

ment submitted to the canners in December last a series of suggested regulations for their consideration and report. Their report, while practically assenting to one of the Government schemes, suggested in lieu thereof the uniform license fee of \$20. The regulations, however, shortly afterwards promulgated, contained neither the scheme suggested by the Minister, nor the one proposed by the canners, and considerable dissatisfaction was expressed, both as regards the scale of fees imposed and the method of distribution of licenses, under the plan adopted by the Department. Mr. Ward continued:

"The disposal of offal as set forth in the canner's resolution, 15th January last, embodies facts which cannot be refuted; and to enforce a regulation such as has been imposed by the Department would injuriously affect the industry, while not in the least conserving the source of supply." Mr. Ward intimated that the Board over which he presided had not been notified of the presence in the Province of the officer who had been sent out, whose report had in some particulars reflected upon the intelligence of fishermen and many others of life-long experience on the Fraser River. The letter concluded by demanding that the reasonable suggestions of the fishermen and canners be acted upon, with the assurance that the results can not be but satisfactory to the country and to the large and important class engaged in the leading industry of the Province.

In the reply of the Department, occasion was taken to justify the course of Fish Inspector Wilmot and the action of the Department, and express regret that the Boards of Trade of British Columbia did not agree with them in the endeavor to preserve the salmon industry on a safe and permanent basis.

On April 17th, Mr. Ward wrote a further communication in which he intimated that in default of the Minister making a personal visit, there should have been an exhaustive investigation made by the officer who was sent out. The question, Mr. Ward remarked, must be dealt with broadly, thoroughly and impartially, and until the Department amended and improved the fishery regulations, the same unsatisfactory

conditions of affairs as now must continue.

It is certainly to be expected that something will be done during the ensuing session of Parliament, and it will be for the members from this Province to hold the administration to a strict account for the sins of omission, not to say commission, that lie at their door.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL is in receipt of a copy of the Melbourne (Aus.) Directory. The volume is handsomely bound, and contains much interesting information regarding the Antipodean city.

ACCORDING to Manager Rogers, of the Vancouver Sugar Refinery, what is wanted in this country in order to make sugar refining a success, is the same old protection that the interest used to receive. The profits on this industry, as is well known, are of the very narrowest, even under the most favoring conditions; but now that the American tariff on raw sugar has been removed, the Canadian manufacturer is at a disadvantage, and the tariff bar has to be put up to place the two countries on the same footing as they were before, and to prevent the Canadian market being filled with the cheaper goods. Political economists differ on these questions of tariff, but the logic of Canada's protective policy is in this case to clap on the difference in the shape of enhanced duty.

THE April returns of the American Department of Agriculture make the condition of winter wheat 96.9 and of rye 95.4. The season for seeding was favorable over the whole winter wheat area and afterwards the conditions for growth were mainly favorable. The Hessian fly has appeared in many localities, and serious injury might follow should the early season prove favorable for its development. The general average for condition of wheat is the highest reported for April since 1882, and the State averages are remarkable for their uniformity. It is 16 points higher than last year, and three above 1889.

SECRETARY Foster of the U. S. Treasury Department, has announced that the principle has been definitely

agreed upon to restrict the present policy, which permits the Canadian Pacific Railway to carry goods sealed in bond across the continent into U. S. territory. The shipments for American ports which come over the frontier from Canada will be treated precisely as though they arrived at the port of New York. In other words, the policy is to prohibit the transportation of goods in bond through the country or across its territory.

ACCORDING to the annual report of the Department of Fisheries, during the past year the following claims have been forwarded to the Dominion Government for presentation to the Government of the United States: Schooner Minnie, for compensation for loss incurred by reason of seizure in Behring's Sea, and removal of seal-skins, guns and spears in September, 1889; schooner Pathfinder, for seizure and detention in Neah Bay, the vessel having been recognized as one which had been seized and escaped during the previous year; schooner Triumph, for boarding, searching and warning off of Behring's Sea, under threat of seizure in 1887. When are we going to get at the end of this vexatious business? The Americans are whooping it up, and say they are going to have a vigorous policy this year.

THE annual report of the Superintendent of the Banking Department of the State of New York gives the following, in round millions of dollars, as the resources of the various classes of institutions subject to its supervision: Savings Banks, 668; banks of deposit and discount, 234; trust companies, 280; and safe deposit companies, 4; total, \$1,186,000,000, against \$678,000,000 for the early part of 1882, being a gain at the rate of nearly 6 1/2 per cent. for each of the last nine years. The increase is greatest in the case of the trust companies, their resources having more than doubled, while those of the savings banks are just about 50 per cent. greater than nine years ago.

THE unrevised statement of inland revenue accrued during the month of March, as officially published, was \$543,557.40.