

The following are the principal regulations proposed:

1. All goods may freely enter these zones without paying any customs duty, and may equally be sent out free of duty if destined for export. 2. The manufacturing and other handling of goods in these zones will be exempt from all customs formalities and duties. 3. The necessary buildings of every kind will be allowed within the zones. 4. Food and drink consumed within the zones will pay the proper taxes. 5. These free zones are to be established solely to favor exportation, and only in those cases in which no harm can be done to the existing home industries. Any goods sent from these zones into the interior of the country will be subject to customs duties under the maximum tariff, augmented by a surtax."

The above summary explains the scheme. The Italians have discovered that duties upon imports make it difficult to do an export trade. The Italian Chambers of Commerce therefore propose that factories and workshops shall be established at the sea ports in zones free from all customs duties. There is already one such zone on a small scale at Genoa. The free area is surrounded with lofty iron railings, and armed policemen are constantly on the watch to prevent smuggling. This will serve as the type for the more extensive scheme now proposed.

"The scheme," comments Mr. Cox, "is chiefly of interest to Englishmen as showing how protection breaks down in practice by its own weight, and how protectionists are driven to all kinds of subterfuges to escape the logical consequences of a false theory. This free zone plan will obviously be injurious to many Italian manufacturers in the interior, for they will be unable to continue—in face of the competition of the free zones—any export trade that they may have already developed."

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Linseed oil, both raw and boiled, has declined in price three cents per gallon. There is a fair demand.

A Toronto company has just received a charter from the local legislature to act under the name of the Ontario Live Stock Company, Limited, capital stock of \$300,000.

The Lakeside cheese factory near Harrington, Ont., has been totally destroyed by fire, including a large part of the July make of cheese. The loss was about \$2,000, insured.

The Russians are said to be preparing to engage in salmon fishing off the Siberian coast, on a large scale. Canneries will be erected at Pankara and Barankroff Bays, on the Siberian coast.

The growing crop of opium in Turkey-in-Asia is now estimated at not more than 2,500 cases, the smallest yield for fifteen years. Last year it was 10,500 cases, while in 1893 it was only 2,845. Prices are very firm.

The shipments of dairy produce seaward from Montreal last week were large. They consisted of 105,737 boxes of cheese, making the total shipments of this navigable season 1,156,463 boxes, which is 249,000 boxes ahead of last year to same date. The total quantity of butter shipped was 119,444, which is less than in the corresponding period of 1902.

M. Louis Parisot, an eminent French chemist, has discovered a liquid which, he says, will keep eggs quite fresh for a period of twelve years. If he can do it for one year he has fortune enough, but many others have thought they had the trick and failed. Early last year, it is said, he placed a large number of new laid eggs in this liquid, and he took the precaution to get a magistrate to witness the proceeding and to affix to the tank his official seal. At the expiration of twelve months the magistrate witnessed the opening of the tank, and the eggs were found in excellent condition. Four, which were selected hap-hazard from the tank, were at once boiled for eating, and were found to be in first rate condition and of excellent flavor. Later on the inventor had another triumph, some eggs which had been in the liquid for four months were successfully hatched, eight out of twelve which were placed under the hen proving fertile. M. Parisot states that he can preserve a thousand eggs with his preparation for the sum of fifteen cents.

A Yokohama (Japan) report of last month, says: "Like first crop teas, second crop teas are a little earlier than usual in coming on the market. Owing to dry weather during the flush the leaf is short and the cup character a little earthy. The country merchant, however, has seen the avidity with which first crop teas were taken this year and remembers the extraordinary demand for second crop teas at advancing values last year, but forgets they were needed then to make good the deficiency of a very short first crop. An effort is being made by influential tea men to effect an agreement amongst growers to cease picking August 1st, just after the best of the third crop has been gathered. This is not for the purpose of maintaining prices, but for the ultimate good of the gardens. The steady deterioration in the quality of Japan teas noticed in the past five years is forcing the conviction that the gardens have been cropped too closely."

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

The following is a list of enquiries received at the Commercial Agency of the Dominion of Canada at Birmingham from 31st May to 11th July.

Among British buyers, one wants to buy wooden handles for chisels, awls, and other tools; another to buy cider apples. A Liverpool house would buy large quantities of soap-boxes, 14¼ by 11½ by 8½ inches; ends, ¾ in. thick; tops, bottoms and sides, ¾ in. thick; sides and ends in one piece, tops and bottoms in two pieces, to be packed in shooks and bundles by wire. Another Liverpool house asks for shippers of mica, plumbago and graphite. Flour merchants ask for 200 to 250 barrels per day of flour from a Canadian mill. A Birmingham house asks for firms in Canada who make roofing materials in galvanized iron, building materials, agricultural and gardening implements, and general hardware for export to South Africa. A firm dealing in salmon, poultry, and game would like to arrange for regular shipments.

A steam plough maker, who has a new plan, wants to dispose of it in Canada, and would correspond with traction engine makers. A firm who are agents in Britain for the Australian woods, karri and jarrah, which are suited for paving, would like to correspond with Canadian firms.

Agents in Canada are wanted by a British maker of paints; of sanitary tubes, firebricks, glazed bricks, etc.; of syringes and horticultural sundries; of guns and rifles; of mirrors; of electroplate wares in the rough; of military specialties.

A firm of British mattress makers would buy from Canada about twenty standards per month of pitch pine scantlings, varied sizes. He seems not to know that Canada does not produce pitch pine. One man asks if cattle are exported direct to South Africa; another as to his prospects of setting up in Canada a factory of spades and shovels. A Canadian asks as to the English market for wood flour, and the purposes it is used for.

Canadian Buyers ask about blades for pen-knives; brass and steel tubes for bedstead making; Russia iron sheets. Canadian Sellers would dispose of wooden handles, veneers, etc.; pork in barrels or boxes; bath tubs and enamel ware; canned salmon; raw furs.

Canadian Agents offer for the following lines of goods: dyestuffs, oils and drugs; rifles, guns, saddlery hardware and cutlery; paints, oils and glues; tanners' supplies and dyestuffs; pig iron, copper, steel. Canadian firm making wagons and dump carts would appoint an agent in Britain. Another desires to buy tapered tubing, to take the place of wooden tongues of wagons.

From the Canadian Government Offices in London we receive the following memoranda of enquiries: A London firm of grain brokers wish to act as agents for a reliable firm of grain merchants in Canada. Names of shippers of Gaspé dried codfish are asked for. A South Africa firm enquires through its English agents about Canadian-made disc ploughs, mealie planters and manna-sowing machines. A Belfast firm desires to represent Canadian milling firms which export flake and cut meal, etc.

The Imperial Institute, London, send us the following enquiries received by the Canadian Section: A company making edge tools wishes to hear from Canadian makers who