

## GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

C. J. Hurt has sold his large flour mill in Carberry, Man., to J. B. Howard and a syndicate of Minneapolis capitalists. It is understood the new proprietors will erect several mills throughout the West.

The entire plant of the Petrolea Packing Company at Petrolea, Ont., was on the 31st ult. destroyed by fire, together with a large quantity of bacon, beef, etc. The loss is somewhere near \$100,000, largely covered by insurance. About seventy-five men are thrown out of employment.

La Compagnie de Laiterie de Montréal, (Limitée), is the name of a new concern recently started in Montreal for the purchase and sale of dairy and other farm products, and the manufacture and packing of butter and cheese for local consumption and for export. A. Fortier and F. Monette, of Montreal, are interested in the new concern, which has an authorized capital stock of \$100,000.

Some interesting calculations are presented by Mr. F. C. Reford, chief of the poultry division of the Dominion Agricultural Department, as to the present and future status of the chicken industry. Mr. Reford takes the figures of the 1901 census as the basis for his calculation; they are eleven million laying hens, 84,123,802 dozen eggs, valued at \$10,268,159. This is an annual average of 91 eggs per bird. Mr. Reford says: "If the same rate of increase were kept up from 1901 to 1911 as from 1891 to 1901, we should have about fifteen million laying hens at the same average (91 eggs), we should have in 1911 about 110,500,000 dozen, which at the same price (12½ cents per dozen) would bring \$13,812,000." Anticipating an improvement of laying powers by proper methods of breeding and selection the chief of the poultry division says: "With the improvement in the laying qualities of the hen that might reasonably be expected from the use of the trap nests the eggs laid in 1911 should be worth at least \$22,767,857, an increase of revenue of about \$9,000,000. This is calculated on an average lay of 150 eggs per hen per year, and the average price of eggs in 1901, which was much less than for 1905."

## AN ECONOMIST ON TRADES UNIONISM.

Professor Adam Shortt says: The cause of trades unionism is not the cause of the whole laboring class, and indeed could not be. It is the cause of organized labor only which must suppress competition, thus crowding the surplus workmen into lower grades of unskilled and unorganized labor. The situation has largely come round to this, that it no longer depends upon capital, but upon the trades unions, as to whether labor should or should not find employment, or at least be eligible to find employment. One effect of the increasing power of trades unionism is to concentrate the poorer and less capable grades of labor in the unskilled and unorganized trades, and thus to swell the ranks of the poverty-stricken and sweated labor bands. Organized labor has thus disposed of the dream of its earlier advocates, that it was capable of bringing universal redemption to the lower classes. On the other hand, the training and self-discipline incidental to the meetings and affairs of the trades unions afford an excellent school in civics, training the members for the wider duties of citizenship and preparing the more capable and intelligent of the laborers to take a new, more rational and more effective interest in municipal, provincial, national, and even international duties and obligations.

## DRY GOODS NOTES.

A visit to the wholesale fur emporium of A. A. Allan & Co., Toronto, reveals a remarkably complete, up-to-date fire-proof warehouse of seven stories and basement. It may be said that there is not a merchantable kind of skin in the world that is not represented in this fine collection; moreover, they are shown in all grades and at all prices.

The "Manchester Guardian" apparently does not think very highly of the importance of Canada as a wool producing country. It says the British Isles are responsible annually for ten times the extent of the Dominion clip of about twelve million pounds, and of the world's total Canada produces less than one-half per cent. This small production, it contends, is of quality fit only for the manufacture of medium goods.

—The annual meeting of the Canadian Bankers' Association was held in Montreal yesterday. Particulars next week.

## CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian Clearing Houses for the week ended with Thursday, November 9th, 1905, as compared with those of the previous week:—

|                     | Nov. 9.      | Nov. 2.      |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Montreal . . . . .  | \$32,161,904 | \$28,589,319 |
| Toronto . . . . .   | 24,180,587   | 22,817,954   |
| Winnipeg . . . . .  | 11,495,762   | 11,606,527   |
| Halifax . . . . .   | 2,277,288    | 1,876,649    |
| Hamilton . . . . .  | 1,817,024    | 1,405,718    |
| St. John . . . . .  | 1,343,706    | 1,139,569    |
| Vancouver . . . . . | 1,975,031    | 2,307,116    |
| Victoria . . . . .  | 971,725      | 589,417      |
| Quebec . . . . .    | 2,332,254    | 1,667,486    |
| Ottawa . . . . .    | 3,094,876    | 2,340,853    |
| London . . . . .    | 1,144,895    | 1,081,320    |
| Total . . . . .     | \$82,795,052 | \$75,419,928 |

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