



Salmon Cannery, New Westminster.

tion to gratify whatever fancy occurred to them. Some idea of their lavish expenditure may be gained from the fact that *one* among the five drapery stores in the town took £180 in three days from these dusky purchasers. The Chinamen, of whom we saw several at the cannery, are deservedly less popular among their neighbours; few, indeed, and far between are the cents which "Honest John" expends in this country, and the constant drain to China is undoubtedly felt at such times of depression as these.

But to proceed with the matter in hand. On entering the building we were taken at once to the fish-house, where the salmon were lying in great heaps of some thousands, awaiting the hand of the Chinamen splitters, who, seizing them rapidly one after another, first decapitating and cutting off the fins, then taking off the tail, throw them into troughs of water. From these they are lifted and further entrailed by kloochmen (Indian women); and very unprepossessing did some of these rather elderly ladies look, with the wiry hair straggling out from under their soiled handkerchiefs, which took the place of other head-gear; but the unusual sight of a small black note-book raised a hum of comments in the Chinook jargon, and the greeting, "Kla-ha-ya?"—"How do you do?"—met with a hearty laughing response.

This row, having finished their most unsavoury part of the work, pass the fish again to another row, who brush them and clean

them yet more thoroughly, and in their turn hand them over to the Divider—a most ingenious arrangement of curved knives worked by a lever, so that the whole fish is at one stroke cut into sections the exact length of the can. This accomplished, it next falls to the lot of the choppers, who are generally Chinamen, to subdivide these pieces, so that they can be the more readily fitted into place, after which they are all immersed in weak brine, where they are allowed to remain for perhaps a quarter of an hour. Thence they are fished out with nets and thrown on drainers to dry them, before being again taken in hand by other Chinamen, who proceed to fill the cans with a marvellous rapidity and neatness, allowing an equal proportion of belly and back to each up to the amount of one pound, which must be regularly tested upon the scales.

Next comes a washing and cleaning of the cans, by either water or steam, before sending them to receive the small square piece of tin always found on the top of the fish, in order that no solder may penetrate through the hole at the end, which is of necessity left unclosed until the lid is secured. The lids are then put on loosely, and the can placed in what is called the Crimping machine, the pressure of a revolving wheel fixing them on firmly before passing along the gully or trough holding the melted solder. Taken from this machine they are next put in huge iron frames called Coolers, holding