

and other kinds of tinned and package provisions are supplied from other parts of the United States.

With the spread of education and the increasing influence of Western civilization, the Chinese are taking more to European articles of food and although the native diet will never be displaced, the taste for western food as delicacies is sure to grow. This will result in a greatly increasing demand in South China for various provision lines which are produced in Canada. A large quantity of provisions is also imported into Hong Kong for consumption among the foreign population and for restocking the ships which call at the port. This latter business is by no means inconsiderable, since most of the large mail steamers plying to and from the Far East take on stores at Hong Kong. Canned fruits and vegetables and jams have been shipped to Hong Kong from British Columbia, but much more could be done by Canadian exporters of provisions if they would properly go after this trade. Australian firms have been making great progress since the outbreak of the war in the canning of fruits and the making of jam. In this way they have been able to displace the supplies formerly obtained from the United Kingdom and other sources. At first there were complaints against the quality. It is now stated that the quality of the Australian product has greatly improved, but that the packing is still deficient. The shortage of tin has handicapped exporters in all producing countries. Plum, apricot, peach, damson and strawberry are the principal jams imported from Australia. The quality of Californian canned fruits and vegetables and the policy of the exporters in always allowing for blown tins and wastage by supplying additional tins is greatly commended by importers. The packing of the Californian products is also said to be superior to that of the Australian.

BISCUITS.

The Chinese have recently acquired a taste for European biscuits and the possibilities of the trade in this line are very great. Canadian biscuits have been exported to Hong Kong, but the business is at a standstill for the present owing to the difficulty of making air-tight tins in Canada. In view of the climate biscuits for the South China market must be shipped in air-tight tins and the packing is a factor of great importance.

TINNED BUTTER.

There is a large import into South China of tinned butter from Australia. This butter costs about 70 cents, Hk. currency, a pound laid down in Hong Kong. Many inquiries were received as to the possibility of Canada participating in this trade. It is doubtful, however, if tinned butter from Eastern Canada could stand the cost of transport to Hong Kong in competition with the Australian product.

FISH PRODUCTS.

A large quantity of imported dried, salted and canned fish is consumed in South China. There should be an opening for fish exporters in British Columbia to get a foothold in this market. Siberian canned salmon is supplied from Japan, but the colour is stated to be not sufficiently red. Kipperd herrings and herrings in tomato were formerly obtained from Norway, but are now supplied by United States firms. The above fish are sold more as delicacies to those who have acquired a taste for western food. The large trade is in salted and dried fish for consumption among the lower classes and good openings are thereby presented for Canada. The Chinese are very fond of salt and the use of salted fish enables them to evade the exactions of the salt monopoly which prevails in China. The principal salted fish sold are herrings and shad. There is also a considerable trade in dried cod, sole and flounders. The fish are usually sold at auction almost immediately after arrival. Large quantities of