

only eight of them exceed \$1,000,000. The largest is the First National of California, which has \$2,500,000; this being followed by the Milwaukee National with \$2,000,000 assets. Both institutions appear to have a surplus. Private bank suspensions are one hundred and ten in number. Eight of the Western States contribute sixty-four, while Ohio, Indiana and Illinois furnish two-thirds of the list.

Less than one-fourth of these banks have assets of \$100,000 or over, and it will thus be seen that they are also comparatively small concerns. The savings banks contribute forty-one to the total list, and only in one instance, the People's Home of San Francisco, do the nominal assets exceed one million dollars; this concern having \$1,751,302, with liabilities amounting to \$200,000 in excess of this sum.

THE APPLE TRADE.

Last year's apple crop was handled from a financial point of view in anything but a successful manner. English houses encouraging the reports that more than usual depended upon the American crop, buyers here were led into ruinous competition. Disaster was due, however, rather to the high prices paid the growers than to the large amount of fruit contracted for, since it will be seen from the export figures that the amount of apples handled was not in excess of some other years.

The total exports of apples to Great Britain from Canada and United States during the last five years were as follows:

1892-93.....	1,203,000	barrels.
1891-92.....	1,450,000	"
1890-91.....	451,000	"
1889-90.....	650,000	"
1888-89.....	1,435,000	"

Of the 1,203,000 odd barrels imported by England from America in 1892-93, Canada supplied 795,695, but of these, 249,727 barrels were shipped from United States ports.

In regard to the coming crop, English mail advices report that it is in a very promising condition, and will probably be marketed somewhat earlier than usual. This will have the effect of keeping our early fall apples at home, a fact which many shippers will not regret, as last year these apples were shipped in excessive quantities, and the market received a glut from which it barely recovered towards the close of the season. Letters also state that there will be a good demand at fairly remunerative prices in the English market for good to choice Canadian winter fruit. But we are doubtful that this demand can be fully supplied. Reports from the western districts, including Essex, Kent, Middlesex, and north through Huron, Bruce and Perth, say that the yield will be anything but a good one, while in many parts it is a complete failure.

AMERICAN SHEEPSKINS.

For the first time in the experience of at least most Canadian dealers, sheepskins have been imported from the United States. It requires little or no explanation to show how this was brought about. American traders, of whatever description, are in need of money, and July and August packer sheepskins have been offered here at 35c. each. As a result some 25,000 skins are reported to have been sold to our pullers within the last few days. It is impossible to make any definite statement regarding future transactions of this kind, but we learn that some of our Canadian pullers are now in Chicago and will watch the market there very closely.

The inference to be drawn from this transaction is that pulled wools in the United States have fallen below free trade prices in Canada. This, of course, is the outcome of the diminished consumption of American mills, many of which are shut down for either an indefinite or a specified time. The result on this market has been to prevent the usual half monthly rise in the price of sheepskins. The feeling in Canadian pulled wools is also weaker. Some of our traders are inclined to look askance at these ventures, and are dubious as to their success. There is no sale here for the fine merino wool, which when pulled must find a foreign market.

FRUIT.

One of the most marked features of development in Canadian markets during the last few years has been along the line of handling fruit. Shipments from the West Indies, Florida, or from California, now occupy much less time than was formerly taken. Montreal by its situation has at once taken the first place among Canadian cities, and is rapidly forging into rank among the great fruit distributing centres of the continent. Mediterranean fruits shipped to America, via Montreal, pass through the coolest waters, and thus arrive in the best possible shape; while through the use of refrigerator cars fruit arrives from California after a ten days' trip with the regularity of passenger traffic.

As a result, great interest has been taken in fruit by Montreal wholesale men this year. Early in the spring the Montreal Fruit Exchange was formed, and obtained the agency for the Early Fruit Packing Company of California, a large concern with branches in New York, Boston, Chicago and other large distributing centres. The Exchange rapidly built a large business, and within the last four weeks California fruit to the value of \$47,000 has been handled. Since this has been sold directly to the retail trade, Montreal wholesale dealers were fast being crowded out of the market. They have now united to form the Montreal Fruit Auction Company, and each member upon receiving a car of fruit turns it over for auction. As a result spirited competition is taking place, and the people of Montreal are eating cheap fruit.

NOTES FOR GROCERS.

A grocery store in St. Andrews, N.B., was broken into last week and a sum of money taken.

An Aylmer fruit-grower shipped 3,000 boxes of raspberries to Cleveland last week, obtaining good prices. The experiment promises success.

Two ships loaded with raw sugar are reported overdue at Vancouver, B.C. It is thought the ships were overloaded, as nearly all the previous vessels had to jettison their cargoes.

Mr. Head, the recent manager of a co-operative store, we learn, has purchased the bakery recently owned by Mr. Windover, Petrolia.

The Western Fisheries Company of New Westminster, B.C., has orders for salt salmon to the amount of 750 barrels. Some of this product will be sent as far as Scotland.

The machinery is being placed in J. Y. Griffin's pork factory, Winnipeg, and the establishment will be in running order by the 1st of next month. A large number of shipments of hogs throughout the country are awaiting the opening of the factory.

During six weeks, one express company in Leamington has handled 51,216 boxes of berries, while the other company has handled 46,233 boxes. In all, it is estimated that nearly \$10,000 has been distributed in cash within a mile of that town through the berry trade.

The corporation of St. Henri has given orders that Montreal wholesale grocers who take orders in that town shall be sued for the business tax of \$25.

F. Bontillier & Co. have started a salmon saltery at Brownsville, B.C., in one of the old cannery buildings, and will put up as many fish as they can handle during the run.

Eton Salzer—Where are those oysters I ordered on half-shell? Waiter—Don't get impatient, sah; we're drefle short on shells, but yo're next.—*Truth*.

T. B. Roblin, an Ameliasburg egg-buyer, sold to a Belleville local dealer, one day this week, 16,000 dozen of eggs.

Many of the Warton merchants, says the *Echo*, are going back to the old practice of buying eggs by the dozen instead of by weight, notwithstanding that the large dealers favor using the scales.

A new store, handling groceries, provisions, flour, feed, bran, etc., has been opened out in Collingwood by Messrs. R. W. O'Brien & Son.

The Guelph police stopped five bread wagons and had their contents unloaded at the station and weighed. Two of the number over weight, one had sixty-four, another six, and another four loaves short. The confiscated loaves were sent to the hospitals.

What is said to be the largest pack of salmon ever put up on the Fraser river in one day was made at Mr. Alex. Ewen's Lion Island, B.C., cannery, when 2,000 cases were packed.

The "Oban Bay" last week discharged a cargo of Java sugar for the Canada Sugar Refinery. The sugar was wrapped in mats made of bamboo fibre, and in rounding Cape of Good Hope in the midst of a gale, part of the cargo was damaged by water.

The Prince Edward Island packers have been assembling at Summerside. The object of the meeting was to secure the views of the packers, and devise means to procure an extension of the fishing season on the south side of the island. It was unanimously decided to prepare a petition to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, praying that the fishing season, from West Cape to Sea Cow Head, be from June 1st to August 20th inclusive. The petition is also to embody several minor recommendations regarding the preservation of small lobsters, etc.

Vancouver, B.C., now has a macaroni factory, operated by a Mr. Scuitto. The finest flour in the market is being made use of and the finished article is said to be equal to the best imported. As soon as he gets everything working satisfactorily, Mr. Scuitto will get out a small book on how to prepare macaroni for eating.

The new Acadia Sugar Company, embracing the Nova Scotia, Halifax and Moncton refineries, has been organized. John F. Stairs, president; T. Kenny, Wyley Smith, James Thomson, J. L. Harris (Halifax), and J. A. Humphrey (Moncton), and Messrs. Gillis, Brand and Cox (Scotland) are directors. The head office of the company will be in Halifax. T. M. Cutler will be secretary in the old country.

The London Retail Grocers' Association have held their third annual meeting, and although it was only one week since the picnic