

THE EGG TRADE.

A free discussion of trade methods is necessary to secure desirable improvements. Messrs. Gunn Bros. & Co., of Toronto, have recently issued a circular pointing out some of the defects in the present methods of the egg business, and they offer several valuable suggestions for improvement. They say: "It is the little things that often make or unmake great industries. We do not intend to offer any advice as to the best breeds of poultry, further than to say that farmers do not, as a rule, look after their poultry with that intelligence and care that is bestowed on other live stock of the farm. Experts tell us that by selecting only the best layers for breeders, and mating to suitable pure-breeds, the average egg production of whole flocks has in a few years been raised from 150 to 250 eggs per annum. In addition the size of the eggs has been increased, a very important item, as in the export trade it is essential that the eggs should average one and one-half pounds per dozen. * * The loss in the value of eggs offered in Toronto and other markets through careless handling, is each year considerable. The slightest crack renders the egg valueless for pickling or cold storage purposes, and when sold as "checks" or cracked eggs, from two to three cents per dozen less than standard prices must be accepted. Collected from the nests in a haphazard way and carried to market over rough roads in an ordinary basket, there is usually considerable breakage before the eggs reach the store, where they run the chance of further loss by the handling of the merchant or his assistants. Loss in this way is inevitable, so long as proper egg carriers are not used. These egg cases can be purchased at a very nominal figure, say 25 cents for a thirty-dozen case, and by careful usage will last for years. 'Keep the eggs clean,' is the advice which every merchant would impress upon the owners of poultry. An abundance of fresh straw in the hen-house is not a heavy expense, and it is essential to a profitable market."

Great Britain spends annually about \$15,000,000 in purchasing foreign eggs, and by the exercise of care and intelligence the farmers of Canada should be able to secure a fair proportion of this amount.

The price of rubber, which has been for some time advancing, is now so high that the Canadian rubber factories have resolved upon an advance in prices of rubber shoes and other products. New price lists are now in preparation, and the change will, we are informed, shortly be made known to the trade. The Canadian factories are: The Canadian Rubber Company, of Montreal, capacity 7,000 pairs a day; the Granby Rubber Company, say, 3,900 pairs; the Toronto Rubber Shoe Manufacturing Company, of Port Dalhousie, 3,000 pairs; the Gutta Percha and Rubber Company, of Toronto, 1,500 pairs, and the Rubber Works at St. Jerome, Que., say 1,000 pairs. Their combined capacity is thus about 5,133,000 pairs per annum, sufficient to provide one pair of rubbers for each man, woman and child in the Dominion. So great is the output and so varied the styles of rubber shoes now produced in Canada that the importation of such goods from the United States has become very small. According to the trade returns, it amounted to only some \$29,000 in the last fiscal year.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE.

Whereas, large quantities of Fraser River salmon are caught in traps in American waters, while on their way to the said river, and a large amount of Canadian labor is required and employed on this side in taking care of and packing said salmon, in the manufacture of boxes, labels, etc., steamboat hire, and in various other ways:

And whereas such trap fishing on the American side by Canadian cannery owners in no way interferes with the fishermen on this side, special preparations being made for handling all fish so caught:

And whereas large numbers of our white and Indian fishermen are leaving for the Klondyke gold fields, and the railway construction to Teslin Lake, thus very materially decreasing the available numbers of fishermen:

And whereas the cannery owners are greatly hampered in the prosecution of their business by the uncertainty as to whether the Dominion Government intends, as heretofore, to admit fresh salmon free of duty:

And whereas the only effect of such a duty would be to force Canadian canners to build canneries and carry on their business on the American side, and such duty would be a great blow to the canning industry, and to the workmen employed therein in this province:

And whereas the canning industry is one of the greatest in British Columbia, and very large sums of money are annually expended on material and labor in connection therewith in this country:

And whereas the Treasury will receive no benefit by the imposition of such a tax, as the same is simply prohibitory:

Now, therefore, be it resolved: That this board do most earnestly urge the Dominion Government to continue the admission of fresh salmon free of duty, and respectfully request an early decision and reply:

And be it further resolved: that copies of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Customs, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Minister of Trade and Commerce and to all the British Columbia members.

Vancouver, March, 1898.

SOME twenty persons in Kent county and Chatham city have received Ontario letters patent under the name of the Chatham Hedge Fence Company, Limited, to grow and construct hedge fences and hedge and wire fences, combined or separate; and to do other business of this nature. Capital \$25,000. Five persons in Toronto have secured letters patent to deal in provisions and produce under the name of the King-Darrell Produce Company, limited, capital

STATISTICS of the British Columbia salmon pack for the last season, just compiled by Messrs. R. P. Rithet & Company, give the following totals: Fraser River pack, 860,451 cases; Skeena River, 65,905; Rivers Inlet 40,207; Naas River, 20,847; Lowe Inlet, 10,666; Namu Harbor, 4,357; Albert Bay, 8,602 West Coast, V.I., 4,434. The total pack for the season was 1,015,477 cases, as compared with 601,570 during last season. The shipments were as follows: By sea, to England 733,704 cases; overland, 43,330; to Eastern Canada, 130,815; to Australasia, 27,579. Salmon dealers have stocks amounting in all to 74,000 cases yet on hand.

—The route for the James Bay Railway, as proposed to the city's commission by Mr. W. T. Jennings, C.E., is as follows: North from Toronto, to a point on the Canadian Pacific, midway between Sudbury and North Bay, thence north-east to Lake Temiscamingue, whence a branch runs south to North Bay, while the main line goes on through Lake Abitibi district to Moose factory, on James' Bay; from there it follows the west shore of Hudson's Bay through Fort Albany, and Fort Nelson to the terminus at Churchill.

A SWEDISH PLAN OF CO-OPERATION.

A profit-sharing scheme which works satisfactorily has been for some years in operation in a large Swedish pulp mill. Each man is paid according to services and position, and the workmen receive also 5 per cent. of the profit, one-half being paid in cash, and the balance deposited in a savings bank, to remain until the workman is 55 years old or has left the works three months. In a black book are recorded faults, especially drunkenness and laziness, a third of the yearly profit being deducted for each mark, and three marks resulting in dismissal. The result of the plan has been a great improvement in the industry and sobriety of the workmen.

MUTUAL RESERVE FUND LIFE.

In the Old Country, as well as on this side the Atlantic, comments are being freely made about the recent rise in rates imposed by this company on its older insureds. The Marcon number of *Banking and Insurance*, of Edinburgh, has the following: "We were under the impression that this so-called insurance society was dead so far as this country is concerned, but we find we are mistaken, as during the past month we have received two letters from British policy-holders, both groaning at their being called upon to pay double the rates they have hitherto been charged. We cannot say we are surprised at this, nor ought the recipients of this unwelcome double assessment to be so either, and the best thing they can do is to assure aresh in a good home company and leave Yankee speculations alone in future. The eloquent gentleman who had his headquarters at St. Enoch Hotel, Glasgow, is, we believe, responsible for both these cases, one of them actually surrendering a good Scottish policy to go in for this half-price sham. Both gentlemen were promised that though there was power to raise the rates it would never be exercised. It is said that Jove laughs at the false statements of lovers; if he has to do the same thing at the false statements of American insurance agents he must get very tired of grinning."

NEW YORK v. LONDON FIRE BRIGADE.

Figures concerning the strength and organization of the New York Fire Brigade have recently been supplied by the chief of the New York Fire Department. New York city—that is the area now occupied by Greater New York—spent last year over £1,000,000 on its fire brigade—over four times as much as the London brigade cost, while it keeps 1,700 men employed, against London's 1,000, and they receive about twice as much in wages as do our men. The *Insurance Record*, of London, supplies some further points of contrast: For example, "New York uses on an average 19,000 gallons of water for each fire against our 10,000 in London, which is not remarkable, as New York fires are usually of greater magnitude than ours. During last year Greater New York had 5,835 fires, or about 18 a day, the cost of putting out each of which averaged about \$600, or £120, while in the same time London had about ten fires a day, each of which cost about £40, or say, \$200, to subdue. Greater New York spends annually about four shillings a head of its total population for maintaining its fire brigade at its high state of efficiency.

—The oldest match manufactory in the world is in Sweden. Matches were made there long before the old roughly trimmed splinters of wood, tipped with sulphur, were discarded with the tinder boxes for which they were used. In 25 years the export trade of Sweden in foreign matches increased ten-fold.