

agree permanently to go out of the business of furnishing quotations. The Board of Trade men regard this as an important victory. They will, on the 1st April, discontinue furnishing quotations.

—It is well for merchants to be made aware that there is in Toronto, as we are informed, an organization of some such name as the City Registration Company. This organization is said to exist for the purpose of detecting firms which do not register their partnerships. The law provides a penalty for merchants who neglect this precaution of registration, and such firms need not be surprised if they are summoned before a magistrate and fined because they are not registered according to the statute.

—The business men of Minnedosa have formed an association on the lines suggested by the Winnipeg retailers' convention. G. A. Hogarth was elected president, and H. S. Taylor secretary.

## Meetings.

### BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The fifty-fourth yearly general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of British North America was held on Tuesday, 4th inst., at the offices of the corporation, 3 Clement's lane, Lombard street, London, Eng., under the presidency of Mr. G. D. Whatman.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said the net profit of the past year, after deducting all current charges, and providing for bad and doubtful debts, was rather less than the previous year, being £84,668, as against £85,058. With the sum of £1,407 brought forward they had an available balance of £86,076, and out of that the directors proposed to pay the same dividend as they did at this time last year—namely, 7½ per cent., and to add the sum of £5,000 to the Reserve (which would bring that fund up to the satisfactory total of £255,000), besides transferring £2,000 to the Officers' Pension Fund. The latter was started four years ago for the purpose of providing a fund ultimately sufficient to pay a pension to retired officers of the bank. The shareholders cordially received the proposal of the directors to start this fund, but nothing had been added to the £4,000, which was the sum at which it commenced, except the interest, until now. The general business of the bank during the past year had not differed very materially from that of the preceding one—in fact, 1889 was an uneventful year in the history of the bank. The harvest in Canada had been a fair one, though perhaps not quite so good as was expected at one time. The rates they had received during the past year for discount in America had been much the same as those of the previous year. Higher rates prevailed in London during the latter part of the year, but they did not affect the bank's profits very much, as nearly all its resources were employed in Canada and very little in London.

The character of their business maintained its high standard, and continued to be very satisfactory to the directors. They must not forget that this result was to a very great extent due to the attention and zeal displayed by the officers of the bank in all the branches, both in America and London, from the general manager downwards. There had been no new branches opened during the year, excepting the one that was opened at the commencement, which was progressing satisfactorily. The shareholders were aware that from time to time it had been the custom of the directors to ask one of their colleagues to go to America, and visit the branches. This year he had been asked to undertake this duty, and he was to start at the end of next week. He intended to pay a visit to all the branches. These visits had been beneficial to the bank, and he trusted that his visit would result in his making the acquaintance, not only of the officers of the branches, but also of many of their customers. It was proposed to fill the vacancy on the

board, caused by the death of Mr. Murray Robertson, by the appointment at an extraordinary meeting of Mr. Gaspard Farrer, a partner in the well known firm of Messrs. H. S. Lefevre & Co.

Mr. Henry R. Farrer seconded the adoption of the report, which was unanimously agreed to. The retiring directors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman and his colleagues.

### SQUARE TIMBER CUT.

Eight million, two hundred and eighty-five thousand cubic feet, is the estimated square timber cut of the Upper Ottawa lumbermen for the season of 1889-90. The selling value of this at the average rate of 26 cents per cubic foot, is \$2,154,100. This amount also represents in trees cut down, counting fifty cubic feet to a tree, 165,700. This is in excess of the cut of any previous season, due to the brisk demand of last year.

The cut per individual firms is as follows:

R. H. Klock & Co	1,150,000
A. Fraser	600,000
Hurdman & Co	550,000
Hale & Booth	500,000
Hawkesbury Lumber Co.	450,000
D. Moore (estate)	400,000
Gillies Bros.	400,000
Thistle Carswell	400,000
Caldwell	300,000
A. Lumsden	250,000
R. Booth	250,000
McCuaig & Moorehead	250,000
Carswell & Francis	250,000
Barnett & Mackie	250,000
A. Barnett	215,000
McLachlin Bros.	200,000
Rochester, Doherty & Co.	200,000
W. Mackey	175,000
J. & G. Bryson	150,000
J. Mackey	150,000
Emery Lumber Co.	150,000
E. S. Skead	130,000
Rayside & McMaster	125,000
R. Gorman	120,000
Perley & Pattee	120,000
Booth & Murtagh	100,000
O. Sills	100,000
J. B. Booth	80,000
O'Brien & Barry	80,000
J. K. Ward	80,000
James Agert	60,000
James Bellisle	50,000
Total cubic feet	8,285,000

—Ottawa Jubilee.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES.

The following is a recapitulation of the yield and value of the fisheries of the Province of British Columbia for the year 1889:

Kinds of fish.	Quantity.	Price.	Value.
Salmon in c's lbs.	20,122,138	\$ 0 12	\$2,414,655 36
Salmon, fh. lbs.	2,187,000	0 10	218 700 00
Salmon, salted, bbls.	3,748	10 00	37,480 00
Salmon, skd. lbs.	12,900	0 20	2,580 00
Sturgeon, fh. lbs.	318,600	0 05	15,930 00
Halibut, fh. lbs.	605,050	0 05	30,252 50
Herrings, fh. lbs.	190,060	0 05	9,503 00
Herrings, skd. lbs.	33,000	0 10	3,300 00
Oolachans, fh. lbs.	82,500	0 10	8,250 00
Oolachans, skd. lbs.	6,700	0 20	1,340 00
Oolachans, sd. bbls.	380	10 00	3,800 00
Trout, fh. lbs.	14,025	0 10	1,402 50
Fish, ast. lbs.	321,725	0 05	16,136 25
Smelts, fh. lbs.	52,100	0 06	3,126 00
Skil, skd. lbs.	1,560	12 00	18,720 00
Tooshque, fh. lbs.	268,350	0 05	13,417 50
Fur seal skins	33,570	10 00	335,700 00
Hair seal skins	7,000	0 75	5,250 00
Sea otter skins	115	100 00	11,500 00
Fish oil, gals.	141,420	0 50	70,710 00
Oysters, sacks	3,000	1 75	5,250 00
Clams, sacks	3,500	1 75	6,125 00
Mussels, sacks	250	2 00	500 00
Crabs, No.	175,000	0 03	5,250 00
Abelones, boxes	100	5 00	500 00
Isinglass, lbs.	5,000	0 35	1,750 00
Estimate of fish consumed in the province			\$ 100,000 00
Estimate of shrimps, prawns, etc.			5,000 00
Estimated consumption by Indian population:			
Salmon		\$2,732 500	
Halibut		190,000	
Sturgeon and other fish		280,000	
Fish oils		75,000	
			3,257 500 00

Grand total approximate yield, 1889. \$6,605,597 61

In the annual report of the department the amount of Indian consumption is not included; and therefore, omitting for comparative purposes the Indian catch, it will be perceived that last season's output shows an extraordi-

nary increase over 1888 and 1887, the figures for which are:

1888	\$1,902,198
1887	1,974,887

Inspector Mowat urges that a steamer be provided to be employed in developing and protecting the deep sea fisheries of British Columbia along the entire coast. The great need for such a steamer had long been apparent.

### TESTING THE FORTH BRIDGE.

The preliminary test of the Forth Bridge was made January 21. The two 1,700-feet spans were tested by placing on the centres two trains, each made up of 50 loaded coal cars and three of the heaviest engines, the total load thus massed being about 1,800 tons, or more than double that which will be thrown upon the bridge in practice. The observed deflections were in accordance with the calculations of the engineers, and the bridge exhibited exceptional stiffness in all directions. It is also stated that during a heavy gale a few days before, when the wind gauges indicated a pressure of 37 pounds per square foot, the maximum lateral movement of the great cantilever was less than one inch.

The first passenger train crossed the bridge January 24th, carrying the engineers and a number of officers of the Great Northern & North British Companies. The train crossed at a speed of 12 miles an hour, and returned at about 15 miles an hour. The formal opening took place on March 4th.

### HE TOOK IN THE SIGN.

A certain retail merchant put a sign on his store which read "Good Butter for Sale Here." His friends, one after another, came along and criticised the sign. One suggested that the word "good" was superfluous, for he would not expect to sell any other kind than good butter. Accordingly, this word was taken from the sign. Another said that the final word "here" was unnecessary, because a merchant would not attempt to sell butter anywhere else than in his store. Still another suggested that the phrase "for sale" was superfluous, for he would not have the butter for any other purpose than to sell. By successive alterations based upon these suggestions of his friends, the sign was at last reduced to one word—"Butter." Finally, some one else came along and convinced him that even that word was unnecessary, because every country store kept butter. People expected to find butter in retail grocery stores, and therefore advertising that article was altogether unnecessary. Thereupon the merchant withdrew the little that was left of the sign.—Retail Grocers' Advocate.

### THE RISE IN ALKALI PRODUCTS.

American manufacturers of paper, soap, cotton fabrics, and woollen goods, as well as the glassmakers, are, says the *New York Times*, seriously affected by the big increase in the prices of the alkali products, soda ash, caustic soda, bleaching powder, and sal soda, all of which chemicals are chiefly imported from England, although one big concern, the Solvay Company, with works at Syracuse, also produces them. The American makers of bicarbonate of soda are also affected, because soda ash is their staple raw material. This has gone up from 1½ to 2½ and 3 cents per pound, bleaching powder from 1½ to 2½ and 2½ cents, caustic soda from 2½ to 3½ cents, and sal soda from 90 cents to \$1.50 per 100 pounds. The resulting advance in bicarbonate of soda made in America is fully 100 per cent.

A member of the firm of J. L. & D. S. Riker said to a *Times* reporter: "There is no doubt about the cause of this advance in alkali products. Other staple chemicals have not gone up. The big strikes in England, particularly the dock strike and that of the colliers, are chiefly responsible. Then the advance of 100 per cent. in the cost of salt used by all these manufacturers must be considered, as well as the scarcity of coal. It is hard to get over here even the stock that is ready to be shipped, because the steamships select their own freight and do not care to take cheap matter of this class. English manufacturers are doing their best to fill contracts here, but the obligation