

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN
YORKSHIRE.

In the district of which Leeds and Hull are the centre there would appear to be a growing appreciation of Canadian produce. Mr. J. B. Jackson, who is the Canadian trade agent there, writes, interestingly on some points connected with this trade. Many enquiries have been made about apples; the excellence of the fruit and the improved methods of packing and grading, though much still remains to be done in this latter respect, being very greatly appreciated. As a rule the XXX apples seem to be well graded and packed, but this is not the case with the XX fruit, which should not be the case. Second class apples should be as well graded and packed as the first class, and it is Mr. Jackson's opinion that the former could be sold in the proportion of three to one of the others, and that growers would make from them their largest profit, because if not shipped they are an absolute loss. This is an opinion, however, which we believe is scarcely shared by the best authorities.

Speaking of lumber, Mr. Jackson says: I am of the opinion that the Canadian exporters overlook the possibility of the North Country trade; especially is this the case with regard to timber. Hull is one of the largest timber ports in Great Britain, and there are upwards of seventy firms doing business, either directly or indirectly, in connection with the importation of timber, pit props, mining timber, lumber, telephone poles, etc., and it has an excellent market for Canadian woods. Canada is very greatly hampered in this direction by not having a direct line, and this lack of communication will be more intensified in the future owing to Australia having entered the field as a direct shipper. I had the pleasure of a conference the other day with the managing director of two of the largest collieries in South Yorkshire. With regard to pit props and pit timber he said: "We need hardly say that we should hail with delight the advent of a colonial competitor into our pit wood market." These two collieries pay for pit props alone on an average about £6,000 per year, and in addition to this about one-half as much in mining timber. The sizes that would be required for the main roads would be at least eight inches in diameter at the small end and averaging from six to eight feet in length.

Pit Prop Prices.

The prices that these companies are paying for pit props delivered at their collieries are as follows: The prices per 72 lineal feet: Four-inch pit props, 4s. 3d.; five-inch pit props, 5s. 4d.; six-inch pit props, 7s.; six-inch pit props, 8s. 3d.; six-inch pit props, 9s. 6d.

It is gratifying to learn that the appreciation of Canadian bacon is increasing, and is gaining in popularity every day as against American bacon. A large Sheffield produce merchant said

(FIRE)
German American
Insurance Company
New York

CAPITAL
\$1,500,000

NET SURPLUS
5,841,907

ASSETS
12,980,705

AGENCIES THROUGHOUT CANADA.

the other day: "We are more than satisfied with the Canadian bacon; it is making wonderful advances, and our customers, especially the better class, invariably prefer Canadian to American, and, although we are generally able to judge from appearances as to whether the sample produced is American or Canadian, still we should like to have a skin brand on the Canadian, so that we can always be sure we get the genuine article. Whenever a certain line of bacon is in demand, inferior kinds are often foisted on the English buyer, instead of the original, but a skin brand would solve the whole difficulty." It would be better for the Canadian bacon trade, if at any time it were absolutely necessary for packers in Canada to import American hogs, that the bacon from these imported hogs should be branded, "Canadian cured from American hogs." The English consumer would still prefer that Canadian bacon should be harder cured, and more after the style of the salt cure used in England.

Mr. Jackson also mentions that there is a very large and increasing demand for Canadian tinned tomatoes. These should be packed in 2, 2½ and 3 pounds. English tomatoes, either home-grown under glass or imported from Spain or the Canary Islands, are not at all the equal of the Canadian tomato, either in size, color or flavor. It also has a greater quantity of seeds, and, although, whilst fresh and uncooked, it is not such a poor imitation of the Canadian one, but when canned it is not at all to be compared with the Canadian goods. English dealers express surprise that Canadian canners do not push these goods more.

FIRE INSURANCE ITEMS.

On Tuesday last Mr. A. Howard, late of the London, Ont., fire department, was appointed chief of Berlin fire brigade, succeeding Frank Seibert. Chief Howard has already taken charge.

The Kingston Fire Insurance Company, a St. John, N.B., concern, has declared a 6 per cent. dividend. This, we are told, is the first dividend the company has paid since its reorganization several years ago.

LIFE AND ACCIDENT.

A compilation of the accidents which happened in Chicago last year shows that there were 9,371 accidents, 865 of them being fatal and 8,506 non-fatal. The street car casualties alone numbered 2,491, of which 115 were fatal and 2,376 non-fatal. The total railroad casualties were 959, of which 246 were fatal and 713 non-fatal. Accidents from other causes numbered 5,921, of which 504 were fatal and the remainder were not.

There is a regulation passed by the French Government last month, says the New York "Globe," whereby hereafter a French insurance company on ordinary life policies is limited to the expenditure of 3½ per cent. for management, 6 per cent. for premium collection, and 1 per cent. for canvassing for new business, and on endowment policies the deductions may not be more than 5 per cent. for management, 2½ per cent. for premium collections, and ½ per cent. for canvassing. This should make American and Canadian life underwriters rub their eyes. How is it these

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