

The sugar trade between Queensland and Canada has fairly set in. The first lot of 750 tons is here to be loaded on the "Miowera." This is all the space the steamer has to spare. The steamship line is now assured of full cargoes each way for some time to come. It is probable that a steamer direct from the sugar ports of Queensland, with a cargo of three thousand tons, will be put on. It is estimated that the Canadian preferential tariff on the sugar contracted for will give the shippers an advantage of over \$40,000. Canadians doing business in Australia say this is sentimental and pretty, but want to know what Canada is getting in return. It is said that some of them are writing to their home offices to ascertain whether a policy cannot be devised that will help them a bit in return for what Canada is giving. "Just now," said a British Columbian at present here, "it looks as if the sugar growers of Queensland and a refinery in British Columbia owned in the United States are getting all the benefits of the preferential business."

The Pacific cable is creating some interest again. In response to addresses from Boards of Trade urging action, the Australian premiers are throwing all the blame on the Premier of Canada. They complain that he was the bad boy in the game in London last year. A little more action on their part would do a great deal more good than grumbling at Mr. Laurier. When Australia is ready to do something more than to pass feeble resolutions, Canada, doubtless, will be found willing to undertake her reasonable share of the responsibility. The Eastern Extension Telegraph Company has a pretty good estimate of the patience of Australia. It has the cable monopoly of the four and a half millions of people, charges them 40 per cent. more than they ought to pay, and gets a subsidy besides. When it fears that the Australians really mean to do something towards getting a Pacific cable it talks smooth things to the Governments and people. Just now it is carrying a very high head, evidently thinking not much business is meant in the talk of a rival. It may yet kick so hard as to arouse the placid Australians to action. A conference is at present being held in London that may result in something.

If the managers of the Eastern Extension Company have not muzzled the Australian press, they have pretty effectually silenced it. Not only are low rates given by the company to press messages; but the daily newspapers have formed a news syndicate and none outside this syndicate can get press cables. This ensures a monopoly of the daily newspaper publication to those now in the trade. A second cable, especially if it were controlled by the interested governments, might break up this monopoly. It is no wonder therefore, that the Pacific cable project gets cold encouragement from the press here.

The ingenious scheme by which the farmers of Victoria hoped to get the full advantage of the duty imposed on imported wheat has broken down. It may be remembered that the proposal was made that the farmers should join hands and each supply a percentage of his wheat for export to England. It was to be sufficient to cover all the surplus beyond the Colony's needs, and then the price would go up for the balance to the price at which imported wheat could be landed. This was all right enough in theory, and was heartily applauded by the farmers, but when it came to furnishing the wheat for export each farmer wanted the other fellow to supply it in order that he might retain his for the promised rise. So the wheat has to take the ordinary course of trade, and the city chaps are getting cheaper bread than they otherwise would.

The "Ribston," the first of the anti-monopoly line of steamers for New York, arrived in Sydney, July 27th, after a passage of 68 days. She stopped at Melbourne and unloaded part of her cargo en route. Freight rates have been quoted as low as 8 cents per cubic foot from New York. Before these steamers were put on, the rate for sailing vessel was 18 cents per foot. Sydney, N. S. W., 12th August, 1898. F. W.

PACIFIC COAST SALMON.

An estimate, apparently authoritative, of the sock-eye salmon pack of the British Columbia and Puget Sound canneries appears in The Vancouver World of September 13th. It places the pack this year at—exclusive of that put up at Alert bay and on the West Coast—408,085 cases as against 1,015,477 cases put up at British Columbia canneries alone last year. The packs for the Puget Sound canneries, it will be noticed, are

enormous when compared with the packs on the Canadian side, that of the Alaskan Packers' Association being particularly large. Last year the total pack on the Fraser was 860,459 cases as against 184,685 cases this year. In 1897 there were 65,905 cases packed on the Skeena as against 92,200 packed this year, and on Rivers Inlet 113,200 cases were packed this year as against 40,207 last year, exclusive of the Lowe Inlet pack, which was 10,666 cases, and which this year is included in the pack under Rivers Inlet. The canneries on the Fraser River, 46 in number, have put up 184,685 cases in quantities of from 1,000 to 12,000 each. On Puget Sound 15 canneries put up 244,700 cases, the Alaska Packers' Association alone packing 75,000. Rivers Inlet put up 113,200 cases (seven canneries); Skeena River, 92,200, also with seven. On the Naas River there are but two which pack 18,000 cases.

THE NEW WESTMINSTER FIRE.

It says much for the substantial character of the work in the vaults of the banks at New Westminster, and of the fire-proof character of the safes, that the great fire of last week does not appear to have injured any of their contents. A number of the vaults have been opened and found uninjured; thus in the Bank of Montreal vault everything was in perfect condition. It had been supposed that the contents of the Bank of British Columbia vault, owing to a crack in the upper part of the brick-work, would be found damaged, but on opening the same, which was done without difficulty, as the combinations worked, the contents and inside of the safe were as if no fire had been raging outside. "There was not a scorched part about any of the woodwork, and the handsome safes inside were just as good as new."

Subscriptions of money and contributions in kind continue to come forward to relieve the destitute. The American coast cities have been generous, and the Vancouver relief fund exceeds \$3,000. Rossland has contributed \$5,000; Northwest Territories, \$1,000; Nelson City, \$500; Kamloops, \$500. Several Canadian banks have subscribed liberally. Women's council have collected \$448; Nanaimo, \$500. Individual firms, too, have forwarded liberal sums.

THE QUEBEC EXHIBITION.

The first week of the Provincial Fair at Quebec has witnessed a very satisfactory attendance at what must be described as a fairly interesting exhibition; 47,000 people were carried by the street railway on Thursday, 15th. The buildings make a good appearance and their contents are as a rule creditable. Some well-known Quebec exhibitors are showing their cattle at the St. John Exhibition; still the display here is a good one. It is a fortunate thing that the display of agricultural machinery is so strong. Many farmers from distant parts of Quebec as well as those nearer the city have an opportunity of seeing the latest devices in seeding and harvesting. The Smith's Falls people have interesting displays of this kind, and the Massey-Harris Company made an extensive exhibit, a feature of which was the working model of a farm. In extent and variety the show made by Carrier, Laine & Co. is remarkable. Both in the Industrial Building and in Machinery Hall they are well represented with hollow-ware, steam engines and stable fittings. The J. B. Armstrong Company of Guelph was prominent with its product consisting of carriages and carriage parts, while other makers of vehicles were present from Oshawa, Quebec and Montreal. A display that attracted much and deserved attention was that made in the Industrial Hall by Z. Paquet, the well-known fur manufacturer of Quebec. He had on view a great variety of fur clothing, the richness and beauty of which seized the eye of every female passer-by. The Lake St. John display of ouinaniche and trout was also in this building, and attracts large crowds.

—Word comes from Halifax that the liquidators of the Pictou Bank have declared a dividend of \$10 per share out of the assets of that defunct institution. They also give notice that they intend to distribute among the shareholders of the bank the amount reserved as a provision, either for unredeemed circulation or for unpaid dividends, or for ordinary liabilities, or indebtedness of the said bank.