MONTREAL HARBOR.

Are the capitalists and forwarders of Montreal doubtful as to the extent of business which enlarged canals will bring to the St. Lawrence route? What other reason can there be for their delay in making wharfage and other modern port arrangements commensurate with the ocean trade they expect to do. We learn from The Gazette that Mr. W. J. Connors, of Buffalo, proprietor of the Buffalo Courier, and Mr. Harvey D. Golder, of Cleveland, who, in February last, submitted to the Montreal Harbor Commissioners, on behalf of capitalists, a proposal to erect elevators and do a freight handling business in the harbor, are again in Montreal with, it is understood, the object of further interviewing the Harbor Board and Hon. Mr. Tarte on the subject. They are accompanied by Hon. Richard Harcourt, provincial treasurer, Ontario. "It will be remembered that what was asked from the Harbor Commissioners was a ninety-nine years' lease of part of the Windmill Point pier for the site of an elevator, and for the usual berths, and part of the south of it for shed room, and a guarantee of a depth of water equivalent to the depth in the harbor and in the river between Montreal and Quebec. For these concessions they are willing to invest $1,000,000 or more in elevators, permanent sheds and barges." If Montreal men won't take the risk themselves will they refuse these Americans the chance to make so liberal an experiment?

BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON.

According to The Vancouver World of September 8th a New York syndicate, which proposes to form a combine among the salmon canners of British Columbia, has issued what is called "a provisional prospectus." The object of the corporation is to purchase the entire 68 canneries in British Columbia. The capital stock of the company would be $5,000,000, on a half cash, half stock basis, all the principal canners being negotiators. The New York firm of T. B. McGovern & Co. recently put through the flotation of the company for the purchase of the 12 canneries on the Columbia River.

As to the season's output, The New Westminster Columbian says: With the close of the sockeye season there is always more or less speculation regarding the total pack, and all sorts of estimates were made. It was at first thought that the season would be anything but a profitable one for the canning, but it is now shown to be much better than was expected, for the present market conditions are not unsatisfactory, and that in the face of an increased supply over last year. Of course the Fraser pack in 1898 was a failure, and appeared doubly so, following as it did the record pack of 1897, which was 879,116 cases. This year the figure is approximately 488,900 cases, which is quite up to, if not over, the average for the corresponding years in the four-year cycles. This is the total for 47 canneries in operation.

Within the year three canneries have been destroyed by fire, the Sinclair and Western Fisheries canneries in Westminster, by the big fire; and Munn & Co.'s Sea Island cannery, burned shortly before the present season opened. One, the Labrador, on the North Arm, was not operated this season. But five new canneries have been built, two of them of large capacity, so that the usual yearly increase is maintained.

This year's pack is not far from an average, for it must be remembered that 1897 was an exceptionally "big" year. The figures may be contrasted thus:

Total Fraser River, 1899	488,900
Total Fraser River, 1898	193,000
Total Fraser River, 1897	879,116

The pack on the Skeena and other northern rivers this year totalled about 220,000 cases.

SIDELIGHTS UPON THE WESTERN MINING COUNTRY.

The Hall Mines, limited, of Nelson, B. C., give as the result of the company's smelting operations for the four weeks ending 1st September last, the following figures: 4,115 tons of ore were smelted, containing approximately 79 tons copper and 51,720 ounces silver.

The irritating policy of the C.P.R. in so often placing its stations arbitrarily away from a town or village produced a very spirited row at Grand Forks, B.C., whose inhabitants did not relish being handicapped for all time to come in order that the railway might make a few thousand dollars out of an artificial town site. The quarrel has been patched up, either partly or wholly, by means of some concession made by the railway. In the angle formed by the north fork with the Kettle River are two places, Columbia and Grand Forks, each calling itself a town, and the correspondent of The Toronto World says that each is striving to be the distributing point for the mining camps of the Boundary District.

We acknowledge receipt from the South Kootenay Board of Trade, of a brochure illustrating and describing the city of Nelson, B.C., as well as giving instructions how that place is to be reached, the most direct and comfortable route at present being via C.P.R. There are 29 wholesale warehouses in Nelson and four banks. Its imports last year were of the value of $588,753, and its exports of $3,695,624. Nelson is the central point of the Kootenay mineral district, and as every visitor admits it is one of the prettiest and most attractive places in all Columbia. Accompanying the pamphlet is a really valuable map of the country between Crow's Nest Pass and O'Kanagan Lake, and for this we thank the board most heartily.

The mountain scenery of British Columbia and Alberta, unsurpassed as it is, continues to attract travellers from all over the world. We learn by a recent despatch from Banff that among the hundreds of guests arriving at that delightful spot during some days of last week were persons or parties from New York and Philadelphia, Springfield and Chicago, Richmond and San Francisco, Mobile and Montreal. Foreigners were there in plenty, New Zealand, Honolulu, Shanghai, Tokio, Madras were all represented. England had representatives from London, Southampton and Hull.

DEATH OF C. M. TAYLOR.

Another of the men whose constancy and preseverance have helped to make the prosperity of Waterloo county a familiar word to all Ontario, passed away last week in the death of C. M. Taylor. Born in Ancaster, Mr. Taylor went as a young man to Waterloo. He first taught school, and then he went behind the counter of a country store—and there needs no better training, in this country, for young men of the right stamp. Starting an insurance agency, he soon became possessed with the idea of forming a mutual fire insurance company, and did not rest till the Waterloo Mutual was formed, with himself as manager, in 1863. For thirty-five years he filled this position, and filled it well. Very shortly afterward he joined a number of other Waterloo county men, who had the establishment of a mutual life company in their minds, and in December, 1868, a special Ontario Act was passed incorporating the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company. At a meeting of the provisional board, early in the year 1869, the late I. E. Bowman was elected president; Mr. Taylor, treasurer; Moses Springer, secretary, and the late Dr. J. W. Walden, medical referee. The position attained by the Ontario Mutual is so prominent as to make any reference to the modesty of its origin interesting. At the time of his death Mr. Taylor was consulting manager of the Waterloo, and vice-president of the Ontario Mutual. He leaves the memory of a capable and faithful official, an upright and useful citizen.

MUTUAL RESERVE FUND LIFE.

The report of Mr. Vanderpool, who examined the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association last May for the New York Insurance Superintendent, is this week published by the latter. It contains matters and recommendations of grave importance to the company. Mr. Payn finds fault with the enormous sum paid out for legal expenses, with the contingent fund voted for the president's use and with the "bond statement" method of providing for premiums. He also touches upon the great falling off in membership and the shrinkage in assets. Though he pronounces the association still solvent, he still finds "irregularities," "inequalities," and other "matters for criticism" in the condition of the company. The Mutual Reserve made bold comments upon the superintendent's report, to which he calmly replies that "relief from increased rates can be but temporary"