

make 100,000 salmon cases this season. Milling is quite different here from Ottawa. There the average of the logs is 100 feet, while here it is 1,200 feet, and I assure you it requires strong machinery to break up these big logs. The largest log we have cut since I came here was 72 inches in diameter, and the longest 85 feet. The largest log that ever came to our mill was 54 inches in diameter, and 115 feet long; this was perfectly straight and without a knot or blemish for 100 feet up; in fact there was only one green limb on the log, and, strange as it may seem, was put into the water by two men. The largest logs are put in by hand loggers, two of whom make a camp. They cut trees where the ground slants to the water and by barking them and raising them with jack screws, get them started and they roll into the water; nothing will stop them when once they start. The quantity and size of cedar is surprising, and all sash and doors are made from the wood. The doors are all free from knots and blemishes. Our shingles, which are cedar, are the same. We make only first quality, and they are first quality, running up to 11 inches wide, or as large as the machine will cut. Labor is high. Ordinary labor is \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day, and skilled \$2.50 to \$3.50, and we pay our head sawyer \$4, and the man that runs our gang \$3.50, our edger man \$2.50, filers get \$3 to \$4, and ten hours is a day. The fishing on the river or rather salmon canning, is a large industry, and the Indians, who do most of the fishing, spend all their money here. Four tons of hay or 100 bushels of oats per acre is not considered a remarkable crop here; it is the producing qualities of the land that gave it value as well as the scarcity on the lower Fraser. There is good land at Kamloops, Shuswap, the Okanagan Valley, etc., but those places are only accessible by railway, and of course the railway gets most of the profits. The bunch grass of British Columbia said to produce the sweetest beef in the world. Beef is usually about the same price as in Ottawa, and of excellent quality. Our flour mostly comes from the Northwest and Manitoba. Every person in this country has money, and is not afraid to spend it. We have no beggars and no poor. Our store did a business of \$35,000 last year, and our mill, shingle mill and factory about \$165,000, and \$100 covered the losses by bad and doubtful debts."

During the month of June the debt of the Dominion was reduced by \$612,000, it being now \$251,530,221 as against \$234,112,352 on the first of the month. The expenditure for the month, both on account of consolidated fund and capital account, shows a large reduction as compared with the corresponding month in previous years. The expenditure on account of consolidated funds was \$1,080,000. The revenue for the month was \$2,840,000. For the fiscal year, ending last month, the revenue and expenditure was as follows: Expenditure on capital accounts, \$4,089,000; expenditure of consolidated fund, \$20,409,170; total expenditure, \$44,910,565; revenue, \$77,689,130; surplus above expenditure, \$2,778,565, and surplus of revenue over expenditure, on account of consolidated fund amounts to \$6,779,000.

### THE SEALING COMMISSION.

It is announced that Sir George Baden-Powell and Dr. Dawson have already left Ottawa en route for Victoria and the Behring Sea, in order to make inquiries as to the conditions of seal life and of the sealing industry. But what good can they possibly do? The first named is reported to have said in New York that he expects to get back in November, and is confident that the back of the problem will have been broken and a solution reached, which will prove satisfactory to all concerned. For our part we have no such expectation. The commissioners are, according to all accounts, starting too late in the season; they will get to their destination when most of the seals are scattered and are away from the rookeries, while the noise that is necessarily made by the steamer engaged to carry the commissioners will be most effectual, if nothing else, in driving away the objects of their inquiry. Under these conditions it would appear to be impossible to reach any result that can be at all of a satisfactory character. In any case, the commissioners will reach Victoria in a few days, and the sealing interest will seek an interview with them.

But, as has been observed, as far as the commissioners are concerned, it will be a mere waste of time discussing this sealing question with them unless they have instructions to take evidence as to the amount of compensation to be given those interested in sealing. Heretofore sealers were given to understand by those best informed, and government has given clearances to any vessels which chose to clear on a sealing cruise in the "Behring Sea or otherwise," that they would not be molested in their lawful calling. What, we repeat, is to be done with those whose business is this year being so ruthlessly and summarily interfered with? Will the commissioners inquire into the indemnification to be made them. If not, what is really their business?

### FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA.

The Insurance and Finance Chronicle has been at considerable pains to prepare a table of the fire insurance statistics belonging to the last twenty two years. During that period the total premiums received by all the companies were \$112,551,528, and the total losses paid \$77,630,416, or 68.9 per cent of the premiums. The total income was found to be \$115,084,285, and the total expenditure \$109,431,612, the difference being \$5,252,673. Of this amount, \$661,530 belong to the Canadian, \$863,226 to the American, and \$4,727,917 to the British companies. This record of twenty-two years demonstrates pretty clearly that fire underwriting is not a bonanza. Taking the Canadian companies, the excess of income over expenditures was only about \$661,000 in a total income of over \$53,000,000, while, making no deductions from the excess of American and British companies for home office expenses, there is a total credit of only about \$5,200,000, in a total income of over \$115,000,000. The excess of income over expenditure of the Glasgow and London, for the seven years of its business, was over \$88,000. This, however, does not express

profit to that amount, for on withdrawal from business at the close of 1890 the re-insurance or unearned premium liability existing was a charge to be set against the above apparent profit. So, if all the companies had ceased business at the end of 1890, their apparent profit for the periods given would have been more than their real profit.

### A REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.

The conference of the council of the Board of Trade and the Sealers' Association, which was held last Friday afternoon, was thoroughly representative. The Council was represented by President T. B. Hall, Vice-President A. C. Flummerfelt and Messrs. Joshua Davies, D. R. Ker, H. F. Heisterman, C. E. Renouf and Geo. Byrnes; while from the Sealers' Association there were Capt. J. G. Cox, Richard Hall, J. L. Penny, Capt. Wm. Grant, M. Moss, J. Stephenson (of Vancouver), E. B. Marvin, W. Munsie, C. Spring and others. Mr. Davies' resolution, passed at the last council meeting, explained the business of the day. It was as follows: "That a deputation of the Sealers' Association be invited to meet the council on Friday, July 10th, at 3 p. m., to confer on the subject of seal life, and be asked to draw up a memorial, to be presented by the Board to the British Commissioners now en route to Behring's Sea."

The above having been read, Mr. E. B. Marvin dwelt upon the point that the Commissioners were going to Behring Sea at the wrong time of the year, if they wished to study seal life there. This certainly should be explained by whatever body interviewed the Commissioners.

Capt. Cox suggested that two separate petitions should be presented to Sir George Baden-Powell and Dr. Dawson—one from the Board of Trade, and the other from the Sealers' Association.

Mr. Stephenson dwelt upon the injustice done British Columbia by the preemptory closing of Behring's Sea, and the loss that action must necessarily entail. He did not think any committee was in a position to meet the commissioners intelligently till it was known what the commissioners were appointed to investigate and what powers they possessed.

Mr. Marvin advised that the Board meet the visitors first, and pave the way for a conference with the sealers.

Mr. Renouf inquired if the sealers had deputed anyone to remain on the islands this year and watch affairs.

Mr. Hall replied in the negative, and after a long general discussion, embracing every phase of the main question, it was decided, on the motion of Mr. E. B. Marvin, that a committee, consisting of the President and Vice-President of the Board, with Messrs. Munsie and Hall and Capt. Cox, with power to add to their number, meet and confer with the commissioners on their arrival in Victoria.

R. P. Rithet has made a princely gift to this city. It is in the form of eight acres of land adjoining the Jubilee Hospital, the sole condition being that suitable buildings for a home for the aged poor of Victoria be erected thereon. The home is at present in temporary wooden buildings.