

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A Halifax dispatch says that about 10,000 mackerel were taken the other day in St. Margaret's Bay, chiefly near Fox Point and Croucher's Island. They were packed and shipped mainly to the American market.

Messrs. H. N., H. G., H. A., G. C., and F. Bate, of Ottawa, have formed themselves into a joint stock company, under the name of H. N. Bate & Sons, Ottawa, grocers and warehouse men. The capital stock will be \$100,000.

The Athabasca Fish Company, Limited, capital stock, \$100,000, headquarters, at Selkirk, Man., has been authorized by the Government to catch fish and preserve the same, also to do a general mercantile business.

The C. Robin-Collas Company, Limited, Halifax, capital stock, \$1,000,000, will carry on a general fish, catching and curing, trading, commission and export business. They will also take over the business now carried on by Collas, Whitman & Co., Limited.

A report from London, dated 8th inst., said that imports of Canadian butter were increasing steadily, and that notwithstanding the large supplies from abroad the demand for the former on the spot was improving every day, especially for saltless. Choicest salt was making 86 to 88s. per cwt., and finest, 82 to 84s. Choicest saltless was worth 88 to 90s. per cwt. under rather limited supplies. The remark is made that there has been no recurrence this year of the mould in saltless butter, such as was so prevalent last year.

For old Canadian cheese the demand in Great Britain has been moderate, it being considered the best value on the market, but for new there has been only a hand-to-mouth buying. Old is selling at 39 to 42s. per cwt., according to condition, and new, 39 to 40s. C.i.f. quotations are down, showing that the recent advance was a speculative operation. For Quebec cheese the c.i.f. quotation is 36s. 6d. to 37s., and for Ontario, 38 to 39s.

Recent reliable estimates calculate the wheat crop of the United States for the present season at 610,000,000 bushels, which means that the surplus for export may be 142,000,000 bushels. Last year it was 121,000,000, while the average for the fifteen years has been 170,000,000 bushels. According to the same estimate, the world's whole wheat crop for 1904 is 140,000,000 to 150,000,000 bushels less than last year. An increase in Asia, it is declared, will offset the decrease in the United States. The decrease is chiefly in Europe, and mainly in Russia, Roumania, Austria, Hungary, and Italy.

A recent letter to the Globe from England asks the question. "Who was Dalrymple Crawford, who died in Toronto in 1874 and whose name is recorded on a brass plate close to the altar rails within which repose the remains of the Shakespeare family?" Mr. William Davies, of Toronto, thus replies: "Mr. Crawford was a soap and candle maker and spice grinder; the business is carried on by his successors, Dalton Bros. He was well known in the city for many years, but, of course, those who knew him are getting fewer every year. D. Crawford built and occupied the house at the corner of Isabella and Huntley streets, and at his death it was bought by the late Alderman Hallam, whose family still reside there." It is added that Mr. Crawford was a connection of Lord Dalrymple.

A report from New York on the state of the currant market in Greece says that much interest is centred in the new Retention Law, just passed at Athens. Its virtual effects will be to enhance the retention to 35 per cent.; the prohibition of any further plantations; the abolition of the export duty; and the continuance of the authority extended to the Currant Bank to buy up the surplus crop as heretofore. The only opposition that arose to the Act was from the British Government, who viewed the proceedings as intended to enhance the value of currants, and hence as a violation of the cheap food treaty mutually existing between Greece and Great Britain. The objections have been overcome by a set-off in the Greek import duty on some such articles as codfish, tinned goods, etc. The Currant Bank must buy all currants offered to it at 136 drachmas per 1,000 ven. lbs., and must sell whenever the price of the commonest provincial currants reaches

200 drachmas, so that market fluctuations apart from variations in exchange must be limited to a fixed minimum and maximum. It is the element of exchange, however, that is the most unstable factor.

The Dominion Wholesale Grocers' Guild held their annual meeting in Montreal this week. Several matters of interest to the trade were discussed, but the meetings were not open to the public. The chair was occupied by Mr. G. E. Bristol, of Hamilton.

In the Dominion Parliament, this week, the question of exterminating the dog-fish pest in the Maritime Province fisheries came up for discussion. Opinion in general was favorable to the taking of strong measures adapted to that end, but the Minister of Marine and Fisheries announced that he had a scheme for establishing factories for converting the nuisance into fertilizer, and making use of their oil.

Denmark is the country that Canada has to supplant in the trade in butter and creamery. As she lives almost totally out of the British market, a hard fight may be expected. I gathered from conversation with a proprietor of dairies that Denmark sends us not only our butter, but most of the separating machinery used by our own producers. It is wrong perhaps to discredit the efforts of home machinists, but the fact that Danish machines are preferred tells its own tale. To show the cost of transport from Denmark some figures are appended: Copenhagen to Manchester (via Hull), 640 miles of sea. Butter, 47s. od. per ton; eggs, 48s. 6d.; bacon (stone lots), 31s. od. Six lines of steamers are in the trade of carrying these goods, and one only is subsidized. Butter, too, was the subject of some talk with a butter-buyer whose views are typical of others of his kind. Of their accuracy, I am in no position to speak. If the prevailing impression is wrong, exporters will know how to correct it. The Canadian article he classed as a "cooking," not an "eating" quality. Canadian butter, he had found, was often flavored artificially in such a way that it underwent change in storage, and soon lost its palatability. The average grocer, I was assured, dared not risk his customer's dissatisfaction, and was driven perforce to Danish goods. A smaller margin of profits is obtainable upon the latter than upon Canadian, so that the opinion may be regarded as in good faith. By use of one's eyes it is manifest that margarine mixtures are gaining rapidly in popular favor. Substitutes sold by the name of "Cloth Lumps" are shown everywhere hereabout. The name is presumed to take birth from the oval form of the pats and the cloth which covers them. In these ways they resemble country-butter, more or less, the low price appeals to working-class families.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL.

One day last week, near Plattsburg, N.Y., Mr. M. J. A. Prendergast, general manager of the Hochelaga Bank, gave a brief talk to the New York State Bankers' Association, there assembled in convention. His subject was "Note Issues under the Canadian Banking Law."

There is some encouragement for frozen-out minority shareholders, in the following judgment handed out by Justice Greenbaum, of the United States Supreme Court: "The courts will not enjoin the carrying out of a business policy conceived in good faith, even though it may be probable that such policy will prove to be unwise; but, if it is apparent that the scheme of the majority of the stockholders is founded upon a plan to oppress the minority stockholders, or to operate as a fraud upon their rights, and not to further the interests of the corporation, but to accomplish unfair advantages and benefits to those in control, then the court of equity will promptly use its power to restrain the accomplishment of such iniquity."

Mr. F. Nicholls and other Toronto capitalists are said to have secured a controlling interest in the Niagara Falls Gas and Electric Light Company, which possesses a valuable charter for lighting in Niagara Falls and other municipalities in New York State.