

CITY CHIMES.

Church of England Institute undertakings this winter are very successful. Last Friday night the first concert of the season's course drew an immense audience which overflowed the rooms. The programme was a fine one, and the concert proved a musical treat. Mrs. George Campbell, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Lear, Miss Morrow, Mr. Sobieski, Mr. Blois, Mr. Gillis, Dr. Slayter and Mr. Henry all contributed to the success of the evening.

We have had a storm nearly every week this winter. On Sunday last we had one of the worst, and very few people managed to get out to church, although of course the faithful clergymen had to be in their places as usual. Instead of clearing up the weather continued dark and unpleasant on Monday, and on Tuesday a sleet storm followed. Trees became weighted down with ice, and as for the wires of all kinds they became about six times their normal size, and in many cases broke the crossbars and sometimes the poles on which they were strung, thus putting the telephone, telegraph and electric light services out of order. And still we have little snow. Three or four winters have passed now during which the old-fashioned drifts have become almost forgotten. Some people regret the snow, but for ourselves we rejoice in its absence. When the editor reluctantly arises in the morning and prepares to betake himself to his sanctum, if he sees two feet deep of beautiful snow on the ground he is very apt to wish he owned a sleigh, instead of having to trudge through the fleecy white mass to the weariness of his flesh. Yes, we are personally delighted to have the snow come in the shape of rain.

Miss Louise Laine's song recitals have been looked forward to with much interest by the music-loving public since it was announced that she intended giving them. The first of the course of three was given in Orpheus Hall last evening under the patronage of General Sir John Ross and Lieut.-Governor Daly. Miss Laine was assisted by Frau Marianne Doering Brauer, Herr Doering and Mr. C. H. Porter. The demand for seats was brisk, and we have no doubt a good audience greeted Miss Laine's first recital. Unfortunately we are unable to give any particulars, as we go to press before the event.

Everyone will be glad to hear that Bishop Courtney is now reported out of danger.

The usually placid moon presented an unusual appearance on Tuesday night a little after ten o'clock. A lunar bow, consisting of several rings of rainbow-colors surrounded our Cynthia for about half an hour, and presented a very beautiful spectacle. Those who missed seeing the phenomenon are to be sympathized with, although once upon a time we suppose there would have been forebodings dire over the occurrence. People have better sense now-a-days.

There is sorrow in many households just now. Our sympathy goes out to the bereaved whom diphtheria has robbed of their little ones. Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Morrow have lost both their children this week from this cause, and Mrs. Morrow herself has also been very ill. In one household four children have been taken this month, and there are still many cases in the city. There is a cause for this, and no more time should be wasted in mere talk. Something should be done and done at once.

The first skating carnival of the season was held in Exhibition Rink on Monday evening. The number of skaters was not large, but the attendance of spectators was as usual very good.

The Lytell Company scored a great success in "Hands Across the Sea" last week. The accommodation afforded by the Academy of Music proved altogether insufficient, and standing room only was the rule every night. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was put on on Monday, and has drawn good audiences. Dion Boucicault's play, "The Streets of New York," was given last night, and will be repeated this and to-morrow evenings.

COMMERCIAL.

Continued fluctuating and unfavorable weather has retarded the development of trade, in the general position of which little or no change has transpired, and none of the leading lines have presented any notably new feature. Payments as a rule run about the same, but the monetary position in a speculative sense is decidedly better, which is generally a favorable indication. A number of small failures have occurred, but while trade is not exactly brisk, it is admitted to be on a sound bottom as regards new operations. In fact a cautious policy has been pursued all along the line, and stocks of all kinds are well in hand. Commercial travellers are generally sending in very fair orders, and they write hopefully of the prospects for a fair volume of business being accomplished during the coming season.

There is reason to believe that a great deal of the financial difficulty in which importers find themselves from time to time owes its origin to a want of knowledge of the actual cost of imported goods laid down here. For instance, do all our wholesale firms take into consideration the loss of three months' interest caused by dating ahead? Do they take into account the nine months' interest on the 33 per cent of Customs duties which is paid out in cash before the goods are delivered? These are very important items of cost to wholesale houses that, it is said, are frequently lost sight of in the undue haste manifested by certain firms in their anxiety to extend business and secure orders. It is very clear that some concerns have been egregiously

negligent in their calculations of the cost of importations, judging from the ruinously low prices at which they have invoiced them to their customers. There are also a number of other incidental losses besides those mentioned that are liable to escape the notice of importers in figuring up the cost of goods. Those items of expense may be individually small, but they aggregate to an important factor in the entire cost that should never be overlooked.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week ending		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date			
	Jan. 16, 1891	Jan. 16, 1890	1890	1889	1891	1890	1889	1888
United States	356	391	355	353	903	1018	981	913
Canada	51	46	36	17	120	110	97	92

DRY GOODS.—The quiet feeling continues in this branch of trade, which continues about the same. Orders from travellers show a fair average volume of business for the season, and our leading houses look forward for a good year's trade. Great caution is exercised in the distribution of credits, and quite a number of orders are held back until customers fulfil their obligations in arrears. The scarcity in certain lines of cotton goods, previously referred to by us, is as marked as ever, and values remain very firm at the advance in prices. Woollen goods are also firm all round. Remittances have been hardly as good as it was hoped that they would be, but from advices from the interior during the past few days it appears that a good many promises to settle up during the coming month have been made. Advices from primary centres cite a firm position, recent ones from Manchester and other centres stating that the feeling is steady, while there appears to be a fair business passing.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There is but little to add in connection with this market to what was said last week. Business is principally made up of small jobbing sales, but we do not come across a single instance where there has been any trading in pig iron. The feeling locally and throughout Canada is unchanged, while advices from Great Britain do not speak of anything strikingly new in the situation. Matters remain in statu quo and will continue to be unsettled until a move one way or the other has been taken. Tin plates are yet uncertain as regards values, and nothing is doing in them, prices being more or less nominal. The supply is, as we have several times previously stated, very light, in fact charcoal is becoming a substitute. It is natural, therefore, that holders are firm with the position at the source of supply as it is. In shelf goods there is nothing particular to note, the houses being still more or less engaged in averaging up.

BREADSTUFFS.—The flour market pursues the dull tenor of its way with nothing of importance to note either in the way of values or business. In fact business is likely to rule on the quiet side until the close of the current month, when the approach of spring is likely to induce some movement. The tone remains about the same, prices being steady, but no doubt concessions would be made from quotations if a genuine offer for a round lot were made. The *Merchant*, Toronto, says that "arrangements are about completed for the acquisition by an English syndicate of the principal flour mills in Canada." This is "important if true." Beerbohm's cable reports wheat steady with a continental demand. Corn steady. Weather in England, some snow. In Chicago wheat declined $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Corn was weak and $\frac{3}{4}$ c. lower. Oats fluctuated, but at last reports had fallen back $\frac{3}{4}$ c. The New York market was steady and that of Toledo quiet.

PROVISIONS.—A very slow movement in provisions still continues, but prices remain steady. At Liverpool pork declined 1s. and bacon 6d., while lard made an advance of 3d. No special feature occurred in the Chicago provision market, but pork has been weak and lard advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Short ribs declined about $\frac{1}{2}$ c. The hog market there was stronger and advanced \$10. The cattle market was firm, but sheep were easy. A London letter says:—"The Arctic weather has been beneficial to the live and dead meat trades, as it has enabled dealers to dispose of lots left over from the Xmas market at fairly remunerative rates, but the supply being somewhat in excess of the demand, a drop has resulted of quite $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per stone, the top quotation for beasts to dress from 750 to 760 lbs. being $\frac{7}{8}$ d. with heavy descriptions down to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. The sheep supply has been a great deal larger than requirements, and trade has consequently ruled slow, top quotations for best small wethers being 9d. The ban has been removed from Dutch mutton, and this week 3317 sheep from Holland figured at Deptford, 5s. 6d. being paid for small, and 5s. to 5s. 2d. for larger animals. The dead meat trade has been about steady at late rates, the heavy consignments to Smithfield preventing any appreciable bettering of prices. Notwithstanding the plethora of supplies from which the market has been suffering, shippers seem determined to force the trade, and if the omens tell a truthful tale we are likely to be more flooded with frozen mutton from New Zealand and River Plate this year than last, when over 3,000,000 carcasses reached us from all sources."

BUTTER.—The position is unchanged with the firm feeling maintained. Stocks of strictly fancy creamery have been pretty well reduced and the article is firmly held. Aside from creamery there is a fair seasonable supply on spot. Though stocks are not heavy it is claimed that there is enough butter on hand to meet all reasonable demands. On this ground it is asserted that it would be a wise course to accept fair offers now if such are made rather than to hold obstinately. The local jobbing demand rules about the same. In England "cold weather causes the demand to hang steady for best descriptions and Normandy baskets have gone up $\frac{1}{2}$ s., the quotations now being 132s., American being also in request at 70s. to 80s. with best up to 90s. per cwt. Dutch butter, however, shows a declining tendency, and Friesland is selling all the way from 90s. to 124s. Australia is again to the fore with a large consignment which has gone off well at from 90s. to 116s. for good and 120s. for finest, New Zealand figuring at from 70s. for inferior to 108s. for fair." Why does not Canadian butter command as good prices? Because it does not receive the same careful attention in making and packing. It is in the hands of our farmers and manufacturers