

parts thereof; and three for parts of the third examination (Fire Branch).

"The council is gratified to be able to state that during the past year the work of the Institute in general has been well sustained, and that the beneficial influence of our organization is being felt at home and noticed abroad. It is not too much to expect that the successful local insurance officials of the future will be those who are now laying the foundations of their success while members of this Institute."

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#### FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The price of cheese on the country boards continues quite high and firm. From 9½ to 10c. seems to be the prevailing quotation during the week, or rather the prevailing selling price, for in several cases a fraction lower was all that was offered, and the cheese remained largely unsold.

The report of the Land Corporation of Canada, for 1904, issued in London this week, shows a credit of £9,625, including £7,712 brought forward. The directors recommended a dividend of one shilling and sixpence per share, or 7½ per cent., also the carrying forward of £4,000. The farm lands sold realized \$3,499.

Exporters of apples and other green fruit are still indignant at the treatment they receive from transportation companies in the matter of shipping tender fruits to the seaboard in summer and fall and to the home markets during winter. They complain that the freezing of apples in transportation during the last two or three winter seasons caused most serious losses to exporters and in many cases wiped out the profits of the entire season, besides bringing Canadian fruit into bad repute in the British markets.

The Ontario Wholesale Grocers' Guild held their annual meeting in Toronto on Tuesday last, and elected officers as follows: President, George H. Bristol, Toronto and Hamilton; vice-presidents, T. B. Escott, London; W. G. Craig, Kingston; Price Committee, J. F. Eby, Toronto; Thomas Kinnear, Toronto; H. C. Beckett, Hamilton; T. B. Escott, London; auditor, A. G. Osborne, Hamilton. One point raised was the margin of profit for retailers on proprietary goods, and it was agreed that this profit was altogether too small in proportion to the expense of handling the goods. It was recognized that the more prosperous the retailers, the more secure is the position of the wholesaler.

A dispatch this week from North Sydney, says that a new solution of the ever-pressing bait question was about to be offered to the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces. A French firm offers to supply free samples of preserved bait as used in France. Machinery for the operation of a bait preserving plant is now on its way to Halifax by the steamer Norden. When this arrives, the firm expect to preserve bait there on an extensive scale. The new system is claimed to have great advantages over the cold storage plan, as vessels can go to the fishing grounds and remain there as long as they wish with constant fresh material, instead of having to return to port frequently for cold storage bait. It also removes the trouble and expense of carrying large quantities of ice.

A correspondent of Commercial Intelligence writes as follows: "Most of the fruit growers to the south of Paris and in some districts of Normandy have combined. They work through a syndicate, whose agents receive at the railway stations their fruit and despatch it to the coast. Next season the syndicate will save the growers the trouble of bringing their produce to the railway station. The syndicate will provide its agents with automobile wagons which will go round their respective districts and collect the fruit, thus saving the time of the fruit growers. The working of this syndicate is about as perfect as it is possible to be. It manages everything; provides baskets, conducts correspondence, pays all traffic expenses, and so well has it arranged matters with the railway companies that transport charges have been reduced almost to a minimum. In return for this service the syndicate received 5 per cent. on results. The growers do not even know where their produce is sent to. That depends upon the telegrams re-

ceived from the agents of the syndicate in England. One thing, however, the fruit growers do know, and that is, that once a month they receive better prices than they would have done had their produce been sold in the Paris market." And there can be little doubt but that some such plan as this will prove the salvation of the Canadian fruit-growers also.

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#### ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

J. C. R., City.—Wishes to know something about the projected Sterling Bank of Canada. In reply, an Act to incorporate a bank of this name was passed on 25th June, 1903. The chief office of the bank was to be at London, Ontario. The provisional directors were William Henry Wortman, Samuel Gregory Oren, Oscar Benson, Harold Lionel Atkinson, and Thomas Henry Luscombe. This charter lapsed on 25th June, 1904. A London correspondent says, on the same subject, "No prominent men here interested in the venture. Do not consider there is any likelihood of the scheme going ahead. The man last named, who is a lawyer, is regarded as the starter of the proposed bank." We have not heard that any Toronto parties have tried to resuscitate the venture.

Clerk, Ottawa.—In old English dry measure, three bushels are a sack, and twelve sacks a chaldron; whereas eight bushels are a quarter and five quarters one load. But the Standard Dictionary defines a chaldron as "in England generally 32 to 36 bushels, and in the United States 2,500 to 2,900 pounds."

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—The total realty assessment for the city of Winnipeg amounts now to \$53,714,430, which represents a net increase over last year of \$12,607,560. The population of the city is estimated at 79,975, or a gain of 13,000 over last year. Some rash guessers have placed the population at a hundred thousand, but the above figures are probably more reasonable.

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—Building in Vancouver is very active just now. Among the larger structures now on the tapis is a \$60,000 one of eight stories, with a frontage of 125 feet, and a depth of 120 feet, for Kelly, Douglas & Co., wholesale grocers, at a cost of \$60,000 to \$80,000. Immediately adjoining, Robert Kelly and F. Burnett purpose to put up another eight-story building, to cost \$50,000.

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—British Columbia papers to hand teem with reports of combines. Among the latest suggestions are combinations among the lead producers on the one hand, and the shingle mills on the other. The purpose said to underlie the proposition of the former is to secure a good market in the Far East, that in Canada being limited, and that in the United States being closed owing to a duty of over \$2 per ton. The London market, too, is for lead so low as to be unprofitable for our lead producers. In regard to shingles, it is said that ninety per cent. of the manufacturers of these have entered into an agreement as to prices, and an "Export Lumber and Shingle Company, Ltd." been formed to market the product. Prices have already been raised.

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—The Dominion Government steamer "Lady Laurier" is engaged in the work of conveying materials to Sable Island for the new Marconi station to be erected there. A wireless station is also being established at Camperdown, the outmost signal station at the entrance to Halifax Harbor. Vessels fitted with wireless apparatus passing Sable Island will send their messages in the direction of the island. Being received, they will be transmitted to Camperdown, 160 miles distant, where telegraph companies will have connection, and messages will be quickly transmitted to all parts of the world. Vessels having apparatus on board when as far as one hundred and fifty or two hundred miles south, south-east or south-west of Sable Island, will be able to communicate to the island station and have the news sent over the world.