

eight steamers, with an aggregate deadweight carrying capacity of about 56,000 tons.

The cost of transportation along the Atlantic Coast has undergone a wonderful change the past several years. It is said the Dominion Coal Co. has recently made a contract for the delivery of coal in Boston at the rate of fifty cents per ton for the freight. "Compared with even a few years ago," says the Sydney, C.B., Record, "this is a very low rate. The extension of our coal trade to new markets, depends largely upon freight rates. If low freight can be secured, the markets can be greatly widened. Freight rates have been for some time decreasing, and are likely to drop still lower, and the result undoubtedly will be that Cape Breton coals may be sent to markets now inaccessible on account of high freights.

The Chicoutimi Pulp Company has recently made several large shipments of pulp to England, the last one going forward on the 13th inst.

We are told that as a result of the new preferential tariff, in its relation to raw sugar, 40,000 tons will be shipped from Fiji to British Columbia sugar refinery, Vancouver, this season, by the steamers of the Canadian-Australian line. Where we buy, there also should we sell.

An Ontario manufacturer of a special brand of cheese assures us that without advertising in the United Kingdom, he has received orders for his goods, making in the aggregate a considerable quantity. These sales were made as the result of enquiries of the British grocers for this particular brand, by people who had eaten the cheese when on this side of the Atlantic. The meeting of the British Association in Toronto last year is said to have done good work in this direction.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON PACK.

Late mail advices from the Pacific Coast announce that the long-expected big run of salmon came on the 7th inst. The fish are described as large and firm, and in good condition. Needless to say, the factories were doing their best to make up for lost time. On the same date the steamers "Boscowitz" and "Princess Louise" returned from Wrangel and northern British Columbia points, bringing news that the canneries of the Skeena and Rivers Inlet have suspended operations, being full up. The pack has been a very good one, especially on the Skeena, where at least a third over the number of fish taken last year were secured. The pack on the Skeena, as near as could be remembered by the officers of the two steamers, was as follows: North Pacific cannery, 19,000 cases; Inverness, 17,000; Cunningham's, 13,000; Lowe Inlet, 7,100 (not yet full), they were expecting to fill at least 8,500 cases. Naas harbor had 9,000 cases, and Mill Bay, 5,000. Both these canneries were still fishing. On Rivers Inlet the Good Hope cannery led with 21,000 cases; Kirkland's two canneries at the head of the inlet had 26,000 cases, Wadham's 19,000; Brunswick, 17,500; Green's, 9,000, and Wannock, 14,000. At Alert Bay S. A. Spencer's cannery reported 4,500 cases. Several canneries have still to report, but withal the present reports indicate that the pack will be away in excess of last year, and with the exception of the Skeena, in 1896, it is the biggest pack in northern waters for the past six years. The figures at the inlet and on the Skeena, since 1894, are as follows: Skeena river, 1894, 61,151 cases; 1895, 67,797; 1896, 100,140; 1897, 65,905; Rivers Inlet, 1894, 39,351; 1895, 58,579; 1896, 107,468; 1897, 40,207 cases.

ONTARIO WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The acreage under wheat in Ontario this year is placed, by the Department of Agriculture, at 1,048,182 acres, which, with an estimated average yield of 24.1 bushels per acre, gives a crop of 25,305,890 bushels. The average for the sixteen years, 1882-97, was 891,144 acres, giving 18,022,748 bushels, being an average of 20.2 bushels per acre. The acreage this year is the largest since 1883, when 1,097,210 acres yielded only 10.6 bushels per acre. The largest crops of the past sixteen years were in 1884, 20,717,631 bushels; in 1891, 21,872,488; in 1892, 20,492,497 bushels, and in 1897, 23,088,052 bushels. Spring wheat in the Province has, according to government reports, an area of 389,205 acres, yielding 6,714,516 bushels, an average of 17.3

bushels per acre. In 1897, 323,305 acres gave 4,868,101 bushels, or 15.1 bushels per acre. The crop this year is the largest since 1891, in which year 510,634 acres gave 10,711,538 bushels, or 21 bushels per acre.

The new wheat crop, when compared with that of last year, in the matter of bushels and acres, shows a satisfactory increase. In 1897, 950,222 acres gave 23,088,051 bushels, an average of 25.2 bushels per acre. But when the two crops are compared in regard to quality, the yield of 1898 makes a still better showing. The average weight per bushel last year is estimated, by competent authorities, not to have exceeded 58 pounds, while this year the same authorities put the weight at 62 pounds per bushel. The samples, which we have inspected this year, range from 60 to 63¾ pounds to the bushel. Ontario millers are very pleased with their prospects this coming year. The dry weather that existed during the weeks when the wheat plant was about at maturity, has increased the amount of gluten which the new wheat contains. Ontario winter wheat will, as a result, make a flour which if not as strong as the Manitoba article, will stand a much better comparison than in former years, and has the advantage of working up much easier in the process of bread-making. The immense crop in Ontario gives a supply of wheat in excess of local requirements. Prices, as a consequence, will be regulated on an export basis. The high reputation of Manitoba wheat in the United Kingdom may be expected to maintain prices of that cereal in Canada, at a figure which will give Eastern millers using Ontario wheat, an advantage of 40 to 50 cents per barrel over those making flour from Manitoba wheat.

TEA REPORTS.

Wilson & Co., Shanghai, in their circular, dated July 23rd, say of the tea market: "Black Teas.—Owing to the continued Russian demand in Hankow, arrivals in this market have been very moderate. A fair business has been done, chiefly in second crop Kheemuns, some of these teas proving very attractive. The second crop is already twice as large as last year; it is reported that the third crop will be very small, owing to the extremely dry weather that has prevailed in the country, this must be taken with some reservation, however, as prices are so high for common teas that tea men will undoubtedly make up every leaf they can. Wenchows sales show a decline, in some cases of three to four taels during the interval, but prices are rather irregular. Fychows and Soayoans.—For teas equal to the United States standard, taels prices opened at 10 per cent. over those paid for first settlements last year, most of the chops now offering are too poor to pass this standard, and much lower prices are offered for these than tea men will at present accept. Pingsueys.—A few chops were sold early in the interval at previous rates, but latterly business has come to a standstill, except for single lines.

Deacon & Co., in their circular, dated Canton, July 7th, say of tea: "Macao Congous.—Settlements, during the past month, are reported at 4,500 boxes, at tls. 13½ to 26, and one small parcel is said to have fetched tls. 34. Latterly some good liquoring second crop teas have come to hand, and found buyers at tls. 18 to 22, showing fair value. Prices generally show a turn in buyers' favor. Scented Capers.—The market was opened on the 12th ult., and during the first few days 53,000 boxes were taken at tls. 10 to tls. 36 per picul. Subsequent settlements are reported at 29,000 boxes, making a total of 82,000 boxes, against a similar quantity up to the same time last year. The early settlements consisted largely of fine teas, whilst common and medium were remarkably scarce. Opening prices, as compared with last season, showed an advance of tls. ¾ per picul for fine and curio, and tls. 2-3 for the lower grades. Since then the better kinds have declined fully tls. 4 per picul, whilst teas costing under tls. 20, although slightly easier, have not given way to any marked extent. The latter have been in rather better supply of late, but there has also been a fair demand for these grades, which accounts for their comparative firmness. The reports as to the shortness of the first crop, which is now exhausted, have been verified, and the second crop will, in all probability, fall short of last year."

The wholesale millinery houses are busily arranging stocks and making preparations for the coming season's trade.