

Y. Griffin & Co. in that city, extensive improvements and enlargements of which have been under progress for some time. This week, it was expected, the factory would be able to resume operations, and its capacity will have increased from a possible of 200 hogs per day to 500. The new building was planned and erected under a Chicago architect, an expert in such structures, who has made cold storage buildings a special study. The firm proposes to open a branch in Vancouver about the middle of April.

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

As to improvements in the manufacture of figured fabrics, this object is effected by employing different materials, as wool and cotton, so that when the wool forms the figure on the face the cotton forms the ground also on the face. When the fabric is dyed in such a manner that the wool takes one color and the cotton another, a reversible fabric of a very novel effect is obtained. In some cases warps or wefts of three or more different materials are employed, and so manipulated as to produce ground and figure of three or more different colorings, or with shaded effects.

"Very few people outside the trade," said a leading wholesale dealer in handkerchiefs in New York to a Washington *Star* reporter recently, "are aware that the consumption of handkerchiefs throughout the United States amounts to about 75,000 dozen daily. This means 27,375,000 dozen yearly, or 328,500,000 single handkerchiefs. To satisfy this enormous demand there are always kept in stock in this city at least 350,000,000 handkerchiefs. A comparatively small number of handkerchiefs are manufactured in this country, and those that are made here are mostly of the cotton and inferior silk varieties. The finest silk goods are imported principally from Japan, which country sends us annually between 17,000,000 and 18,000,000 Japanese pongees. The best cambric article comes from France and Belgium, and linen handkerchiefs come from the north of Ireland and also from St. Galls, Switzerland."

The finance committee of the Kingston council is considering a suggestion from the Dominion Cotton Mills Company relative to their Kingston mill. Mr. Whitehead is prepared to show that the Kingston mill has been losing money, and is losing money at the present time, so that, under existing circumstances, it is not very likely that the company will continue in business there. The question, therefore, is, will the city give a bonus of \$50,000 to enable the company to rebuild and extend its works at Kingston? It is claimed that the mill must be doubled in size, that only by so doing can they remain in Kingston, as at the present time the Kingston mill is not paying and the plant will have to be removed to one of the larger mills. The present capacity of the cotton mill is 20,000 pounds per week, with 290 looms. If the present scheme went through, new looms and machinery, together with power plant, would have to be put in. The present Kingston mill is about the same size as the Brantford mill. The cost of operating the new mill and the wages would be about double the present figures. The Dominion Cotton Mills Co. are operating mills at Montreal, Magog, and Coaticook, Que.; Moncton, N.B.; Halifax, Windsor N.S.; Kingston and Brantford, Ont., and for some time a number of the smaller mills outside of Montreal and Magog have been steadily losing ground at the expense of the large and profitable mills. The bulk of the machinery is old and out-of-date in the Kingston mill.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The *Corn Trade News* has reduced its estimate of Argentine export surplus of wheat to 20,000,000 bushels.

Argentine shipments of wheat last week were reported the largest on record, due to late bad weather holding back shipments.

The British Board of Agriculture pronounces the present potato crop to be the smallest since 1884, namely, 52,100,000 cwts., against 71,200,000 last year.

The use of the maple leaf as a brand for merchandise should be carefully reserved for the best goods. The Cowan Cocoa Company has combined it with the word "Perfection" in trade marking one of their best grades of cocoa. The national emblem should be associated with nothing but the best.

Frost has done serious damage to the small fruit crop of California during some days past. Apricots, prunes, etc., being "in the bud" were badly injured. As a consequence, prices of dried fruits are looking up. Our Montreal correspondents say that apricots are a cent higher, and prunes indefinitely higher.

The Dominion Government authorities are of the opinion that the use of antiseptics at any stage of the preparation of milk, as condensed milk, should be prohibited. They state that in very few cases does the milk used by the manufacturer come up to the standard for whole

milk. In most cases a greater or less amount of cream has been used before concentration, and in some brands the cream has been all but completely removed.

There are in Sweden 1,800 large dairies, of which 1,420 are devoted to butter-making alone. Most of the butter is exported to England. Keenly alive to the importance of the English market, the Swedish Government keeps a dairy agent established in Manchester to advance the trade. In every county an expert is stationed, whose duty it is to travel about his district, giving advice and information respecting dairying. These are paid by the agricultural societies of the different counties.

Of the world's total sugar product of 8,000,000 tons, about 4,500,000 tons are prepared from beets, of which Germany and Austria furnish nearly two-thirds; France, Russia, Belgium and Holland supply the remainder. The American beet sugar product has increased from 2,800 tons in 1889 to 43,000 tons last year. England leads the world in sugar consumption, averaging 86 pounds per capita; Denmark averages 45; Switzerland, 44; Holland, 31; France, 30; Norway and Sweden, 25; Austria, 19; Italy and Turkey, 7; Greece, 6; and Servia, 4 pounds.

INSURANCE ITEMS.

"A cheerful disposition is worth everything to a man, and he will be more cheerful for the knowledge that he has insured his life and his property, so that in case of loss there will be something to show to somebody besides a long face. If you don't learn to laugh when troubles are in front of you, you will have nothing to smile at when you are old and troubles are all about you."

Sanction has been given by the Committee on Banking and Commerce in the Dominion House to a change of name by the following companies: The name of the Manufacturers' Guarantee and Accident Assurance Company, to be changed to the Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company; the Federal Life Assurance Company of Ontario, to that of the Federal Life Assurance Company of Canada; the Dominion Building and Loan Association, to that of the Dominion Permanent Loan Company. But objection is taken to the title of the last-named, and a deputation from Toronto has asked the Government not to permit it.

We note that the Equity Fire Insurance Company is about removing from Bay street to larger premises in the Manning Arcade. This is a newly formed company licensed to do business in Ontario, having a nominal capital of \$1,000,000, of which we are told a third is subscribed. A list of the directors and officers of the company is as under: President, Arch. Campbell, M.P.; vice-president, Thomas Crawford, M.P.P.; manager, Wm. Greenwood Brown; directors, C. C. VanNorman (The Harvey VanNorman Co.), Edward Morgan (Judge, County Court), David Carlyle (vice-president Toronto Radiator Company), Wm. Hendrie, jr., Hamilton; James Minnes, Kingston; W. H. Biggar, ex-M.P.P., Belleville; Dr. Lowery, Brantford; A. F. McLaren, M.P., Stratford; Stephen Noxon, Ingersoll; C. H. Elliott, London.

An Ottawa paper says that "Jennie Abrams, who carried on a general dry goods business at 185 Rideau street in that city, and who was burned out on July 12th, last year, has entered two important actions in the High Court. One of these is for \$5,511.62 against the General Fire Insurance Company, of Paris, France, and the other for \$2,000 against the British and American Exchange Association, of London, England." Has Jennie been well advised, in the first place to insure her "general dry goods business" in two underground offices? We do not find these two offices in the list of those licensed by the Government to do business in Canada, and it may trouble Miss or Mrs. Abrams to get her money. Regular companies do not usually take eight months to settle legitimate claims; irregular companies settle when they feel like it—which is not always.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

SETTLER.—In your issue of the 18th there is reference to a pamphlet prepared by the "Western Immigration Board." Could you give any information as to the status or composition of this board—whether a Government or private corporation? [It is not a Government affair at all, but an organization resulting from a gathering a year ago or more of men from Western Ontario, Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia, whose object is to help the development of this Great West of ours, and to assist immigration. The secretary is F. W. Heubach, of Winnipeg. We recommend you to write him.]

R. B., London.—It was not ours. Another journal published in this city took an original article from our issue of 11th February last, reprinted it in pamphlet form, and is selling the pamphlets, we are informed, at \$5 per 1,000 copies. Our reprint of the same article is sold at \$8.50 for 5,000 copies.