

Australian Dairy Produce.

The London Daily Financial Times says: "Our Australian Colonies have asserted themselves with marvellous results since the inception of their dairy export trade in 1887. The United States and Canada have to some extent followed suit; but unless Argentina continues to show the enormous development in this particular branch of industry that characterized her during last winter, it is probable that Australasia will ere long be the chief source of our supply. At present the trade is hampered by the irregular nature of the exports. Thus during the summer months the falling off is very remarkable. Taking the monthly imports of butter during 1895 the figures, which an importation of 78,687 cwt in January, has fallen off by September to the absurd total of 90 cwt. This decline is one of the great evils in the supply system that must attract the serious attention of the Australian farmer. The method of winter feeding in Denmark is such that the exports for December and January were only exceeded by two months in the whole year. As regards France, the January exports during 1895 were the highest for the year, and the regularity of the Swedish supply is also very marked. If Australia is to advance in the British dairy produce market, it can only be by serious attention to this question of winter supply. As the prices of Danish butter are generally higher in September and October than at most other periods of the year, it is well worth the consideration of the Australian farmer whether a careful system of winter feeding for his cows would not have very satisfactory results to his own pockets.

We note a very marked increase in the butter importations from Australia, which have advanced from 786 tons in 1893 to 19,018 tons in 1895. In the same period New Zealand has increased her exports from 1,216 tons to 2,668 tons, the total Australasian butter exports to the United Kingdom ranking third among the quantities sent to us by the various countries abroad. Australasia has nearly doubled her contribution during the past three years, and ousted Sweden from third place among our sources of supply. The French exports are somewhat uncertain, and are lower than was the case a few years back, and it appears fairly certain that it will not be long before Australia will dislodge her from her second position in the list. This year, of course, the exports will be somewhat affected by the drought. The question of the continuation of the demand for Colonial produce has been mooted, and there is certainly something to be considered in the fact that the average yield of hay from permanent pastures has fallen off by some 1,400,000 tons for the past five years as compared with the five years previous. This has necessitated a large reduction in the proportion of cows kept to the general population. Were good seasons to be the rule for the next few years the demand might, therefore, show some falling off, owing to increased home production. But against this we must reckon the increased wealth of the general population, as shown by the estimated consumption per herd, which has arisen from 10.03 lbs in 1886 to 12.53 lbs in 1895. The demand for foreign produce has risen from 4.66 lbs to 7.07 lbs in that period, and that for Colonial butter from .09 lbs to 1.00 lbs.

There is thus plenty of room for an ousting of foreign produce by that of our colonies, provided that the latter look to regularity of supply and a steady maintenance of quality. Turning to the cheese imports, it would appear that Australasia, as a whole, has failed to obtain a grip upon the British markets, although the New Zealand supply shows a marked advance as compared with past years. One great obstacle to Australasia in

this respect is the increasing demand for Canadian cheeses and the comparative steadiness in the home yield. As the demand per head seems to have reached its maximum, this leaves little room for new comers. On the whole, however, there appears ample scope for the energies of the Australasian farmer, and with the wages question pressing upon the Danes, and farming maintained at as high a pitch as possible, it will not be improbable that the supply from our Colonies will be still further increased in the near future.

After Kootenay Gold

General Superintendent Whyte, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, returned last week from a trip to the famous Kootenay country. To a reporter he said that "the whole country is filled with miners and prospectors. Most of the latter are United States citizens, although many British capitalists have their men at work locating claims. I had no idea the extent to which mining operations are being carried; one has to visit the country to fully appreciate what is being done there. A million dollars of United States money has been invested in permanent machinery."

Continuing, Mr. Whyte said that "undoubtedly the greatest need and the one which will have to be supplied, if Canada is to be benefitted by the investments in the district, is the construction of a railway through Crow's Nest Pass. There are 6,000 people in Rosland now and ten thousand scattered throughout the country. Ninety per cent of these are from the United States, and as a consequence nearly all supplies are brought from across the line. The absence of a Canadian road leading to Rosland makes such a delay in getting supplies from this side that the United States get nearly the whole benefit of the money spent in this way. It is estimated that a miner requires four times as much to sustain him as an ordinary citizen in England. They are very hard on clothes and boots and have appetites that take a great deal to appease. Canadian houses are, therefore, losing a very valuable trade on account of the inability to get goods in speedily. United States roads are tapping the Kootenay district in three places and unless a Canadian road is built into it soon they will have a hold on the country that will be difficult for Canada to counteract. Some of the ore is shipped in sacks to Tacoma where the gold is extracted, and the rest is taken by our boats to Revelstoke. With the Crow's Nest Pass road built, Canada would have the benefit of all this traffic, and the miners would be greatly benefitted, and no delay would be experienced in getting the ore out."

Grocery Trade Notes.

"New apricots are firmer" says the California Grocer "and we have heard of sales of Winters & Vacaville as high as 6½c in carloads at point of production. This improved condition, however, is scarcely yet realized by the general market, though there is an impression in well informed quarters that somewhat higher values than those now prevailing may be, ere long, established. The crop, it is said, has fallen short of expectations in the Santa Clara valley. No price has yet been heard of on new peaches; but the quality, like that of the apricot crop, will probably be, on the whole, rather indifferent, much of the best fruit of these two varieties having been secured by canners. There has been talk of 8½c for the four sizes of new prunes; but no business has yet been done, though the outlook for this article appears to be better. The new crop will begin to appear about the 1st September. Some sales of new raisins have been made for de-

livery during the first half of October at 2½c for two crown, 3½c for three crown, and 4½c for four crown loose; and three crown London layers at \$1.10 to \$1.25 per box; but these rates, it is understood, are subject to any reduction that may be established up till time of delivery."

The Montreal Gazette says: "Owing to the continued slow demand for pork and the weakness in the western markets a further decline in prices has taken place here of 50c per barrel, and one or two round lots of 100 and 200 barrels of mess have been placed on Lower Province and Quebec account at \$10.25 and \$10.50, while small quantities are selling slow at an advance of 50c per barrel over the above figures. Smoked meats continue in good demand at steady prices, Hams, city cured, per lb., 7½ to 9½c; Lard, Canadian, in pails, 7 to 7½c; B. con, per lb., 8½ to 9½c; Lard, compound, refined, per lb., 5 to 5½c.

A telegram received from Vancouver on August 18 says: "Another immense run of sockeyes has taken place on the Fraser river, the boats averaging from 200 to 900 fish in a single night. Cannery will not ask for an extension of the season; they cannot commence to handle the supply. This year will be the biggest in the history of the salmon canning industry. In the Fraser's tributaries a canoe cannot be paddled through the mass of spawning sockeyes."

Fruit Growing in Manitoba.

Thos. Frankland, of Stonewall, Manitoba, takes a great interest in fruit culture, and he has done a great deal to encourage fruit growing here. Mr. Frankland is a vice-president of the Dominion Fruit Grower's Association. An exhibition will be held at Stonewall early in October, in connection with which Mr. Frankland has issued the following circular:

Believing that the cause of horticulture would be benefitted by a general exhibit of fruit now growing, I venture to ask your co-operation towards that end, by sending to my address before 1st October next samples of any cultivated or native fruit worthy of cultivation, and it will be placed on exhibition at the Rockwood Agricultural Show at Stonewall, October 7th, 1896, and each exhibit duly credited and described in the public press.

Of the larger kinds of fruits there are now growing at Stonewall over a dozen varieties of apples and crabs and a large number of varieties of plums and A. P. Stevenson, of Nelson, has as many more. No doubt other localities can report as favorably. Please help in the good cause.

Samples, one or two of each variety can be sent by sample post packed in cotton batting in a pasteboard box at small cost, and will be returned if desired after exhibition. Samples of fruit sent as they ripen will be put into cold storage until day of exhibition. Please give sender's name and address on outside of package.

Financial and Insurance Notes.

The Equitable Life Insurance Co., of New York, has notified A. H. Corelli, who manages the company's business in Winnipeg, that from this date forward all premiums collected in Canada will be held in this country, and that all death claims will be paid in the currency of this country. This gives assurance to Canadian policy holders in the Equitable, that they will be honorably dealt with, and they need not fear the payment of their claims in depreciated United States currency, in the event of the adoption of free silver in the United States. The Equitable Life is the first company to make this announcement, so far as The Commercial is aware,