry, casks, 8 "	
in oil, casks, 12 "	
Paris White, casks, 10 "	
Pepper, bags, 2 "	
double bags, 4 "	
Pimento, bags, 2 "	
Raisins, boxes, 25 "	
casks, 12 "	
hf. boxes, 27 "	
qr. boxes, 29 "	
frails, 4 "	
Rice, bags, 2 "	
Salt, coarse, sacks, 2 lb. per sack	
fine, sacks, 3 "	
Spanish Brown, dry, casks, 10 per cent.	
in oil, " 12 "	
Sugar, boxes, 14 per cent.	
barrels, 10 "	
mats, 2 "	
bags, 1½ "	
Tobacco, leaf, bales, 13 lb. per bale	
Sumatra, " 4½ "	
Whiting, casks, 10 per cent.	

PARCELS FOR GROCERS.

"Why don't Canadians take a leaf out of the Australians' book 'in supplying British apple-markets?' said a well-known Canadian man of business the other day. "I know that the Canadian fruit comes in at a different season, and is of not quite the same class, but I

believe that were Canadian exporters to send their choice apples here in smaller boxes or barrels they would do a larger trade. You may see the Australian apples at Covent Garden in 40-lb boxes, and upon each box about 10s. is realized. A barrel of Canadian apples of the weight of 196 lbs. goes for about the same money. A man will often buy a small lot of 40 lbs. for his family use, and I fancy the Canadians would do well to consider the possibilities of meeting the demand for smaller lots which the Australian trade has shown to exist."—*Canadian Gazette*.

The following about the northern salmon pack of British Columbia is from the *Columbian* of 7th inst.: The steamer "Princess Louise" has completed her first trip of the year to the Skeena River and way ports. The weather was reported fine in the north, and the canners are quite satisfied with the season's prospects. At the Standard cannery they had 2,500 cases put up, and at Mr. Cunningham's 2,000 cases when the "Louise" left. On the whole, the pack, so far, averages about 2,000 cases at each of the canneries heard from. The salmon are not very plentiful in the Skeena as yet, though very numerous a little way outside.

On the subject of the trade in white beans the *Chatham, Ont., Banner* has a paragraph. It appears that the boom in the bean market owing to the demand in the Spanish West Indies has ceased. The beans shipped from Kent county in June to New York, were sent in bond, and exported thence to the Spanish Islands at the low rate of duty under the new reciprocity treaty recently negotiated by the United States. This treaty, it appears, only covers articles made or grown in the States, and some of the Canadian beans sent to New York for shipment were not allowed to go through, and will have to be taken out of bond, duty paid, and sold in New York. Thus this market has been closed to us, but still dealers report a fair demand. "During the past ten days Messrs. Tighe & Stringer have sold ten car loads—one-half going east to points in Canada, the other to the Western States. The price remains low—75 to 87c. for fair mediums, to 90c. and \$1 for hand-picked. There are a good many of the 1890 crop still in farmers' hands, but dealers do not care to handle them except at much lower figures than we have quoted."

The annual excursion and picnic of the grocers of Montreal is arranged to be held at Hudson, a beautiful spot on the river Ottawa, some 30 miles from Montreal. The Canadian Pacific Railway has a station there.

KNITTING IN CANADA.

Some of the knitting mills in Ontario, writes the Canadian correspondent of the *Textile Record*, say they will be hard put to it to find work the whole season through, and a large mill, which never before was slack of orders, this year has had barely enough work to last it well into July.

In the Province of Quebec, the knitting mills have their difficulties to contend with. One mill there is spoken of as being a great disturber of prices, and seems to possess advantages in the way of turning out cheap goods, which even mills in the same district cannot attain to, although well matched, if not superior in point of capital, with rates of labor the same. Labor is less costly in the Province of Quebec than in Ontario.

The knitted goods made in that province are mostly of a low grade. Makers of standard

goods in Ontario, who have made a good article and kept steadily to it, without so many changes, trying to keep up with the market, now find their goods accepted season after season without any reduction from the usual prices. Such is the case with mills of established reputation, and buyers are becoming more conservative, preferring to buy of established makers of certain lines. Experience has taught them that prices have reached their lowest ebb. Any further reduction in prices must be at the expense of quality, and buyers purchasing similar goods at lower rate will find somewhere, or somehow, the reduction in price will be taken out of the goods.

Canadian knit goods manufacturers are constantly striving to improve the quality of their goods, and anything new in the way of processes or machinery, if of merit, is quickly taken up here. There is not so much attention paid here to ornamentation as there is in the States, and yet there is still too much of it. A great deal of money is frittered away uselessly in this manner. After the first washing of an undergarment all mere ornament generally disappears, and only essentials remain. A great deal of money is therefore wasted to please the eye of the wholesale buyer, the consumer not asking for, nor noticing the absence of, things called for by the buyer. The crop prospects are still promising and all classes hope for a good fall trade.

INSURANCE ITEMS.

The Imperial Fire Insurance Company is getting up in years and stronger as it grows older. London papers contain an account of its eighty-ninth annual meeting, which was held on the 2nd of last month. Of course the shareholders had to face a more than ordinary share of fire losses during 1891, that notable year for underwriters, but their ardor was nothing daunted and they receive the same dividend as if nothing unusual had happened. The company's special reserves are found to exceed £1,200,000.

A local board of reference consisting of Messrs. J. K. Macdonald and W. A. Sims has been formed in connection with the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company. Mr. Sims having resigned the post of manager, Messrs. Alfred Wright and Reginald L. Ball are announced as acting managers.

One of the big insurance companies of New York pays the manager of its woman's bureau for the Pacific coast and Hawaiian Islands \$10,000 a year, and she is a woman from Ohio—Mrs. Juana A. Neal.

Nova Scotia fire underwriters have increased rates in Yarmouth twenty per cent.

The *Commercial Bulletin* learns that the formalities necessary for the admission of the Palatine to do business in the States are progressing favorably. It is understood that the company will make a deposit in New York State separate from that of the United Fire, assuming and continuing the business of the latter. The United will be retired finally, both here and in England, being absorbed by the Palatine, which will be in active operation before the fall months.

A result of unadulterated vindictiveness could have been seen yesterday in King street, Toronto, the handsome plate glass windows on each side of the entrance to Messrs. Bilton Bros.' store having been smashed a short time before by a former employee. The firm can only account for the act in the fact that the fellow's services had not been further required, and he took this cowardly means of showing