One of the most valuable of Canada's many valuable resources is that of the sturgeon fisheries. According to reports in possession of the Department of Fisheries at Ottawa, several hundred kegs have been sent from Rat Portage during the past two or three years.

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

For ladies' jackets this spring covert, venetian, cheviot, Oxford and heather mixtures are being used.

The directors of the Merchants' Manufacturing Company have elected Mr. James Crathern as vice-president to replace the late Mr. Gilman Cheney.

In retail stores silks are everywhere—in soft, light or bright colorings. The designs in some instances are small and unassuming, but always in tasteful contrast. Other patterns show much brilliant flowering and are so strongly indicative of the Empire and Watteau effects as to convey an unmistakable intimation of the position such styles will occupy later in the season.

Says The Dry Goods Economist: This is the greatest season for malines, nets, chiffons, mousselines and laces that the trade has seen in years. Beginning three or four years ago, the malines and transparent tendency has developed, until to-day all hats are of diaphanous materials. The heavier silks and fabrics are used to a less extent than was promised early in the season, except for the wheel choux and ribbon trimmings, which will be stronger and stronger as the season advances.

The following report is from Leeds of recent date: In the production of the very best worsteds and woolens there is now such greatly improved machinery employed that it requires little time to overload the market with stock. This is especially so when the shipping trade is flat, and such is the case now. Except to Canada, there are no large exportations. A good season's trade with the Dominion has already begun, and may be relied upon to last. If from Belgium and Holland reports come of better trade, it is only a few of the better class of our worsteds, plain supers, worsted serges, wool meltons, and all wool tweeds which are selling there at all."

Among the retailers at the millinery openings this spring in Winnipeg were the following: Miss Alexander, Minnedosa; Miss James, Brandon; Miss Coulter, Boissevain; Miss Brown, Holland; Miss Hormbrook, Carberry; Miss Anderson, Carman; Miss Smith, Crystal City; Miss Campbell, Manitou; Miss Curle, Dauphin; Mrs. A. Cromwell, Keewatin; Mrs. McCauley, Rat Portage; Miss Norton, Hartney; Miss Neeland, Indian Head; Miss Nimmons, Minnedosa; Miss Ferguson, Miami; Miss Hewitt, Neepawa; Miss M. Alexander, Newdale; Mrs. Letang, Miss Post, Pilot Mound; Miss Cameron, Miss Malcolm, Portage la Prairie; Miss Leeson, Souris; Miss Cook, Broadview; Miss Anderson, Virden; Miss Dodsworth, Manitou.

The improvements made in knitting machinery in the last few years have been very great, the resulting economies in production seem little short of marvellous. The following figures of the cost of producing hosiery, 50 dozen per day, men's half-hose, have been given by a Toronto concern: Knitting, 5c.; topping, 4c.; looping, 5c.; knitting tops, ½c. per dozen; dyeing, 3c. per lb.; wet boarding, ¾c.; pressing, 1c.; pressing and folding, 1c.; winding, 1c. and mending 1c. per dozen. To this 10 cents per dozen is to be added for general expenses, though it is said in some mills general expenses are reduced as low as 3 cents per dozen.

In the course of approving comment upon the recent registration as a limited company of Wyld, Grasett, Darling Co., and the lines upon which the business is to be conducted in the future, The Drapers' Record says: "The preferential tariff to Great Britain, which has encouraged many British houses to develop the Canadian trade, is one of the factors in moving Canada to a little more business activity, more especially since she discovers that the British manufacturer is dispensing with the assistance of the importing houses, and doing business direct, through agents, with traders in all the leading centres." There is a very reasonable doubt whether "the sort of business activity" which leads British houses to ignore such strong middle men as the Wyld, Grasett & Darling Company, Ltd., and go past them to the retailers, is a desirable sort, either for exporter or importer. Many of the British houses, which have tried "selling the retail" in Canada any time these last thirty years have small pleasure in the recollection. If the preferential tariff is to foster only this particular sort of "business activity" not many seasons will pass before a reaction against it may be expected.

INSURANCE NOTES.

We often hear the expression that delay is dangerous; we often learn, too, when some man dies suddenly that he has left widow and children poorly off because he neglected to complete an insurance application he had in hand just before he died. These things come home to us more strongly, however, when we have known the man who thus neglected his duty. A friend in the West tells us of the death at Kingsville the other day of Edward E. Harris, manager of the Natural Gas Co. It appears that only a month before he died Mr. Harris applied for $10,000 to the Standard Life Assurance Co. But he put off medical examination, and being confined to the house by reason of illness, which terminated in his death, the $10,000 policy was not issued and his family are deprived of this amount.

The Leamington Post says that Mr. Phair, the agent for the Gutta Percha and Rubber Co., has been doing missionary work among the municipalities of Ontario, arousing them to a sense of their duty in preparing to resist fire. He sold 300 feet of hose to Leamington and then went to Dresden, which place gave him an order for 1,000 feet.

The Canadian trustees of the New York Life Insurance Company, Messrs. Richard White, Strachan Bethune and E. S. Clouston, received a week ago from Mr. W. T. Booth, who had come from the head office for that purpose, gold bonds to the amount of $450,000, making the amount now held by the trustees in Canada over $3,000,000, for the benefit of the Canadian policy-holders in the company. We learn that the total assets of the company in Canada are over five and a half million dollars.

"What many men count as objections to life insurance I count its first advantage. It compels thrift; it necessitates saving; it puts the assured under bonds to lay up a few dollars every year to provide for the future."—Lyman Abbott.

Women are now being trained in Boston for the occupation of life assurance agents. The Boston Standard says respecting the move: "Before the close of 1899, The Standard hopes to see every company operating in Boston represented by women agents, who shall spread the gospel of life insurance among their own sex. When the women of a large city like Boston become impressed with the necessity of protection, and learn that life insurance is the best kind of a guarantee against a comfortless old age, they will not be satisfied until they have persuaded their friends and relatives in other localities to insure their lives."

A circular issued during the week to policy-holders of the Canada Life Assurance Company says, that a desire has recently been expressed that the policy-holders should have a share in the election of directors, and a representation on the company's board. Mr. Ramsay reminds the policy-holders that in the directors' annual reports of 1897 and 1898 it was intimated that that subject had been receiving consideration, and the directors then proposed to apply to Parliament for amendments to the charter enabling them to give effect to it. "Subsequently however, it being anticipated that a general measure affecting insurance companies was likely to be introduced by the Government, the company's application to Parliament was not proceeded with, awaiting the result of the proposed Government measure. Nothing however having come of the Government's intention, the board of the Canada Life resolved upon the 20th inst. to apply to Parliament for such an amendment to the charter as would enable its desire, and that of the policy-holders to be attained, and the necessary legal notice is now being given for that purpose."

A winding-up order has been applied for in the matter of the Colonial Mutual Life Association, of Montreal. The company was promoted in 1895 as a mutual assessment company, under a special Dominion charter, and had some influential names on its board, but seems to have had up-hill work from