The herring-sardine packers of Maine will cure and pack 550,000,000 herring this season.

Indian competition with British cotton goods is becoming keener every year. A recently published article on this subject says that in 1865 there were only thirteen spinning mills in the Presidency of Bombay, while at present there are seventy, and the number of spindles increased during the period in question from about 285,000 to nearly 1,750,000. The number of looms now at work is about 15,000, against 3 579 in 1865. The annual consumption of raw cotton now amounts to about 486,000 bales. In all India there are at present 95 cotton spinning mills and weaving establishments, containing 2,250 000 spindles, 17,500 booms, and affording employment to nearly 75,000 hands, and it is stated that about 100,000 fresh spindles are run every year. Indian cotton goods are largely exported to China and Japan, in competition with British and German manufactures of the same description. The total quantity of raw cotton consumed in Indian manufactories is not less than 650,000 bales, and the capital employed is estimated at 80,000,000 rupees.

LEOPARDS IN INDIA.

In an Indian bungalow, says a lady writer, every bedroom has a small ante-room attached, in which the important function of bathing is performed. The floor is of cement and uncorpeted, to allow of splashing, and round the tub are placed the ghurias, or earthen pots of water which are required for the bath. The little room had always two doors, one opening on the outer air to admit the bheesti with his supply of water, the other opening into the bedroom. On the evening in question, just as dusk was falling, I had finished the unpacking of a box in my bedroom and was moving away, when I fancied I heard a slight sound in the bathroom. It was an unusual hour for the bheesti's visit, so I opened the door, and, to my horror, saw just in front of me the beautiful sick back of a large leopard, which was crouched on the floor and drinking out of one of the ghurras. The room The room was so small that I found myself quite close to the leopard, and could indeed have touched the spots on its glossy coat from where I stood. I was too frightened to move, and stood perfecily still, and fortunately for mo, the outer door by which the creature had entered still stood wide open, and with a single bound it cleared the threshold and disappeared up the hillside. Had the door blown to, or been closed from the outside by a cervant, the animal would have had no resource but to seek an exit by the doorway in which I was standing, and the knowledge of my narrow escape made us very careful ever after about shutting up early in the afternoon.

A few nights later we were awak ned by hearing the watchman call out loudly that there was a leopard in the veranda, and we can to the window in time to see the waving of the branches where the beast had sprung out among the trees. The beater, who was lying rolled up in his blankets in the same veranda, slept soundly on meanwhile, unconscious of his proximity to the stealthy-footed creature. These loopards are cowardly creatures, and will never attack a human being if they can avoid it, their special fancy is for little dogs, and they will so haunt the neighborhood of any house where

dogs are kept that the greatest care is necessary to prevent the little quadrupeds falling victims to the big ones.

As the weather became better they grew less bold, and it was only towards the end of the season that we saw them again. When snow fell on the farther hills they were driven to suck food lower down, and then again they began to infest the station. Often in the month of October, when coming home late at night, I have heard the hoarse sort of purring noise they make as they rub their sides, like hage cats, against the trunks of the trees. The men carrying my dandi (light paunquin) would then step out, and talk very loud, to keep up their courage, while the mate would flourish his lantern and shout. No leopard would come near so noisy a party, and the only danger on such occasions is of the men taking a panic and dropping the dandi, when the situation would be awkward. This however, never happened to me, and I was equally fortunate when riding.

COMMERCIAL.

Business affairs have remained substantially as last reported as regards condition, but trade has made fair progress. Although not active, it has been of a healthy and steady character. While there has been no new feature to note, still payments have been better provided for than was anticipated a few weeks since. The outlook appears to favor an even distribution

of goods on a fairly profitable basis.

The closing of navigation on the St. Lawrence for the season will occur in a few weeks. After it does, a large quantity of freight will, as usual, come to this port by steamer and otherwise from Europe, and a large volume of out-going merchandise might also be handled if railway facilities proportionate to the demands of business were furnished. Still we do not learn that the railway authorities are taking any steps to accommodate the prospectively certain requirements of traffic. It has been repeatedly pointed out to them that their rolling stock is lamentably deficient, and that at least twice the number of snow-ploughs and other appliances for keeping the road in working order are necessary. All admonitions and all efforts of persons and journals interested to benefiting the I. C. R. and the trade of Halifax are, however, " sistened to with deaf cars," and it seems that they are likely to continue to be so until a radical change in the management is

The wet weather that has prevailed during the summer has been disastr-

operations of builders and city improvements have been seriously retarded It has been practically impossible to obtain material for the erection of new buildings, or for the laying of sidowalks, etc., because it was impossible to dry them, and we know of instances where the clay has had to be molded five or six times in as many weeks in the effort to produce marketable bricks. Quarrymon, masons, and others in kindred lines have also been similarly hampered and the result of the season has been far from satisfactory and around.

Prices of all commodities have advanced steadily for several weeks Every advance has been well held, and the indications all favor stiffer figures as time advances.

Bradstreet's Roport of the week's failures :-

Week Prov. Weeks corresponding to Oct. 5 week - Oct. 5 Failures for the year to date, 283 1887 1886 1885 7 - Oct. week 1888 150 28 1886 201 21 1885 1888 United States. 146 8 881 1,001

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Prorhe following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—J. A. McMurray, dry goods and millinery, Halifax, sold out at 60c. on the \$; Johnson & Caldwell, builders, Halifax, Clark Caldwell deceased; Conlon Bros., livery, Halifax, Dennis Conlon deceased; Mrs. Wm. Chapman, Hotel Pugwash, Wm. Chapman deceased; Cole & Loslie, general store, Port Mouton, assigned in trust; A. A. Taylor, Margaree Harbor, sold out; P. J. Chisholm, clothing, Truro, solling off.

DRY GOODS. - Travellers have started on the road on the sorting-up trip, and fair results are expected. We note, however, that Upper Province drum mers are offering alleged "woollen" goods at very low prices. A competition evidently exists between manufacturers to see which can turn out the cheapest goods, or, in other words, use the largest proportion of cotton consistent with preserving a woollen appearance. The goods referred to are simply cotton fabrics with a small percentage of wool in them. Can anyone interested explain how it is, if the theory that combines tend to improve the quality of manufactures is worth anything, that with the heavy protection on woollen goods manufactured in Canada our manufacturers have not been able to drive the finer classes of British, German, French and American goods

out of our markets long ago?

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The situation may be briefly summed as a steady trade at firm prices. All heavy goods have a very firm, if not a positively strong, tone. The advance in pig iron noted last week has been well sustained, and indications point to a further advance in cost. The stocks held here are not large, and will all be required. In fact it is claimed that the supplies will be about exhausted by the end of the year, and that conthe supplies will be about exhausted by the end of the year, and that consumers who hereafter find themselves short of stock may have to pay high prices. Warrants in Glasgow are cabled at 40s. 8d., which is a little lower than previous quotations. London cables are.—"Tin, spot and three months futures £102, market steady; Chili bars, spot £98; futures £79 10s.; G. M. B. copper £78; market unsettled and easier; soft Spanish lead £14 17s. 6d." Pittsburg, Fa.—"The activity that has prevailed in iron and steel is subsiding. Vary little iron has been sold at the educate new rules. subsiding. Very little iron has been sold at the advance new ruling. Cold blast charcoal is under enquiry, and is quoted at \$18; No. 1 foundry is strong at \$18, No. 2 at \$17, neutral gray forge at \$16.50; good mulk bars sell at \$28, but they are weakening, merchant bars at \$1.70 to \$1.80; plate is at \$2.10 to \$2.20; groove keep at \$1.30; sheared 2c. There is a heavy demand for small pipe. Bessemer steel billets are active at \$28. Merchant steel works are all crowded with business." Philadelphia.—"The provalence of a few rumors that large transactions are probable in pig iron and new steel rails land arms additional interest to the warket. Owing to the fact that rails lend some additional interest to the market. Owing to the fact that most of the crude iron requirements are covered for the next thirty to sixty days few large transactions are reported, and quotations are maintained a little higher than they would be if makers were able to take orders for early delivery. There are buyers of steel rails in the market who want large lots, but they are in a position to wait unless concessions are made. Makers predict stronger prices within the current month."

Breadstuffs.—The tone of the flour market continues to be strong, and prices are steadily advancing, owing to the strong wheat markets and the large demand from all points. The market has been active, and a large amount of business was transacted. Beerbohm's cable says:—"Cargoes off coast—wheat strong, corn firmer; do. off coast and for shipment—wheat slow at the advance, corn slightly better. California whoat off coast, and to be promptly shipped 42s. 6d.; red winter wheat 38s. At Liverpool buyers and sellers of spot wheat are apart, but prices are tending up. French country markets quiet." In Chicago the excitement in the wheat market was comparatively quieter, trading was lively. Late quotations were:—\$1.09\{\text{October, \$1.12\frac{1}{2}}\text{ December, \$1.13\frac{1}{2}\text{ May.} For December wheat \$1.13 was bid on the curb. Corn was active, and moved up to 45 gc. November, 40 gc. December, 391c. May. Outs were quiet and steady at 241c. November, 251c. December, 28\foralle{c}. May. The New York wheat market was active, though weak, and prices declined to \$1.10\frac{1}{2} October, \$1.12\frac{1}{2} November, \$1.14\frac{1}{2} December, \$1.15\frac{3}{4} January, \$1 16 February, \$1.17 March, \$1.17\frac{1}{2} May. Corn was there quoted at \$5\frac{1}{2}c\$. October, \$2\frac{1}{2}c\$. November, 52\frac{1}{2}c\$. December, 48\frac{1}{2}c\$. January, 47\frac{1}{2}c\$. May. Oats 29\frac{3}{4}c\$. October, 30\frac{3}{4}c\$. December. In Toledo the wheat market was steady and active. At Mil-

waukie wheat was strong and advancing.

Provisions.—Business has been fairly active in the local provision market, and there being a good jobbing demand for pork, a number of small sales were effected at firm prices. The demand for lard was good, and an active trade was done in this article at quotations. Tallow was quiet but steady, there being but little enquiry. The domand for hams and been moderate at unchanged prices. The only change in the Liverpool provision market is in lard, which is stronger and advanced 3d. to 54s. 3d. ous not only to farmers, but also to dwellers in towns and cities. The Pork was firm at 77s. 6d., bacon at 47s. 6d. to 49s. 6d., and tallow at 27s. 6d.