

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The large flour mills of McAllister Bros. at Pakenham that were recently burnt down, involving a heavy loss, are to be re-built.

A downtown baker displays the following sign: "I am prepared to do all the loafing necessary in this establishment." — *Philadelphia Record*.

Robinson Bros., wholesale grocers of Ingersoll, have shipped eight carloads of dried apples to Germany this season, and have one more under way for next week.

The early closing by-laws of the Hull city council went into effect last Friday evening. All the groceries closed at 7 o'clock sharp. The by-law was to have gone into operation at the commencement of the year, but its enforcement was delayed until the close of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The United States exported 1,450,336 barrels apples in 1891, "the banner year." This season the total exports thus far are over 1,100,000 barrels, against little more than 100,000 barrels up to the corresponding date last year, when the transatlantic crops were abundant, instead of being scant, as is the case this year. Possibly the 1891 shipments will be equalled before this season's shipments have ceased. Choice Baldwin and Greening apples for shipment were selling at from \$2.75 to \$3 a barrel in New York last week.

The Canadian Commercial Agent at Trinidad, in an official report, writes: "It seems strange that a sugar-producing country should import sugar, but it is the case here. In spite of a protective duty of 10 shillings per 100 lbs., we imported in 1892 no less than 780,379 lbs. of refined crushed sugar, of which 41,172 lbs. came from the Dominion. Previously to that we had received none from Canada, but owing to the excellent package and quality of the sugar our imports by steamer from Halifax during 1893 increased about 130,000 lbs."

In an interesting review of Westminster's trade for 1894, the *Columbian* says: "Compared with 1890, the year which corresponds with 1894 in the salmon pack on the Fraser River, the increase has been large, but the pack of this year is 112,000 cases short of 1893, when all the records of the past were greatly exceeded. According to rule, next year's pack will be smaller than this season's, and the following year smaller still. Then will come another big year. Since last season several new canneries have been built on the river, and the industry is in a fairly satisfactory condition. The export of fresh and salt salmon continues heavy. Following is the Fraser River pack for 1894:

	Cases.
Sea Island Cannery.....	25,330
Beaver Cannery)	
Richmond Cannery)	25,230
Ewen & Co.	25,000
Deas Island Cannery	7,730
Victoria Canning Co. (five canneries)	53,023
Anglo B.C. Canning Co. (eight canneries).....	82,942
Terra Nova Pkg. Co.	9,000
Lulu Island Pkg. Co.	15,700
Pacific Coast Pkg. Co.	12,250
Steveston Canning Co.	17,450
Imperial Canning Co.	12,470
Canadian Pacific Canning Co.	20,500
Brunswick Canning Co.	16,500
Fishermen's Canning Co.	11,465
Gulf of Georgia Canning Co.	18,430
Goodmurphy's Cannery	8,860

Fraser River for 1894	362,870
Northern pack "	135,235

Grand total for British Columbia 498,105

The northern salmon pack shows an increase of about 2,000 cases over 1893. Following is the value of the Fraser River salmon fisheries for the past five years:

1890	\$1,989,599
1891	1,517,060
1892	1,148,860
1893	2,916,990
1894	2,362,714

FRIENDLY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Throughout the year we have been favored with occasional letters of a kindly character from subscribers, and towards the close of the year quite a number of such communications were received. It may not be amiss if we quote from some of these:

A prominent banker, in a private letter to the editor, says: "Your journal is doing good work, and in a direction where such work is needed."

One of our oldest subscribers in Ontario, Mr. D. Thompson, of Cayuga, in making some suggestions as to market reports and quotations, adds, "I like your paper very much." It is not the first time that he has given similar testimony.

"Are we in the dumps? your circular asks. I reply, dumps never trouble me. I work off that kind of thing by looking for trade. As for Bill McKinley, I leave him to the political element. Long may you flourish." This from a Hudson Bay agent in the Northwest.

A private banker, J. W. Scott, of Listowell, Ont., writes: "I have read your valuable journal with interest week by week for many years, and I expect that it will grow even more welcome, if that could possibly be, as time goes on."

From E. O. Denison, private banker, Minnedosa, Manitoba: "I value your paper very highly, and would not like to do without it."

"We have subscribed for your valuable paper, THE MONETARY TIMES, for the past sixteen years, and know that it has been one of our best investments." So write Dixon Bros. of Maple Creek.

The agent of the Sun Life Assurance Company writes from Winnipeg: "I am always glad to receive your journal, because of its sound views and information respecting insurance and other matters."

A subscriber in Rochester, New York, having requested from us some particulars in addition to our banking review, writes this in reply to our letter: "Many thanks for the trouble you have taken. The information was just what I required. I own considerable stock in Ontario institutions and the only way I can keep posted is by reading THE MONETARY TIMES."

A bank manager in Chatham, in thanking us for something forwarded at his request, adds: "I have been a reader of your paper since it started, and am always pleased to respond to your collector's [Mr. Oliver's] request for my renewal subscription."

From among the letters of our English and Scotch subscribers we select the following two:—From a country gentleman near Liverpool: "I have watched each week with more than usual interest this year [1894] for the coming of THE MONETARY TIMES and TRADE REVIEW, in order that I might gather from its pages how you in Canada had fared in the presence of so great a commercial and financial revulsion as that of your neighbors in the States. I am heartily glad to conclude from the facts and figures you give that Canada has suffered but little. Your financial system appears to be a sound one, and I trust that you may keep it so."

This from Glasgow: "There is much need—there has always been much need—for a check, a governor, or balance wheel in the business system of new countries at certain times. Especially is this the case in times of great prosperity, of unusual activity, or what you in America would call 'boom times.' This role, it seems to me, you aim to fill in recalling to the memories of individuals and corporate bodies the need of coolness and common sense in financial affairs. The old-fashioned virtues of caution and economy and steadiness are always of value in business. And you will perhaps allow me to congratulate you on implanting these in your readers' minds. I wish you well in the coming year."

A SECOND DISASTROUS FIRE.

Toronto has hitherto borne a good name among insurance companies, but has within the week lost much of her prestige. To have a \$500,000 fire on one Sunday, and an even more destructive conflagration on the following Thursday, is enough to make the insurance men look askance at a risk in the business part of this city. The origin of either of these fires is, so far as we can learn, as yet unexplained. It is not likely, however, that either the one or the other was the work of an incendiary.

The fire of Thursday night began in the Osgoodby building, on Melinda street, to the west of the S. F. McKinnon warehouse, which stands in ruins, the victim of Sunday's flames. Spreading from the Osgoodby building, the fire forced its way to the south and destroyed some of the best warehouses on the north side of Wellington street, namely, those of Robert Darling & Co., Thomas Dunnet & Co., R. H. Gray & Co., Brereton & Manning, Boisseau & Co., and crossing the street, did great damage to the factories and stationery stocks of Hart & Riddell and Buntin, Reid & Co. The only thing that saved the city from a fire the greatest in its history was a substantial 24-inch wall between the Hart & Riddell and Buntin, Reid & Co.'s establishment, which confined the flames within the limits they already covered, and stayed their further progress.

The means for fighting the flames appeared miserably inefficient, and a stream playing upon the third storey of a building availed but little when the flames were creeping into the fifth storey. Toronto must have better fire protection, and that at once. No spirit of false economy should procrastinate the immediate purchase of the best fire fighting appliances, and until this is done the merchants, manufacturers and insurance men of the city of Toronto will never feel secure.