

The Swyrna fig crop this year is about 60,000 camel loads, as against about 49,500 loads in 1899, 12,300 loads in 1898, and 59,300 loads in 1897. An average full crop is about 65,000 camel loads. The quality of this year's output is said to be very fine.

At the annual meeting in Guelph of the Poultry Association of Ontario the following officers were elected: Honorary president, F. W. Hodson; president, A. W. Tyson, Guelph; first vice-president, Wm. McNeil, London; second vice-president, M. T. Burns; directors, D. C. True, Lindsay; Mr. Dundas, Toronto; John Crow, Guelph; Charles Massey, Port Hope; T. H. Scott, St. Thomas; John Ramsay, Owen Sound; A. Bogue, London; Mr. Kedwell, Petrolia; W. J. Beil, Angus and W. R. Graham.

The creameries in the Northwest Territories, managed by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, have had a successful season. The output of butter during the summer was 636,915 lbs., being 28 per cent. greater than in 1899, with a value somewhat higher than the average price at the creameries in Ontario and Quebec. Whereas, formerly butter was almost unsaleable in the summer season at many points in the Territories, the average price throughout 1899 and 1900 has been over 20 cents per pound at the creameries. Three of the creameries in Alberta are being run all winter and are turning out about a ton and a half of butter per week. Nothing could better work toward a speedy settling up of our great Northwest than such development along these lines.

From the comparative table presented by W. Weddel & Co., London, in their latest market report, we see that the price of Canadian butter in London during this week ending with the 8th inst., was 102s. to 104s. for choicest, and 100s. to 102s. for finest, as compared with the 1899 figures for the corresponding period, which were 96s. to 102s. for choicest, and 92s. to 94s. for finest. Looking at cheese from the same standpoint we find that Canadian choicest this year is 54s. to 55s.; finest, 52s. to 53s., while last year, contrary to the case of butter which has been higher this year, the figures were 58s. to 59s., and 56s. to 57s., respectively.

FOR THE RETAIL DRY GOODS MAN.

Raw flax is very scarce in Germany at the present time, and prices have advanced 10 and 12 per cent. An American Consul says it would be a fine opportunity for the introduction of flax from the United States, if seized quickly, Canadian growers may perhaps be able to take advantage of these conditions also.

The United States paid \$32,479,620 in 1899 for raw silk, and \$45,329,760 in 1900. This article is the product of the cheapest labor in foreign countries. In a recent report of the Agricultural Department, it is suggested that Congress should set aside the sum of \$10,000 to encourage domestic production of silk in the Southern States. It is pointed out that colored children could be employed to a very large extent.

The Youths' Companion describes a woman, residing near Bradford, Eng., who has earned her living from pillow-lace making for ninety-five years. Years ago this fabric brought 30 cents a yard, but now it is sold for 12c. Those who have not seen this variety of lace can have no idea of the hundreds of thousands of turns, crosses and twists that must be given the thread in making a few yards of the pattern. Even now old Nancy, as she is familiarly called, can follow on intricate pattern with ease, and without the aid of spectacles.

At the recent sales of seal skins held at the Hudson Bay and Lampson Company's London offices, some 300 skins were sold. The prices averaged 63s. 6d. for British Columbia coast skins, and 70s. 6d. for Behring Sea skins, at Lampson's, and 60s. 6d., respectively, at the Hudson Bay Company.

Mixtures of colored ribbons will be seen in quantity next spring, and it is safe to predict at this moment that ribbons rather than broad silks will be the central point of attraction in the neckwear, belts, sashes, long-fringed sashes and other forms which are going to be the rage in the new styles. Velvet ribbons are steadily advancing in price, though the Dry Goods Economist advises retailers to be wary of extreme prices on any fabrics, as there is no real reason for apprehended scarcity.

TORONTO STOCK TRANSACTIONS.

There has been something of an easing off in the number of transactions on the Stock Exchange since last week, though no particular feature in prices is to be noted. The following are the transactions in detail: Bank of Montreal, 34 at 255-256½; Ontario, 25 at 124; Toronto 10 at 238; Merchants, 10 at 153; Commerce, 283 at 148½-149½; Imperia, 30 at 216-217; Dominion, 85 at 230-232; Standard, 10 at 224; Western Assce, 325 at 108-115½; Canada N. W. Land, 107 at 48½-48¾; C. P. R. 785 at 87½-88½; Toronto Electric Light, 67 at 133½-¾; Can. Gen. Electric, 593 at 190-2; Commercial Cable, 260 at 167-171; Richilieu and Ontario, 110 at 108½-108¾; Toronto Railway, 167 at 107-9; Twin City, 775 at 68½-71; Cycle, 10 at 81½; Dominion Telegraph, 2 at 122; Can Permanent and Western Canada, 445 at 110½; Peoples' Loan, 20 at 25; War Eagle, 12,550 at 103-4½; Payne, 4,500 at 75-81; Crow's Nest, 1,420 at 231-247; Republic, 13,700 at 61-2½; Northern Star, 6,500 at 92½-4½; Carter-Crume, 88 at 104½-5½; Dunlop, 43 at 100½-¾; Virtue, 1,000 at 30½-31; and British Canadian, 50 at 61½.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, December 20th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Dec. 20, 1900.	Dec. 13, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$16,380,810	\$13,726,447
Toronto.....	11,235,339	11,730,170
Winnipeg.....	2,540,573	2,761,614
Halifax.....	1,516,699	1,615,942
Hamilton.....	904,106	899,911
St. John.....	717,367	768,444
Vancouver.....	973,590	769,580
Victoria.....	532,815	580,564
	\$34,801,299	\$32,852,672

Aggregate balances, this week, \$5,267,342; last week, \$4,497,039

—The charter of the National Trust Company having been confirmed by a special act of the legislature of Quebec the company is authorized to carry on its business in all its branches in that province. We observe that it is acting as trustee for the Dominion Iron & Steel Company. The latest addition to its board of directors is Mr. James Crathern, of Montreal, who takes the place of the late Senator Sanford. The appointment is a good one, for there is no better business man in Canada than Mr. Crathern. He is prominently connected with various financial institutions and business enterprises in several provinces, and also represents the Montreal Board of Trade on the Harbor Board Commission of that city.

—We understand that, on the first of the coming year, Mr. C. S. Hoare, long connected with the Imperial Bank of Canada, and for some years manager of its Winnipeg branch, leaves that bank to enter the service of the Royal Bank of Canada. It is stated that Mr. Hoare will manage the Montreal branch of the Royal. The successor of Mr. Hoare at Winnipeg is Mr. Norman G. Leslie, late manager of the Imperial's branch at Brandon.

—We hear from the Maritime Provinces that prominent merchants of Advocate, N.S., are working for the establishment of a good steamship line between St. John and Basin of Minas ports. The scheme looks to the purchase or building of a large boat. St. John capital has been invited to assist in the project.

—A board of trade has been formed at Hamiota, Manitoba, with the following officers: President, F. J. Boulton; secretary-treasurer, M. B. Jackson; council, C. H. Greenshaw, Wm. Chambers, Wm. Thomson and Hugh Fraser. The board is taking up the matter of better grain marketing and has sent a delegation to Winnipeg to interview the warehouse commissioner on the subject.

—Unhappy news comes from the busy village of Hanover, Ont., to the effect that the extensive furniture factory of the Knechtel Company was entirely destroyed by fire last evening. Two hundred persons are thrown out of work by the disaster. Another fire, which at this writing (8.30 a.m.) is in progress, broke out in the Matthews' picture frame works on Temperance street. Six of the employees were injured by a falling floor, and have been taken to the hospital.