

Messrs. John Kay & Sons are erecting a four-story carpet warehouse on King street west, Toronto, adjoining the Canada Life Building, at a cost of about \$30,000.

It is said that the Dominion Cotton Mills Company intend to further centralize their operations by closing down several of the smaller mills and increasing the plant of larger mills.

The addition to the Merchants' Cotton Co.'s works at St. Henri, Montreal, has been completed. It is five stories high, and is 300 feet long by 100 feet wide, and can accommodate 500 additional hands.

Some of the milliners in Toronto and Montreal last week attending the openings remained over this week, but the majority hurried home to begin preparations for the autumn display of millinery.

We have a letter from London, Ont., touching upon the condition of business, which agrees in large degree with what our Montreal letter of yesterday says. Thus: City retail men appear cheerful, and report improving sales of goods because of the re-opening of the public schools, and the general return to the city of holiday-makers from country and seaside.

The cotton crop of 1897-98 in the United States will long be remembered for its great size. Approximately speaking, 11,000,000 bales of cotton have been harvested in the belt. The next largest crop was that of the year 1894-95, when about 9,800,000 bales were picked. The prospects for the crop of 1898-99 at the present writing, are very satisfactory, from the planters' point of view. The crop of the preceding year may not be equaled, but it is practically certain that the crop will be extremely large. How large depends perhaps more than upon anything, upon the contingency of an early or late frost. A few weeks—a few days—difference in the arrival of the first killing frost will make an almost incalculable difference in the size of the crop. With an extremely favorable season, it is possible that even the 11,000,000 crop of 1897-98 may be eclipsed.

Advanced styles of dress goods, as shown by New York retailers, may be classified as tailoring and novelty effects. The former fabrics comprise chiefly the plainer effects in chevrons and the like, in styles showing small plaids, narrow stripes in plain and herring-bone weaves, also checks and mixtures. The latter are more extensive in the range of weaves and styles. Crepons are prominent in these in raised designs, in many instances so arranged as to form a stripe effect. Oude or wavy stripe effects are prominent among these, while barre weaves are not lost sight of entirely. Black dress goods show strong tendencies, and there is everything to indicate a big black dress goods season.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

STATISTICS OF ONTARIO AFFECTING MERCANTILE LAW.—It was a happy idea that the statutes of the Province of Ontario affecting commercial law should be collected into a single volume of convenient size for reference. Manufacturers, merchants, bankers and other business men would often find that by reference to a statute they might save themselves considerable inconvenience and expense, but unfortunately immediate reference is not always an easy matter. It was with a view of meeting the requirements of such men that Mr. A. M. Dymond has compiled the book to which we have referred. Of special value will be found the acts in reference to Creditors' Relief; Assignment of Preferences by Insolvent Persons; Chattel Mortgages and Bills of Sale; Agents and Factors Entrusted with Goods and Partnerships and Joint Stock Companies. In addition to these statutes others are contained in the volume. The book is well indexed and all the points of law can be readily referred to by laymen and others who are not accustomed to delving into law books. William Briggs, of Toronto, is the publisher, and the price of the book has been placed at \$2.

A MEMENTO OF TORONTO.—We acknowledge receipt from Peoria, Illinois, of this neatly printed souvenir, the title of which is "A Memento of Toronto and the Brotherhood." This souvenir is issued by the Locomotive Firemen's Magazine, commemorative of the sixth biennial convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen to be held in this city during the present month.

THE CHEESE MARKETS.

There were nineteen Ontario cheese boards in session last week, at which 31,039 boxes of cheese were offered. Transactions were somewhat freer than has been the rule the past several weeks. Large sales were made at Kingston, Perth, Ottawa, South Finch, London, Madoc and Peterborough. Quotations range from 7¼ to 8½c. per lb. Shipments from Montreal were small and during the past week were less than 40,000 boxes, whereas a year ago the exports reached 81,000 boxes, or more than double. We append our usual table of transactions:

Boards and Date of meeting.	No. of factories.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price per lb. Cts.
Barrie, Sept. 1.....	1	1,060	830	8-8 3-16
Brockville, Sept. 1.....	1	3,316		
Kingston, Sept. 1.....	1	1,500	1,500	8
Chesterville, Sept. 2.....	1	744		7¾-7½
Perth, Sept. 2.....	1	1,300	1,300	7¾
Shelburne, Sept. 2.....	13	1,677	634	7½
Kemptville, Sept. 2.....	1	800	800	8
Ottawa, Sept. 2.....	1	2,105	2,105	7¾-8¼
South Finch, Sept. 2.....	1	1,324	1,324	7½-8
Iroquois, Sept. 2.....	1	535	300	8
London, Sept. 3.....	1	2,445	1,333	7½-7½
Cornwall, Sept. 3.....	20	2,443	840	7 15-16-8½
Ingersoll, Sept. 6.....	1	1,325		7¾
Campbellford, Sept. 6.....	1	1,550	580	7¾-7½
Madoc, Sept. 6.....	1	1,440	1,000	8
Picton, Sept. 7.....	14	840	325	8 3-16
Stirling, Sept. 7.....	1	1,280	1,155	8-8 1-16
Peterborough, Sept. 7.....	1	4,500	4,077	8 1-16-1½
Tweed, Sept. 7.....	1	855	855	8

CANADIAN FURNITURE.

The gathering of the furniture manufacturers this week from various parts of Ontario, while not so large as was expected or perhaps to be desired, was such as to enable an exchange of views and a clearing up of misunderstandings of the kind that arise in the course of a keen competition. It is agreeable to learn from the address of the president that the condition of the furniture trade is better now than for five years. Assuredly for some of those years it was bad enough, for over-production and extreme competition rendered the position of the average manufacturer one of great difficulty. The agreement to a 10 per cent. advance of price list in 1897 had not, it now appears, been adhered to all round; such agreements rarely are; but had nevertheless effected some good.

If there are any of the makers who are impelled, by reason of the improvement now felt, to launch out into larger production without definite orders to work upon, the friendliest advice that could be offered them would be that they should take warning by a prevailing fault of the American manufacturer. How many scores, nay hundreds, of American factories of various goods have been known, within the past five or ten years, to launch out into recklessly increased production on no more sound a basis than that they borrowed money readily or that the times promised to be brisk. And when a series of years of forced economy came to that free-spending nation what disaster ensued to the scores and hundreds of factories, big and small, which had over-produced! The loss has been appalling.

Nothing more important for the interests of the furniture industry in Canada, which is already large and ought to be vastly larger, has ever been done than the establishment of salesrooms and resident agents abroad. The Liverpool representative of the Furniture Exporting Company reports most encouragingly as to the prospects of trade with Great Britain in Canadian household furniture. Five years ago or thereabout this journal called the attention of manufacturers to the market in Cape Colony for our furniture. This country, with its great variety of woods, its considerable proportion of skilled labor, its application of modern machinery and methods, ought to make furniture for a great part of the world. But let the business be gone about methodically and with business-like caution. An export trade done at hap-hazard and on consignment may easily prove a losing one.