

OUR DAIRY INTERESTS.

Mr. D. Derbyshire, President of the Ontario Creameries Association, in his address at the annual meeting in Cornwall this week, referred to the fact that dairying still continues to be the leading industry of Canada. While the prices this year had not been the highest, we have received \$300,000 more for creamery butter. The shipment of butter to the mother country more than doubled itself in the past year, and the quality of creamery butter had greatly improved, while home consumption had also doubled itself. He dwelt upon the importance of cheaper production and a longer season of production, by co-operative methods, and the making of only the finest quality of goods. Both the Dominion and Ontario Governments were helping along the industry of butter-making. The Dominion Government had been active in assisting to place Canadian creamery butter upon the British market fresh, and the facilities provided for the transmission of butter to England were of great benefit to the trade.

IRON MANUFACTURERS IN SESSION.

At the meeting of rolling-mill men and makers of wire, etc., held in Toronto last week, no change was made in prices of bar iron. Barbed wire was, however, lowered in price from \$3.50 to \$3.25 per 100 pounds. This was done by Canadian manufacturers, doubtless, to meet the competition of American houses in this article. Some of the discounts off small goods, such as tacks, were altered, the changes being slightly downward. This will, perhaps, serve to ward off competition of United States makers who have been fighting among themselves over list prices, and were the more disposed to attempt Canada as a slaughter market.

FUR AUCTIONS, 1895.

Furs may, in this day of substitutions, be classed as a luxury, and as such, are quick to respond to trade depression. At the beginning of 1895, so weak was the pulse of commerce that the outlook for the year's fur trade was anything but bright. A review of the market, however, by Culverwell, Brooks & Co., London, shows a record that is not without pleasing features. The January sales, occurring as they did, early in the month, were consequently not a subject of unqualified congratulation. The two main articles, represented by beaver and musquash, had to submit to a decline of 10 to 15 per cent, while black bear and raccoon fell 10 per cent. On the other hand, the English demand caused an advance in marten, mink and skunk of 15 per cent. Active competition was also created for bastard chinchilla, owing to its revival as an article of fashion in France, America and England. Soon after the January auctions a change from mild to severely cold and bracing temperature was welcomed by fur traders, and the fact that it lasted almost without a break until after the spring sales, naturally put the market in a promising position. The sales held during March were consequently approached in a hopeful spirit, for it was clear that the expansion in the retail trade must react favorably on the demand for raw furs. The sales were attended by buyers from all parts of the world, and the general competition was marked by activity. Amongst some of the more imposing advances may be mentioned bastard chinchilla, marten and white fox, which show a rise of 75 to 100 per cent. compared with the rates current the year before. Of the more costly furs (the value of which is regulated, to a great extent, by the Russian demand), foxes, cross and silver, receded 10 per cent. from figures considered high; a few exceptional specimens of the latter, as usual, brought fancy prices, the highest being £170. Red fox realized advanced rates for fine Labrador skins. Otter were slightly dearer, while the diminution in the supply of the valuable sea otter prevented any decline from the high level prices had already attained. The remaining sales of American furs took place in June and October. On both occasions the supplies were neither large nor particularly attractive in quality. At the former, lower prices were almost without exception registered, while at the autumn sale the alterations were mostly in favor of sellers. A sale of bastard chinchilla was held last month, when prices for good parcels remained firm. The world's supply of salted fur seal skins was disposed of at two series of sales held during the past year; at that in March, only 14,000 skins—mostly of N.W. coast origin—were sold at an improvement of 10 per cent. No further sales took place until December, when 140,177 were offered and sold. The result, however, although far from unsatisfactory, must have disappointed the more sanguine dealers' expectations, owing to some failures in the trade in America as the December sales approached. The bulk of the supply which was then offered was composed of the N. W. coast catches, upon which an advance of 20 to 25 per cent. was established.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Several Manitoba mills are putting flour up in barrels, instead of bags, as formerly.

The ship "Ardmore," 1,092 tons, is loading 50,000 cases of canned salmon at New Westminster, B.C., for the United Kingdom.

It is reported that cables just received from Greece report an advance of 9d. in the quotation for prompt shipments of currants.

The Ottawa Trades and Labor Council want the city council to allow farmers to sell pork on the market by the quarter, instead of the carcase, as at present.

The people of St. John, N.B., ever on the alert for new trade openings, are advocating the opening of direct and regular communication between the port of St. John and Porto Rico.

It is said that Canadian importers of raw sugar may bring a cargo from the Hawaiian islands to Montreal next year. The disturbances in Cuba will necessitate the opening of new markets or increased trade with those sources of supply from which sugar has formerly been imported that remain unaffected by revolution.

The following committee, Messrs. Nairn, Bawlf, Spink, Crowe, Pearson, McCuaig, Bonsfield, Burke, J. Y. Griffin, R. J. Campbell, Rogers, Barre and Phillips has been appointed to form a scheme for concentrating dairy products at a central market in Winnipeg, to bring the producers and dealers together and to regulate the trade.

The Anglo-Canadian Fresh Salmon Co., Limited, has been formed in Liverpool, Eng., to acquire the business and plant of the Texas Lake Ice and Cold Storage Co., Ltd., New Westminster, B.C. Since the establishment of the Canadian-Australian line of steamers, with cold storage apparatus, continued shipments of fresh salmon have been successfully made from British Columbia to England. It is the intention of the new company to develop this trade, and as their board of management is exceptionally strong, their purposes will doubtless be accomplished.

Following is the comparative estimate of stocks and prices of butter and cheese in Liverpool on December 31st, for the last ten years:

	Cheese. bxs.	Butter. pkgs.	Cheese.	Butter.
1895.....	100,698	8,724	45s.	100s.
1894.....	122,853	1,468	51s.	85s.
1893.....	88,524	1,086	56s.	110s.
1892.....	124,270	6,430	54s.	118s.
1891.....	105,624	2,094	55s.	105s.
1890.....	166,176	3,574	52s.	98s.
1889.....	130,491	12,799	55s.	95s.
1888.....	121,216	972	59s.	100s.
1887.....	128,847	5,669	60s.	110s.
1886.....	123,074	4,300	63s.	112s.

The following is Mr. Lowenthal's table of this year's salmon pack of the Pacific Coast, the total of which is about 10 per cent. in excess of last year's:—

Columbia River—Spring ..	505,400	
Fall	129,500	634,900
Sacramento River—Spring and Fall		26,900
Rogue River.....	14,500	
Klamath River.....	1,600	
Oregon Fall—Various Rivers.....		16,100
Alaska		214,000
Fraser River.....	348,465	607,048
Northern rivers	166,603	
Point Roberts		551,068
		52,000
Total cases.....		2,101,116

An American authority has examined a sample of tobacco grown in the Agassiz district, British Columbia. Of the leaves in the sample four were passed as A1 wrappers, and the remainder classed as wrappers, although not so fine as the others. The beauty of the leaf consisted in the silky texture; it was free from blemish, with very fine veins. The color was good, but would have been better had the plant been allowed to ripen more. Because the leaf is small is regarded as no fault. Havana cannot rank with the other varieties for size and weight, and a fine leaf rather than a large one is the point at which Connecticut Valley growers of thirty years' experience are now striving for. It has been proved that the smaller varieties of tobacco are the most profitable, that they find a quicker market, and sell at a price sufficiently higher to offset the greater weight of the coarser varieties, which must wait for a market, and then be disposed of at a low figure. The authority concludes: "I don't think the Agassiz people have any reason to be dissatisfied with the experiment, and it is proved to my mind that in certain districts of British Columbia tobacco can be raised to rank with any produced in the States. Of course it must have careful treatment to ensure success."