

REGULATIONS IN REGARD TO
PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

A new code of regulations was issued last week in regard to the preferential clause of the Dominion tariff. It provides that persons making entry of goods under the Canadian reciprocal tariff, are required to furnish a separate invoice of the articles entitled to such entry, with a declaration annexed thereto, signed by the exporter or his agent in the presence of a subscribing witness.

If invoices are made out at lower prices for goods exported directly to Canada than the fair market value at the same time and place for such goods when sold for home consumption in the country whence so exported, in all such cases the invoices are also to show clearly, in a special column, or by addition thereto, such fair market value as aforesaid, for the goods described therein.

The exporter's declaration as to the origin of the goods is in all cases (except as hereinafter mentioned) to be produced and filed with the invoice, and its production is to be noted by customs officers in Canada on the entry form, otherwise the general rates of duty will be collected, without reduction, until the exporter's declaration as aforesaid is furnished.

Customs entries under the reciprocal tariff should be taken separately on the usual form.

The declaration of the importer or his agent, as to the origin of goods, will be accepted in lieu of the exporter's declaration, in the case of articles which have been entered for warehouse (in bond) in Canada, prior to the issue of these instructions, and as to goods valued at less than \$10, for the whole importation when hereafter offered for entry, subject, however, in all such cases, to the approval of the collector after examination of the goods by a custom officer.

Articles from all the countries entitled to the benefits of the reciprocal tariff may be entered on the same invoice, and the origin of all the products entered on such invoice may be attested to in one declaration, on the form prescribed, the names of the countries (if more than one) being written in succession in the blank space reserved for origin of products.

Importers claiming entry of goods under the reciprocal tariff, are required to file with the customs collectors in Canada a certificate of the United States customs entry for immediate transportation, or a bill of lading showing through transportation when such goods are carried in transit through the United States and imported into Canada.

Note particularly, that the reciprocal tariff does not apply to the following articles, viz.: Ales, beers, wines and liquors, sugar, molasses, and syrups of all kinds, the product of the sugar cane or beet root; tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

Articles which are the growth, produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, New South Wales and British India, when imported direct from any of the said countries and entered for duty or taken out of warehouse for consumption in Canada, shall be subject to the reduction of duty provided for in the reciprocal tariff, and under limitations mentioned, from the date when admitted to reciprocal tariff benefits.

Until the 31st day of July, 1898, the products of fourteen countries, when imported from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or any of the countries in question, and entered for duty or taken out of warehouse for consumption in Canada since the 23rd day of April, 1897, shall be subject to the reduction of duty provided for in the reciprocal tariff.

The excess of duty paid on products imported as aforesaid from the countries to which the reciprocal tariff applies, will be refunded, if the claim therefor, with satisfactory proof of the origin and value of such products, is made in the usual form through the collector of customs at the port where such duty was paid.

Nothing in the foregoing instructions shall be held as affecting the right to enter articles under the "French Treaty Act, 1894," but any articles entered at a reduced rate under the said Treaty Act shall not be entitled to a further reduction of duty under the provisions of the reciprocal tariff.

MINING IN ONTARIO.

Much interest usually attaches to the annual report of the Ontario Bureau of Mines. And the present issue, which is published this week, has been looked forward to by many. This report furnishes all the statistics of Ontario mining for 1896, and comes down into 1897. We hope soon to give a resume of some of its more important portions.

The total value of all the mineral productions for 1896 is placed at \$5,235,000. The wages paid were \$1,521,000. The statistics of gold mining in provinces are given in the following table:

Schedule.	1892.	1896.
Mines worked, number	9	8
Men above ground	85	103
Men underground	40	86
Ore treated, tons	3,710	13,292
Gold product, oz	0	7,154
Gold, value	\$36,900	\$121,848
Wages paid for labor	22,750	91,210

We quote from the beginning of the report:

"Compared with the transactions in mineral lands in 1894, there was an increase last year in the number of locations sold and leased of 218, in the area of land sold and leased of 13,635 acres, and in the receipts from sales and rentals of \$22,644. The total collections on account of lands sold and leased last year was \$35,581 (not including \$5,006 of rent money, paid on lands previously leased), and during the last few weeks of the year there was paid in a further sum on lands applied for, of \$28,436. The largest receipts were in the months of November and December; and as evidence of the continued briskness of operations, it may be stated that the receipts on account of mining lands in the first three months of the present year, exclusive of a special deposit of \$20,000, first three months of the present year, exclusive of transactions in Crown lands only. There have been large investments in patented lands, but no attempt has been made to procure a list of them."

FRUIT FOR ENGLAND.

The reports received of the later trial shipments of fruit made by direction of the Minister of Agriculture show that they arrived in Great Britain in a satisfactory condition. Of the 336 cases shipped per the steamship "Numidian," to Liverpool, the report says that the fruit arrived in good condition, except the grapes, which were fairly sound, but inclined to drop from the stems. The report on the 86 boxes by the "Hurons" to London, says that the fruit arrived in good condition, with the exception of the grapes, which, although apparently in sound condition, dropped from the stems. The report further says that the pears were in very fine condition, the Crawford peaches a little soft; the tomatoes in fine condition. The objection to the tomatoes was that they were too large. A medium size variety take better in the British market.

The following paragraph in connection with the last-named shipment appeared in the *Standard* of London: "A consignment of Canadian fruit was sold at Covent Garden yesterday by Messrs. Garcia, Jacobs & Co. The fruit, consisting of some 800 packages, was sent from Montreal to Liverpool in the "Hurons," under the direction of the Canadian Government, who are actively establishing a supply for the English market. Previous consignments have not turned out wholly successful, but the present one proved completely satisfactory, with the exception of the grapes, which were of too soft varieties

to withstand the transit, even in a refrigerator, while their quality make it improbable that they can compete with Portuguese growth. The pears were found to be of the same varieties as are grown in England and France, and of a quality that will suit the English trade. The opinion was generally expressed at Covent Garden that Canadian pears and plums will be able to compete in our markets with continental supplies. The peaches, though not as large as the English hot-house specimens are of sufficiently good quality to secure a large trade. The tomatoes were of exceptionally fine quality, and if defects in regard to size are remedied, they will undoubtedly rival those of French growth. All the fruit, excepting the grapes, commanded good prices, and the buyers expressed satisfaction at the appearance of another source of supply.

A JUDGMENT ABOUT TERRA-COTTA.

The Recorder rendered judgment yesterday in the case of the City v. Eusebe Paquette contractor, for using terra cotta bricks instead of ordinary bricks in the construction of the inner walls of a building on Cherrier street. The action was dismissed with costs against the city, the court holding that in the case at issue the wall complained of had been shown to be perfectly safe for the weight it had to bear, while the evidence went to establish that, in case of fire, the terra cotta walls were superior to others, on account of their ability to withstand more heat. The by-law under which the action was taken was one to prevent accidents through defective construction and through fire; the terra-cotta bricks which were invented only after the making of this by-law, were proved to be of incombustible material, and to answer both purposes fully. As for the pressure that they could stand, the tests made at McGill College were conclusive, and the court had no hesitation in saying that in the present case, at least, the requirements of the law had been fully met.—*Montreal Gazette*.

TRADE EXPANSION.

L'Economiste Europeen, of Paris, summing up the commercial situation in Europe, speaks as follows:

The almost general increase of fiduciary circulation makes it clear beyond the possibility of doubt that the nations generally are finding a use for credit. It is evident that this use is not merely the carrying on of speculation, for in that case it is not circulation that would increase, but deposits. It is for making ordinary trade purchases, and we must conclude from this that there is an expansion of trade, and an increase of activity in business generally. There is to-day a singular combination of circumstances that have not been seen simultaneously for a long time, and that show without doubt that we have entered upon a period of general revival.

In Germany, Austria, Russia, Great Britain and France, the situation presented is much the same. The circulation of the Bank of Germany has gone up beyond the limit which is exempt from taxation. The Austro-Hungarian Bank is also expanding its note issues. France's foreign trade has greatly grown during the past few months, while the statements of the British Board of Trade contain the best evidence that commerce in the United Kingdom, in spite of strikes and the losses caused by company promoting, is in a healthy and improving condition. On this continent, also, there are everywhere visible the effects of a better demand for merchandise of all kinds. The railroad earnings everywhere are showing increases; the volume of foreign trade is enlarging; the financial centres report the call for money for legitimate enterprises good. The commercial world generally is showing the effect of the movement towards recovery after a period of depression and enforced economy.—*Gazette*.