

and the free offerings of New Zealand makes, which has also been reduced 1c per lb. to 83-1c. At the factory sisal rope is quoted at 93-1c and Manila at 12c for 7-10 size and upwards; smaller sizes at an advance 1c over above figures. Binder twine at 131-2c for Manila and 11c to 121-2c for mixed.

Dairy Trade Items.

Receipts of cheese at Montreal to date this year are 629,000 boxes, compared with 738,000 boxes for the same period last year.

An exchange says: "The creamery at Manitou has been closed on account of the merchants paying high prices for dairy butter. It is said that 15 cents per pound was paid to the farmers for the home-made article, while the creamery was selling for 16 cents. At the same time the merchants were disposing their stocks to city jobbers at a loss of three cents. As soon as the factory was closed they dropped the price paid to farmers to 12 cents." If the Manitou merchants have paid the price quoted, they were certainly losing three to four cents per pound on their purchases, as 12 cents has been the very outside price paid for round lots of dairy butter, and the general price for fresh dairy has been about 11 cents for a few weeks.

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, July 26.

The markets for produce are very active in Vancouver this week, but prices in most cases show a falling off. Eggs, however, are increasing in demand and dealers fit justified in quoting a fractional advance. The flour and feed market is necessarily dull at this season, between the old and new crops and prices are weaker particularly in hay. One of the features in the market is the great abundance of fruit for sale and this week there is added to the list nectarines, pears, grapes, green gages and prunes. Tomatoes are still very scarce, only green fruit coming into the market.

The butter market is still very weak, the supply being in excess of the demand for the second grade article. There is, however, a fair sale for butter that reaches here in first class condition.

The salmon canneries are in full swing and three thousand boats are reported out this week, but they do not average more than five or six fish to the boat.

While the entire fleet were off the mouth of the Fraser river a gale sprang up and the boats were driven against one another with great violence, many of them being destroyed and five or ten Japanese were drowned. The white fishermen and Indians, however, managed to save themselves.

Building operations continue very active. Twenty lots for building purposes have changed hands at the extreme west end in the past week. Several more central business blocks have also been purchased and substantial brick and stone buildings will be built thereon. The lumber mills are still active and running full time. The British Columbia Iron Works failure is the only unfavorable business happening to report this week. It seems that the failure is more serious than at first thought and

there will not be an immediate opportunity of starting the works up again. The failure is a serious blow to Vancouver's trade, many local stockholders lose heavily.

Boric Acid in Butter.

The agent general of Victoria, Australia, in London, England, addressed the following letter to the secretary of state for the colonies regarding the use of boric acid in Victorian butter:—"Sir,—It is probably within your knowledge that the butter trade of the Australian colonies is one of great and increasing importance, and in order to bring this commodity to this country in a wholesome condition, it has been found necessary to use in its manufacture a preservative other than salt. Boric acid has been proved to be the best preservative not only for the purpose of keeping the butter during transit from Australia, but also for preserving it after its sale to the British public. Lately, however, exception has been taken in parts of Wales to the amount of boric acid placed in the butter, and the analysts connected with the local councils hold that not more than .6 or .5 per cent, of such acid should be used. The local magistrates uphold this view, with the result that any butter which contains more than this proportion of boric acid is treated as being adulterated and retail shopkeepers in those districts have been fined heavily. It is stated that these prosecutions have been taken on health principles, and it is argued by the local analysts that butter containing more than .5 or .6 per cent of such acid is harmful to consumers; but we have to inform you that the opinions of some of the very highest medical men in the country have been laid before us, and all of them agree that a much larger percentage of acids than that laid down by the Welsh authorities can be used without being in the least way harmful to the health of the consumer. Our object in approaching you is to request you to bring this matter before the president of the local government board with a view to the exact amount of boric acid which may be used in preserving butter being authoritatively defined, and that a uniform standard may be laid down for the United Kingdom."

It has been stated that in connection with a prosecution in Wales against vendors of American hams expert evidence was given that the use of even 8 per cent of boric acid was not injurious to health, whereupon the case was dismissed.

A Waiting Game.

Notwithstanding the strong features of the leather market retailers as well as jobbers appear to be hanging back and waiting for lower prices. This policy may lead to a serious mix up in the season's business. At the present moment there is no prospect of any change that will favor the purchaser of shoes. Tanners have been limiting their output right along and in some cases have shut down rather than work in hides at prices that ruled during the grubby season. Leather today is in shorter supply than for years past, and should there be any improvement in the demand prices will immediately advance. This is conceded to be the position in a nutshell. The result will be that when dealers who are holding back now go into the mar-

ket for all their fall requirements and manufacturers commence to buy leather in earnest up will go the market. The production of shoes has been on the most conservative lines for the past two seasons, and with the combined reduction of stocks and a boom in shoe manufacturing is not only possible, but probable. The whole trend of events leads to the prediction that the coming fall season will be the most prosperous in years, both for makers and sellers of footwear.—Canadian Shoe and Leather Journal.

To Kill Mosquitoes.

Two and one-half hours are required for a mosquito to develop from its first stage, a speck resembling cholera bacteria, to its active and venomous maturity. The insect in all its phases may be instantly killed by contact with minute quantities of permanganate of potassium. It is claimed that one part of this substance in fifteen hundred of solution distributed in mosquito marshes will render the development of larvae impossible; that a handful of permanganate will oxidize a ten acre-swamp, kill its embryo insects, and keep it free from organic matter for thirty days at a cost of twenty-five cents; that with care a whole state may be kept free of insect pests at a small cost. An efficacious method is to scatter a few crystals widely apart. A single pinch of permanganate has killed all the germs in a thousand-gallon tank.—The Public Health Journal.

Coal.

A report from Duluth says: The cut in the price of hard coal at Duluth to \$4.25 a ton has not stimulated the market to any appreciable extent. The number of people who will buy coal now for immediate shipment is few, and that condition is made with the low price. Orders for future delivery will not be taken on the present basis of prices. There is a sentiment, too, that a further cut may come, but there does not seem to be any sign of it yet.

The freight rate on coal from Buffalo to Chicago and Milwaukee has advanced 5c per ton to 25c per ton. The rate to Duluth and Fort William remains at 20c per ton.

Grain and Milling News.

Statistics compiled from the railway reports show that eighteen and a half million bushels of wheat (flour included), have been shipped east by the Canadian Pacific railway since the '97 crop began to move and two millions were taken out by the Northern Pacific; about four millions were held by the farmers for seed, etc., and the milling companies now hold over one million bushels in stock, so that the total yield for Manitoba and the Territories last year was between twenty-five and twenty-six million bushels.

Northwest Ontario.

John Gardner & Co., Rat Portage, have purchased the Morrisette & Setterington stock of goods at Norman, and have opened the store as a branch.

The upper works of the steamer D. L. Mather, owned by the Keewatin Lumber Co., was burned to the water's edge at Keewatin on Monday, insured for \$3,000. The boat was scuttled in shallow water to save the hull.