

\$7.75 to \$8. Receipts of all kinds are small, and stock in inspection stores is very light.

Dairy Products.—While the butter market is fairly steady at the late advance, with moderate demand, the reports of a large fall make are causing a hanging back on the part of some buyers. For choicest Townships creamery quotations are made at 20 to 20¼c.; fine creamery, 18½ to 19½c.; dairy, 15 to 15½c. per lb. In cheese, the cable enquiry is rather disappointing, but a fair volume of local buying is reported at 8¾ to 8¾c. for Quebecs; Townships, 9 to 9¾c., and finest Westerns at 9½ to 9¾c. per lb. The shipments of butter last week were fairly large, aggregating 28,602 packages, making the total for the season to date 368,568 packages, as against 254,069 packages for the same period last year. Of cheese, 77,794 boxes were exported last week, as against 79,504 boxes for the same week of 1903. The total of the present season's shipments to date is 1,410,772 boxes, being 407,500 boxes less than the figures at this date a year ago.

Dry Goods.—Orders have been more numerous since last writing, owing to the unseasonably cold weather of last week, which makes people think of warm clothing, but the general calculation appears to be that there will be a shortage in the volume of sorting business. City retailers report sales as still somewhat on the slow side. The general verdict with regard to collections is that they are about fair. With regard to values of textiles, no changes of any kind are reported.

Groceries.—There is no special briskness to the demand, though a fair aggregate of moderate orders is described, and next month is expected to be a busier one, as shipments of winter stocks of heavy goods to river points will then be in order. Some moderate supplies of new Valencia raisins are now to hand, via Liverpool, fine off-stalk being quoted at 6½ to 7c., and finest selected, 6¾ to 7¼c. The first direct steamer left Denia on the 24th, and is due here about the 13th or 14th prox. The "Jacona," the second direct steamer, left Patras to-day, but has yet to make the round of Mediterranean ports, besides calling at Halifax, and will hardly be here till well on in November. California raisins are now in good supply at low prices. Some Pacific and Malaga style California raisins have been offered at ¼c. below standard goods, but the quality is inferior, lacking sweetness, while the toughness of the skin renders the fruit unsuitable for seeding purposes. New shelled walnuts for November shipment are offered at 30 francs higher than September shipments of freshly cracked 1903 crop. Sicily filberts are advanced. The sugar market is without recent change, standard granulated being quoted by refiners at \$4.65, and yellows at proportionate figures. Canners in the Picton district report serious frost damage to corn and tomatoes, and estimate the pack will be only 60 per cent. of the average.

Hides.—The offerings of beef hides are said to be about fairly absorbed by tanners, who pay 9½c. per lb. for No. 1 dealers buying at half a cent less. In

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RECORD FOR 1903.

Policies Issued and Taken '03.. \$4,278,850	Interest Earned, 1903.....\$110,428
" " " " '02.. 3,098,450	" " 1902..... 84,676
INCREASE 38% \$1,180,400	INCREASE 30% \$25,752
Business in Force Dec. 31, '03.. \$18,023,639	Surplus to Policy-holders, 1903....\$473,963
" " " " '02.. 15,289,547	" " " 1902.... 226,508
INCREASE 18% \$2,734,092	INCREASE 109% \$247,455

Average Interest Earned, SEVEN per Cent.

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