

at its present price of 111s. per cwt.—it is very cheap, and good value when compared with the Danish at 120s. to 122s. They give a word of warning, however, as to the loose way in which the word "choicest" is used in connection with our butter, much that is shipped as "choicest" being clearly only "finest." Unless Canadian shippers are more particular in their grading, trouble will come upon them individually, and injury be done to the fame of their article. There are, they remark, many factories in Canada producing splendidly rich and clean flavored as well as really good textured butters, and it is doing considerable harm to classify sour, coarse-textured and tainted flavored butter along with these as "choicest." The total shipments of Canadian butter from 1st May to Sept. 14th this year were 235,214 packages against 198,658 last year, an increase of about 1,730 tons.

INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

The Canadian Bent Chair Co. is about to erect a factory in Listowel.

The establishment of a binder twine factory in Almonte is contemplated.

The North River Lumber Co. are going to build a pulp mill at St. Ann's, C.B., to employ 200 hands or more.

The Massey-Harris Company has taken out a building permit to erect a saw-shop and warehouse on King street, Toronto, at a cost of \$7,200.

The Napanee Beaver comments on the large and increasing amount of land in that vicinity which is being set out in fruit; calls for the establishment of a cannery.

The Frost & Wood Co., limited, Smith's Falls, will enlarge their works in that place at once. A by-law has been passed to grant them a bonus of \$20,000, their pay roll having reached 500 hands.

The Lindsay Post congratulates Canada for having won the gold medal for cheese at the Pan-American, and asks the pertinent question: "If we can excel in cheese, why not in butter?" Our buttermakers, it goes on to say, must follow in the footsteps of the cheesemen, and our buyers and exporters must cry down the practice of "working over" good and bad butter for shipment to England.

The Durham Rubber Co., limited, Bowmanville, are adding large extensions to their factory, owing to the constant expansion of their business. They are putting in a new battery of boilers and a large quantity of machinery of the most modern type, by which, it is expected, their capacity will be doubled. They report business far in excess of last year and are anticipating a still larger trade in the coming season.

In Vancouver several important enterprises are under way. Messrs. Ross and Howard are erecting a large foundry and machine shop, and will pay special attention to marine construction and repair work. Next spring they will install ship-ways for handling fair-sized vessels. Besides this, the Albion Iron Works which recently took over the old British Columbia iron works, will modernize the latter. And the British Columbia Marine Railway Company are going to secure an extensive steel and iron plate working plant in connection with the docks.

—We are informed of the sale of a seat on the Toronto Stock Exchange on Wednesday for \$10,000. It is not so long since the sale of a seat for \$6,400 was thought remarkable, and later \$7,500 was obtained, but this \$10,000 sale beats the record.

—Having to go to press early on Thursday, by reason of the holiday proclaimed on the occasion of the royal visit, we are compelled to forego for once the printing of our usual weekly table of figures giving Canadian bank clearing houses. Victoria clearings for the week ended with 8th inst. were \$656,484, as compared with \$391,484 for the previous week.

—A branch of the Bank of New Brunswick has been established at Sussex, in that province.

—A company whose authorized capital is \$250,000 has been incorporated in Ontario to bore for petroleum oil and gas, and to refine the same. It intends to acquire, and we are told has secured an agreement for the purchase of, the Mersea Oil and Gas Company's business in Essex, and two concerns of a like kind working in the county of Elgin. On these there are 32 wells, now being pumped. It is intended to acquire the leases of these companies and say 1,000 acres of land in this oil belt besides. The gentlemen whose names appear first on the prospectus are respectable and well-known citizens of Brantford. The common stock of the Beaver Oil & Gas Company amounts to \$175,000, and the company offers for sale \$75,000 of cumulative preferred stock, to pay 8 per cent. half-yearly. The sale of this is expected to enable the company to pay for their purchases of businesses and leases and to enable them to put down 40 more wells.

—The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has put aside \$250,000 as the beginning of a pension fund for its employees. This sum, though large in itself, is by no means excessive when the extent of the purposes of the fund is considered. There are over 28,000 men, we understand, in the company's employ. To provide a pension for the old age or other disability of the deserving among so large a number implies a very large sum of money. Particulars of the regulations of the fund are not made public; perhaps they are not yet arranged. But the fact above announced will serve to give the men a new interest in the company and will tend to make the loyal ones even more loyal. It is, besides, a benevolent application of means to an end worthy in itself. The service of a railway is for many a hazardous service, and when a railway employee is crippled or old he is of even less value, relatively, on a railway than in many other callings. All the more need, therefore, for a pension fund.

—The Americans are great on conventions. During the last days of September the bodies which held conventions at the Buffalo Exhibition were the New England Cotton Manufacturers and the Electro-Therapeutic Association. This month we have seen already at that great fair the meeting of the American Institute of Architects; and this week the "Knights of the Golden Eagle," whatever they are, and the National Association of Retail Druggists will assemble there. On Monday next the National Hardware Association, and on Wednesday the American Society of Railroad Superintendents will meet at the "Pan." The last gathering which we have found announced for Exhibition Park, curiously enough, is that of the New York State Synod of the Presbyterian Church. It would seem odd to the staid Presbyterians of Scotland to have their Synod meet at the Glasgow Exhibition, for instance. But our lively American brethren are not to be measured by Old Country standards.

—A remarkably fertile island is the Canadian Pelee Island, in Lake Erie, close alongside Kelly's Island, of which the Americans are proud. Pelee Island belongs to Ontario, and Kelly's Island to Ohio. Grapes, sorghum, Indian corn and various small fruits grow on both, and both are favorite summer resorts. A drainage system has lately been instituted on Pelee Island, and the chief engineer from Ottawa visited it the other day, inspecting the pumps and machinery. About \$56,000 has been spent in draining 5,000 acres of useless marsh lands. 7,119 acres out of the 9,868 acres which compose the area of the island, is assessed in the scheme. The sum of \$1,800 is levied annually to operate the pumping, besides the ebentures issued to pay for the work. It is without doubt, says the Amherstburg Echo, the most fertile land in Canada, and the immense acreage of corn proves it is the ideal corn land. The canals are thirteen miles in length, thirty feet wide, eight feet deep, and the embankments form the roadway. The new steel wheel is 28 feet in diameter, six feet wide with three rows of spokes. The wheel when running throws out 70,000 gallons a minute.