

have selected a committee of fifteen to consider the matter. The men chosen are capable men whose names would carry weight on the board of a financial corporation, and are sought after for places where they get a guinea a sitting, but for that reason are not likely to do much on a body, where there will be more kicks than coppers. So far the chief business of the secretary has been to receive notes from gentlemen honored, saying, "I pray you have me excused." When there is a definite purpose and organization on one side, and neither on the other it is easy to see what manner of tariff will be hatched, when the colonies get together. It was stated some time ago that Mr. G. H. Reid, the ex-Premier of New South Wales, would head a free trade fight. So far he has shown no signs of action. He is credited with having no inclination to lead a fight with apathetic supporters, and, shrewd man, he is waiting.

The first tariff will in some measure be a compromise and, therefore, a hodge podge. In the main, however, it will at least be a twenty per cent. one, and twenty per cent. in Australia, so much further removed from competing centres, is as good as thirty in Canada.

Mr. Begg of the Irving Umbrella Co. Toronto, is here. That company sent out some samples some time ago, but the report was not too favorable. On top of this discouragement it has sent out its own traveller with a fine lot of samples. He has begun work, taken some orders, and is mightily pleased with his reception by the wholesale trade. He is a little too early, as the season begins after stocktaking in January, but he intends to stop on and do the colonies, and he asserts he will get twenty-five thousand dollars of orders on this trip. I think he is a bit too sanguine, as he has not yet met in its force the dislike of the Australian trade to introduce new fangles, and the strength of his line are novelties here. He will get a good many orders nevertheless, and make a profitable trip. The enterprise and grit of the Toronto firm deserves it. The application is, when you want trade here do it in earnest.

F. W.

Sydney, New South Wales, 21st November, 1899.

MARITIME PROVINCE ITEMS, MINING AND OTHER.

There is a likelihood that the Messrs. Peters, whose tannery at St. John was burned not long ago, will rebuild it at or near Fredericton. Some conference has been had with Messrs. Peters by citizens of Fredericton.

Digby, N.S., is hoping for the establishment of a factory. It is learned by The Courier that Mr. Owen F. Oakes has induced his present employer to back him in establishing a knitting factory on the corner of Sydney street and First avenue. "A large number of hands will be employed, and the coming industry will be a big thing for Digby as it will help to put a Saturday night cash system in our town."

A number of submarine coal areas have lately been taken up under prospecting licenses, at Broad Cove, C.B., in the name of Mr. Mann of the firm of McKenzie and Mann, of Ontario and British Columbia. These areas along with the many others which the firm of contractors have bonded, give them the right to secure more than a score of square miles of territory, and may be taken as a guarantee that business on a big scale is meant.—Hawkesbury Journal.

The lumber cut in the vicinity of Parrsboro, N.S., last winter was much below the usual mark, but the deal shipments from this port aggregated 30,552,665 feet. Of this quantity 20,650,695 feet were shipped by W. M. McKay, of St. John, and 9,901,970 feet by Geo. McKean, also of St. John. The lumber cut this winter will probably be twice as large as it was last year.

During November ten steamers landed 26,102 tons of coal at Boston from Cape Breton, but this month's receipts will overshadow that, as the first ten days a fleet of six steamers brought in 19,835 tons.

The Southern Gold Mining Company, composed of persons resident of Antigonish town, and of which Dr. Agnew is president, have some eighty areas of gold-mining property at Isaac's Harbor, west side. A shaft has been sunk on the property fifty feet deep within the past month, and a belt of ore eight feet wide has been located, from which there are five leads, four being gold-bearing. Some good sites have been secured from

them. The company are taking out 100 tons of ore, for the purpose of ascertaining the paying qualities of it.

Orders have been received by Colonel Granger, manager of the Coxheath Copper Mines, to cease operations. It is stated that the Cape Breton Copper Co. are soon to transfer their areas to a syndicate, already organized, consisting of Canadian and London capitalists, and that this mine will soon be vigorously developed. A smelter is to be established, and the Beechmont mine, which has hitherto only been partially developed, is to be worked vigorously and the copper mined and shipped to the principal markets.

One of those dreadful accidents that seem inseparable from the mining business has lately occurred at Sydney. At the mining pit, Sydney Mines, some days ago, six men were seriously injured. As the second gang of men were being lowered in the mine to begin the day's work, an accident happened to the hoisting gear and the cage went by the run 380 feet to the bottom of the shaft. There were six men in the cage and all were more or less injured.

The mail steamer "Lake Huron," which left St. John last Monday for Liverpool via Halifax, took as cargo, among other things, 40,000 bushels of grain, 50 tons of provisions, about 2,000 barrels of apples, 5 carloads of eggs, 5 of cheese, and a lot of general stuff. Also 345 cattle and about 400 sheep.

The three Furness boats for the direct London service to St. John have been settled upon. They are the "Sylviana," "Cebriana" and the "Daltonhall." The latter is 2,245 tons net and 3,410 tons gross, with a dead-weight capacity of 5,550 tons. She will sail on her maiden voyage on Christmas Day for St. John. Both she and the "Cebriana" are new, the "Sylviana" was built last year. So the London service will be performed by up-to-date steamers.

Furness, Withy & Co. have arranged to divide the work of their steamers at St. John the coming winter between the two labor associations. The London steamers will be worked by the old and the Manchester steamers by the new society.

Fred. W. Annand, son of the late Charles Annand, has been appointed immigration agent at Halifax, in place of Mr. J. A. Kirk, appointed warden of Dorchester Penitentiary.

The secretary of the Canadian Freight Agents' Association says he understands the Minister of Railways will approve of the new classification of freight, which has been before the Government for over a year.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION MERCHANTS.

The putting up of vegetables and fruits in tin packages has become an enormous industry in the United States. A week ago the New York State Packers' Association met at the Yates Hotel in Syracuse, the president, F. F. Hubbard, of Canastota, presiding. The meeting lasted four hours, and resulted in an agreement that prices will be advanced. This will not take place, however, until 1st January, 1900. The discussions of the day included the question of prices for next year; the proposed reclassification of canned goods by the trunk lines, and a uniform contract between packers and jobbers. The subject of the proposed New York State combination of packers was also discussed.

Fortunes are not being made in turnips now-a-days. One schooner's cargo recently sold in Boston is said to have netted the shipper the magnificent sum of \$1.80.—St. Andrew's Beacon.

The official estimates of the wheat area of New South Wales are 1,361,511 acres, with a probable yield of 13,660,700 bushels, available surplus for export 90,000 tons.

The Government having altogether refused a guarantee of interest at 3 per cent. on a million dollars, the Quebec abattoir men have now asked for an annual subsidy not to exceed \$30,000 a year.

It is said that now that the Fraser River cannery intend organizing a combine and have held several meetings to that end, the fishermen themselves will take a hand in the matter. A meeting was held a couple of evenings ago of representative men from among the fishermen who have been working on the Fraser for years. It has been suggested among the fishermen, although no definite action has yet been taken, that they will