

PLACE-NAMES IN CAPE BRETON.

The opinion is expressed by the Inverness correspondent of the Antigonish Casket that the selection in many cases of the names of localities in Scotland to apply to the new homes they were founding on this side the Atlantic was a happy circumstance. He goes on to say that with the exception of an Acadian population in the north, and a prosperous Irish settlement on the Margaree river, the inhabitants of Inverness county are nearly all of Highland Scottish descent; and hence such names as Glencoe, Glendale, Creignish, Bornish, Dunvegan, etc., seem peculiarly appropriate. They smack of the heather, and call up healthful memories of the ancient tartan. For a similar reason, he admits, Cheticamp, Boularderie, Mainadieu, Bras d'Or, etc., are historically fitting, seeing that they attest for all time the early Gallic possession of the island, a fact made manifest to-day by two congregations in each of the counties of Inverness and Cape Breton, and five others in the county of Richmond.

THE PRODUCTION OF COPPER IN THE UNITED STATES.

The production of copper in the United States in 1898, as reported by the United States Geological Survey, was 526,375,591 pounds, which is by far the largest product ever reported. The year, says the report, was one of general prosperity for the copper mining industry, the full product being marketed at prices slightly better than those of 1897. The actual scarcity of copper, with its accompanying upward rush in price and its enormous expansion of stock speculation, did not in reality develop until the end of the year, and it did not tell upon the returns. As was expected, the increase in the production of copper was the largest in Arizona, while the lake district also recorded an advance. Montana fell off considerably.

Intense activity has developed in the search for new copper mines, and a large number of new undertakings have started. But the preparations for output on even a moderate scale in the way of opening mining property and providing a reduction plant are so large and require so much time, that few of the newcomers will add materially to the copper market of 1899. What increase there will be will come from the older mines, and that chiefly from Arizona, the Lakes, California, and Utah.

BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Bank of British Columbia was held on July 19th, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Eng., Mr. H. J. Gardiner presiding. The chairman expressed regret at the absence of Sir Robert Gillespie, who was indisposed. He said that the results, as telegraphed, justify the directors in recommending a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year, carrying forward a balance rather more than was brought forward in January last. Our advices state that the indications of trade, whether as regards California, Oregon or British Columbia, are all favorable, bearing evidence to increasing activity and to developments of enterprise; but, on the other hand, we have to report that, with improving prospects, comes also increased competition, and increased difficulty of obtaining remuneration for the bank on the old scale, or on a scale which, in the opinion of the directors, is commensurate with the accommodation they are called upon to afford. This will be readily understood when I inform you that, whereas a few years ago

there were only two banks, there are now more than eight banks operating in the province of British Columbia, in addition to other financial institutions who advance money on loan. The problems which we have to work out are, to combine enterprise with caution, and to meet the growing requirements of British Columbia with economy in expenditure.

British Columbia, the chief seat of our operations, is a country of large possibilities; but, owing to its small population, of comparatively slow development. It is gifted by nature with qualities which warrant belief that at some future time it will rival the Old Country in population, wealth and industry, but these developments will not be in the time of any of those present in this room to-day. We must be content to do our part towards bringing about this state of affairs, and endeavor to obtain benefit to the bank in connection with the circumstances and conditions which exist. He then moved: "That a dividend be paid on the paid-up capital of the bank at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, for the half-year ended June 30th last, payable on or after the 22nd inst."

Mr. T. G. Gillespie seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, without comment.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

The following were among the trade enquiries received at the Canadian Government Office in London during the past few weeks:

A North of England firm desires to find a market in Canada for English and Scotch wools.

A firm in the Midlands are wanting to import direct from Canada, cattle hides and other animal products, and wish to get into communication with suitable firms with a view to business.

An enquiry has been received from an important firm in the preserved provision line, who desire to appoint reliable houses to represent them in the Dominion.

An agent at Gothenburg, who is prepared to handle Canadian produce—especially flour and bacon—and who can work the whole of Sweden, desires to correspond with houses open to do business.

A gentleman in the North of England asks for the names of high-class firms who put up Canadian evaporated fruits.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, August 17th, 1899.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Seasonable activity continues to rule the market. For choice dairy butter there is good demand. Dairy tubs are bringing 14 to 15c. per lb., and prints 15 to 16c. per lb. Creamery is steady, with tubs and boxes quoted 19c., and prints are worth 20 to 21c. per lb. Cheese is high in price, and the local trade remains good. For eggs prices remain about unchanged at 12 to 12½c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—For autumn trade there is a good distributing movement on the part of the wholesale houses. The assorting trade has been active the past two months. In the old days when merchants made all their purchases twice a year, July and December were dead months to wholesale merchants, but in the present buy-as-you-need-policy, filling assorting orders keeps the houses busy from the end of the first of a season's campaign until the commencement of a new season. Values are steady and quiet.

GRAIN.—The new wheat crop is now a factor in the market. With more complete returns to hand as to Ontario fall wheat it appears that the yield has not been

more than about 50 per cent. of a normal crop. Old wheat is pretty well out of dealers' hands, although farmers are said to be holding good supplies. A merchant was heard to express the opinion that there was about as much 1898 Ontario fall wheat in primary hands as 1899, but this is a somewhat exaggerated statement of the condition of the market. New oats are moving at about 24c. per bushel. New peas are now in the market and are quoted 47c. per bushel.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY.

	Aug. 12, 1899.	Aug. 15, 1898.
Wheat	36,256,000	6,897,000
Corn	10,185,000	16,017,000
Oats	3,887,000	3,081,000
Rye	572,000	449,000
Barley	358,000	243,000

GREEN FRUITS.—Business is good. On the Scott street market the supply of domestic fruits has been irregular, and some days have witnessed a glut and very low prices. On the whole, however, returns have been quite satisfactory. The weather has not been all that is required for a large consumption of lemons, but as stocks are not excessive and the statistical position generally is sound, prices have continued firm. We quote: Lemons.—Extra fancy, 360's, 300's, repacked, \$3.50 to \$4; fancy, 300's, 360's, repacked, \$3 to \$3.25; extra choice, 300's, 360's, \$2.50 to \$2.75. Bananas have good steady call, and at \$1.35 to \$1.65 per bunch, prices are steady.

GROCERIES.—For the holiday season business is good, and the movement to the country of staple lines is generally all that can be desired. Values are very steady. The salmon market is firm in view of a rather disappointing pack. Interest in the new fruit season is being awakened. Mail advices from Smyrna are to the effect that the new figs are coming in early and in quality look very good. The crop is now estimated at 35,000 to 40,000 loads. Nothing new has developed in California fruits. Shippers on the Coast are apparently not pressing business, and seem to have confidence in the future of the market. Collections are fairly good.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Hides are firmer, and for No. 1 cured, local merchants are asking 9½c. per lb. Tanners are naturally not jubilant over the higher cost of material, but transactions are being made on this basis. Local supplies are quite normal, and the strength of the market comes mainly from across the border line. Skins are steady and without change. Tallow remains steady and without alteration.

LEATHER.—A steady trade continues to be done in leather. Prices are not by any means what they should be in view of the continued high price of hides, but in most cases there is a fair working margin. The market would stand a strong united effort on the part of black leather tanners to get their own out of the trade.

LIVE STOCK.—The receipts at the Western Cattle Market last week were 1,878 cattle, 2,914 sheep and lambs, 5,057 hogs, and 45 calves. Trade this week has been fairly active. Receipts were rather large, although a large proportion of it was of an inferior description. Good export cattle were sold at \$4.25 to \$5 per cwt. Butchers' cattle of choice grade were not in evidence; for it from \$3.75 to \$4.25 was paid, but the bulk of trading was done in low grade cattle at about \$2.50 per cwt. The price of calves ranged from \$2 to \$7 each. Spring lambs were worth 25c. per cwt. more than at the close of last week, prices ranging \$3 to \$4 each. Sheep brought \$2.50 to \$3.60 per cwt. There was a normal supply of hogs, prices ranging from \$4.25 for light and heavy weights to \$5.62½ per cwt. for choice weights.