

of a greater destructiveness than \$10,000 each. They may be classified as below:

\$10,000 to \$20,000	72
20,000 to 30,000	54
30,000 to 50,000	36
50,000 to 75,000	30
75,000 to 100,000	10
100,000 to 200,000	20
200,000 to 1,350,000	11
Total	233

Lumber fires have been the most prominent factors in the record of late, and since July 1st about three million dollars' worth of lumber has been destroyed. The month of August has opened very badly, the losses to the 6th inst. being \$3,950,000.

PRESIDENT DEBS.

Notwithstanding the recent defeat of President Debs, this would-be autocrat cannot keep still. Doubtless Mr. Debs has learned some lessons from the late disastrous strike, and this appears to have emboldened him for further operations. His latest idea is to form a labor organization that will include not only railway people, but all classes of artisans and laborers. This society is to be known as the American Industrial Union, and is designed to absorb the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor. In a word, all laborers will be eligible to membership. Such is the plan as outlined at a preliminary meeting held in Chicago on Saturday last. The further consideration of the question is postponed until the fate of the leaders in the great railroad strike is known. After the trial, which will take place some time next month, a general convention of labor will be called to arrange the details of organization. In the meantime a strong appeal is made "to the citizens of the Republic" to come to the rescue. The meeting also passed resolutions deploring the condition of the Pullman employees before the strike, and stating that the workmen in the Pullman shops owed \$70,000 for rent and were in a worse condition "than workingmen in the times of chattel slavery." The General Managers' Association is also badly scored for coming to the aid of the Pullman Company. All responsibility for rioting is disclaimed. "All the acts of violence were committed contrary to the orders of the officers and the members of the American Railway Union, and in most cases, we believe, by persons who were either irresponsible because of some mental perversion, or who were acting directly under orders of the enemies of the workingmen." The conduct of Governors Altgeld, Hogg, Waite, Pennoyer and Lewelling, and the course of Mayor Hopkins, of Chicago, are spoken of in the most praiseworthy manner.

ARE THERE TOO MANY COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS?

To bear the name of commercial traveller is to be passed as a prince of good fellows; a ready wit, long head, and persuasive tongue go to make up the characteristics of the successful travelling man. No further testimony is required as to the value of the training received on the road than the fact that the majority of those who to-day preside over our large business firms were once on the road. But one can have too much of a good thing, and we certainly have too many commercial travellers. Sussex, in King's county, New Brunswick, is a village of some 1,000 population, with six general stores and a number of smaller shops. In one day recently, according to an exchange, there were in this place ten representatives of dry goods houses, four representing boot and shoe firms, two from grocery houses, three with fancy goods, one handling teas, and two others carrying odd lines, making twenty-two in all. This was, of course, an exceptional circumstance, but the fact remains that there are too many commercial travellers. What is the consequence? Each man, filled with the laudable desire of selling more goods than a rival, is compelled at times to actually force goods upon an unwilling buyer. Merchants, it is very true, should know better than to overload themselves with stock. But too often does their better judgment give way before the eloquence of the man with many trunks. Nor do they alone bear the consequences of their ill-advised action. For if this conduct be long continued, their names must at last figure in the columns of a commercial paper among the list of failures, and the very house in whose interest the traveller has spent his zeal must share in the losses. Each firm is the best judge of how often it is expedient for their representative to visit the patrons of the house; however, we can but think that the longer trips with more extended territory and fewer visits would in the long run yield better results.

—In New York city eight savings banks received from depositors during the year ending June 30th no less a sum than \$13,162,353, and paid to depositors \$3,377,205 in excess of that amount. In five Brooklyn banks, during the same period, the withdrawals exceeded the deposits by nearly 25 per cent.

THE NOVA SCOTIA FISH INDUSTRY.

A commercial treaty has been arranged between Spain and Sweden and Norway by which the fishing products of the latter two countries are, after August 15th, to be admitted free of duty into the island of Cuba and possibly into Porto Rico as well. Should this arrangement go into effect, and there appears to be little chance that it will be invalidated, it must prove a serious blow to the fishing industries of our maritime provinces. The Halifax Board of Trade considered the matter at a special meeting on Monday last, and passed a resolution which was forwarded to the Dominion Government: "The board desires to draw the attention of this very important fact to the consideration of the Dominion Government, and to urge upon them in the very strongest possible way the necessity of prompt action to defend our trade with the islands referred to. Porto Rico is the only market for our bank, bay, and Labrador fish, and should this treaty come into force, it will place our trade at a great disadvantage, having to compete with free importation from other countries. It is evident our fishermen will be compelled to change their occupation and retire from the prosecution of an industry which has been of great profit to themselves and a great advantage to the commerce of the Dominion at large." The present duty on codfish in Cuba is \$1 per quintal, and for Porto Rico fifty cents per quintal. The import of fish into the Island of Cuba reaches about 100,000 quintals per annum, and into Porto Rico about 170,900 quintals per annum. Canadians have now an excellent opportunity to study the principle of a preferential tariff, although their position is such that the study is not likely to prove an agreeable one.

CANADIAN FRUIT BUYERS' AND EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The first annual meeting of this association was held on Tuesday of this week, and a large number of fruit-buyers were present from all over the country. This society was organized in February last, and a president and executive committee then appointed. The committee met several times in the course of six months, and collected the material which was to occupy the attention of this meeting. The first work of the convention was to adopt a constitution and by-laws. The following resolution was submitted to the meeting by the committee and unanimously adopted: "Resolved, that the practice that has existed in the past, and which has become so general, of engaging assistants in buying and packing on commission, should be discontinued, and in future all assistants or help shall be paid by salary, by the day, week, month or season, as can best be arranged, and any member of the association found violating the same in the future shall be subject to the censure of the association." The resolution explains itself, for it is evident that buyers, if placed on salary, will be more careful in choosing what they buy, as the possibility of increasing their earnings by large purchases would not exist.

Another resolution passed was, "That we, as members of this association, pledge ourselves not to purchase apples on the plan known as 'so much and the rise,' or to give what is called a bonus, and to use, so far as it lies in our power, the form of contract adopted by the association." The following resolution was also carried: "That the members of this association faithfully agree not to accept any 'shipper count' or 'more or less' bill of lading when shipping apples, but to insist on receiving clean bills of lading." Another matter of some importance decided on was that the farmer should be forced to supply barrels. A main feature of the evening session was the reading of crop reports from all parts of Ontario on apples. That crops will be large and prices low is the prospect. There will be very little export to the United States, the crops in New England being also very plentiful.

The election of officers which took place resulted as follows:—President, W. Dixon, Hamilton; vice-president, A. E. W. Peterson, Cobourg. Executive Committee:—J. M. Shuttleworth, Brantford; J. C. Smith, Burlington; David Cantelon, Clinton; Sam. Nesbitt, Brighton; Thomas Seldon, Ingersoll. At the close of the general meeting the executive committee met and elected Mr. J. M. Shuttleworth chairman, and Mr. Thomas Seldon vice-chairman.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON PACK.

Four days later than ever before in the history of the industry, the big sockeye run struck the Fraser River on August 1st. A report from Point Roberts says that in the first night the traps contained 10,000 fish, and boats at the mouth of the river were able to take from 100 to 250 fish each. Fraser River cannery were beginning to be pretty well discouraged and inclined to regard the outlook as hopeless. Now that the run has struck in, all the canneries will be busy attempting to make up for lost time. The Indians assembled to engage in the salmon fishing had become very restless and threatened to take their departure. They have been living for the most part on credit obtained from the