

Investigation is being made at the port of New York into alleged irregularities in the importation of Kaiki Japanese silks. They have been brought in at absurdly low valuations.

Says the New York Journal of commerce of Tuesday last: "The woolen goods industry shows a noteworthy improvement, stocks of cotton goods in the hands of jobbers and retailers are not believed to be heavy, and in the dry goods trade here the prospects for fall business are considered good."

—We are informed that the Dominion Bank is opening a branch at Stanstead, Que., in the premises formerly occupied by the Eastern Townships Bank. It will be under the management of Mr. S. L. Jones, formerly manager of the North East branch at Winnipeg.

—The attendance at the Glasgow Exhibition of 1901 has been nearly double that of the similar affair in the same city in 1888. In the latter year there were 2,664,218 attendances, yielding £52,129 in the first eighty-five days; in the present year the number of paid admissions was 5,051,253, yielding £73,444. In May, this year, 1,757,341 persons attended; in June, 1,470,559; in July, 1,472,377, and in August for seven days the admissions averaged 59,000, yielding £1,055 per day.

—There is a project of establishing a pork-packing establishment at Petrolea, and the people of that town and neighborhood have been asked to subscribe for the purpose. Some 400 of them have done so, and their names appear in the "Topic" of August 14th. A charter is to be obtained, and the premises are intended to be ready to pack hogs next winter. We trust the good people of Croton, Florence, Dresden, Petrolea, Dawn Mills and elsewhere, may not be disappointed in the outcome of their investment, but it seems to us that we are getting too many pork-packing concerns in Ontario.

—Word comes from Montreal of the death on Tuesday last of Mr. Hector Mackenzie, senior partner of the wholesale dry goods house of J. G. Mackenzie & Co., of that city. The deceased gentleman was born in Montreal in 1843, and in early life became connected with his father's firm, of which, in 1881, he took the senior place. At the time of his death he was vice-president of the Merchants Bank of Canada, and at times a director of the Montreal Trust and Deposit Company, the Montreal Gas Company, the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company, the Street Railway Company, the Montreal Telegraph Company

—The appalling news comes from the Alaskan coast that the steamer "Islander," with 178 persons on board, struck an ice floe in a fog near the mouth of the Lynn Canal, and sank in sixteen minutes. Many were drowned, how many cannot yet be told. One statement says 40, another estimate makes the number nearly double this. The report says that the captain of the steamer is among the dead. It is better so, for none can envy his reflections had he lived to recall the dreadful scene, and to reflect that his running full speed in a dense fog was the cause of such death and disaster. We are told that the "Islander" had seven water-tight compartments; if this is true, how came it that they would not sustain her for more than a quarter of an hour?

—In the August issue of the British Columbia Mining Record we find the following editorial item about the Hall Mines Co., at Nelson: "The announcement that the Hall mines have resumed the shipment and treatment of ore from the Silver King mine will be greeted with heartfelt satisfaction. Those at present in control of the property have earned the greatest amount of credit for the manner in which they have stuck to it and have retrieved earlier errors. The character of the present management is such that we do not doubt that shipments have been resumed only when the mine is in a position to maintain a steady regular output. Nothing can have a better result upon the credit of the province in London than the gradual rehabilitation of this property and consequent increase in the value of its shares. It is a demonstration of the fact that whatever financial loss and disaster have occurred in the past, their cause has not lain in the poverty of the mines of British Columbia."

—The eminent English medical authority, Dr. Gowers, said in the course of a recent lecture that the values of the best remedies in the shape of drugs that are now in use in medicine were discovered by chance. Doctors smile, he says, at the popular herbal remedies, but it is to these that we owe the majority of our most useful drugs. "We disinfect our rooms with burning sulphur—so did men before the time of Homer. We purge sometimes with rhubarb, when some after

astriugent influence is desired—so did the old Arabians for the same special reason. The value of castor oil was familiar to the natives of the East and the West Indies long before a physician from Antigua made it known in Europe 150 years ago. Aloe was employed in the same way long before the time of Pliny. The use of mercury in syphilis seems to go back to the time of the crusades. Podophyllum as a purgative we owe to the Indians of North America, and finally, it was by accident that the local anesthetic influence of cocaine was discovered.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Advices from the American Pacific coast on the 20th report that a continued firm feeling is noted all along the line in new crop apricots and peaches.

A special despatch from Los Angeles, California, to the N. Y. Bulletin says: The Rivera Walnut Association estimates the walnut crop at 150 cars, of 20,000 pounds each.

According to private mail advices from Holland, the total catch of herrings for the season to date numbers 87,264 barrels, compared with 35,5122 barrels for the corresponding period last year.

The first shipment of layer figs of the new crop, it is stated, were made from Smyrna on Saturday, and are due to arrive in the New York market about Sept. 15 next. They are said to be of good quality.

On Tuesday last the Ogilvie Milling Company at Winnipeg received its first car of new wheat, of this year's crop. It came from Dominion City, and is described as a very fine sample of No. 1 hard.

Sales of new crop Oregon prunes are reported by a New York exchange on the basis of 6c for 30s, 5¼ for 40s and 4¾c for 50s in 25-lb boxes f. o. b. the coast. Business amounting to eight carloads is said to have been done on this basis.

Ontario canners are fearing they will be put to serious inconvenience owing to the steel strike in the United States. Already there is a great shortage of tin plate of which to make cans. Glass jars can be substituted to some extent, but these are out of the question in many cases.

Word comes from London respecting the market for dried apples that: "Of American apple rings the crop is reported exceedingly short, say, 15 per cent. below the normal rate of production, and one of the smallest since 1890. Contracts for October-November shipment are now being made at 43s c. f. and i., which is nearly equal to 45s per cwt. landed here."

On Tuesday last, the price of refined sugar was reduced by all New York refiners 10 cents per hundred pounds, making the quotation of granulated 5¼ cents a pound, compared with 5.35c previously. The cut was due to the easier tone of raw sugars, which have been working lower for two weeks. Centrifugals, however, were unchanged at 4 cents.

There is a heavy run of salmon on the Fraser River this year. It was not unexpected by the canners, who, believing in the saying (or the superstition) that every fourth year the fish come in profusion, have engaged several vessels to take cargo from Puget Sound to Britain, where last year they only chartered five. This year's charters are at 38s 9d to 41s 3d to Liverpool, and at 42s to London.

Regarding salmon, mail advices from Liverpool state: "The turnover on the market is much larger, and it is more evident that country stocks have been depleted. The lower prices are inducing fresh buying on an extended scale. Reports are at hand of the close of the fishing in several districts with a pack estimated at only half of last year, while against this the Fraser River and Puget Sound pack are reported to be larger than last year. Salmon is now at the poor man's price, and a large consumption should result."

"Higher Education" is a fad with some people, who would have the humblest of our boys and girls filled to the chin with all the 'ologies, and taught algebra and hygienic philosophy before they have learned to spell or write English. They may take warning by a Vassar girl, "highly cultivated," who got married and went to house-keeping. On the first visit to her grocer's she ordered 10 kilogrammes of paralyzed sugar, three 2 litre cans of condensed milk, a pound of desecrated codfish, and a moderate sized paper receptacle full of the freshest salt. Then she raised the back of her skirt with her right hand and left the shop airily.