

Trade is very good; crops are good; and there are some good people who are thankful for these blessings. Best wishes to you from a 40-year subscriber."

Nor is the testimony to activity and prosperity confined to the West and South of Ontario. Here we have a letter from a long-established merchant in Renfrew, Mr. Jas. Clark, who thus expresses himself: "The season's trade has been satisfactory, showing a steady and substantial increase over last year, and with abundant crops in this locality we are looking forward to a good fall and winter business."

At Bracebridge, a well-known town in the beautiful Muskoka district, north of Toronto, Mr. Henry J. Bird has a woolen mill where he manufactures tweeds, flannels and blankets. That he is prospering is sufficiently indicated by his letter, which concludes as follows: "I am and have been extremely busy. My orders being much beyond my capacity for production, I last winter spent some time in England enquiring as to the latest improvements in woolen machinery, and ordered a set of the largest and most recently improved I could find, which I have only recently got to work."

#### ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

N. W. M., Kemptville, Ont.—On receipt of your letter suggesting that the columns of the Canadian Bank Statement for September, headed respectively "Loans from other Banks in Canada, secured," and "Loans to other Banks in Canada, secured," did not balance each other, we wrote to the Treasury Department at Ottawa, asking an explanation of the discrepancy. We have repeatedly in former years had to remark a similar inconsistency in the columns in question. In replying to our letter, Mr. Courtney, the Deputy Minister of Finance says:

"Of course the transactions with chartered banks should balance each other. I made enquiry into the matter, and I find that the time the Jacques Cartier Bank borrowed money, they borrowed from the City and District Savings Bank as well as from the chartered banks, and I think the loan is not altogether paid off. Referring to your letter I beg to say that from correspondence which was then going on between this department and the Banque de St. Jean, and which has since been completed, it has been found that the Banque de St. Jean inadvertently entered the amount of \$92,779 in column of liabilities No. 5 in their monthly return instead of column 6. Herewith please find a corrected statement for September, showing this amount entered in the proper column."

#### INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

American capitalists have purchased the plant of N. Evans & Sons, iron and steel ship repairers and boiler makers, and are about to construct a large dry dock and steel ship building plant. Over \$1,000,000 will be spent on the works, which include large piers. The work of construction is to begin at once.

Mr. Charles Lionais, civil and mining engineer, of Montreal, recently made a sale of an iron pyrites mine at Garthby to a New York syndicate, who intend, it is said, to erect a sulphur factory at Levis. The company have already begun operations at the mine. The property consists of 2,800 acres of land, and the deposits of iron pyrites carry from 55 to 60 per cent. of sulphur. The town of Levis will be asked for a bonus for the new industry.

The Oxford Mountain Railway is being rapidly extended from Kingsbury, up to which place it is in good condition, in the direction of Richmond and Windsor Mills. It starts at Eastman, on the Canadian Pacific, so that it will connect that system with the Grand Trunk. A branch of the road is also being extended into the lake region north of the mountain. This starts from the main line between Eastman and Laurenceville and passes the north side of the head of Manilla Lake. It is also understood that the railway purposes securing a connection with the Central Vermont at Waterloo.

C. J. Allen, of Portland, Ore., contemplates establishing a rice mill, at some point in British Columbia, to handle about 25 tons per day. The rough material would be imported from

China and Japan. Mr. Allen is now asking from Victoria city council what concessions they would be willing to offer, in the shape of exemption from taxation, wharfage facilities, etc.

Hellmuth & Ivey have applied for a charter for the Sanitary Dairy Company, of London, limited, with a capital of \$100,000. This will be a new industry there similar to the one being started in Toronto.

A correspondent in Elmira, Waterloo county, Ont., favors us with some details in reference to business movements in that town: A felt boot and shoe company has started, and a new three-story building is being constructed. Messrs. J. S. Miller, Isaac Hilborn, M. Meichel, J. P. Luckhardt, of Elmira, and Mr. Kimmel, of Berlin, are applying for a charter for the company, which is to be called the Elmira Felt Co., with \$40,000 capital. The company intends to have the plant completed with machinery in December, and to start at once making felt boots and shoes. The Winger Woolen and Felt Company, of Elmira, are winding up their business, having sold their plant to Geo. Rumble, of Berlin, who intends, it is said, to rebuild the plant, but he has done nothing to it but take away some old machinery as yet."

#### IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

Advices regarding linen from practically all parts of the world show a strong market, and several advances have already taken place.

In the ordinary local fancy goods trade at Manchester enquiries for cotton cloths, on spring account, have been on the increase. The outburst of feeling in connection with the demand for loud styles of ribbons and clothes to be worn or presented on the occasion of arrival of the volunteers from the Cape is, of course, due to feelings which will have no permanence.

Although at Bradford there is distinctly more business offering for nearly all classes of both dress goods and men's wear cloths made from merino wool, some little time must elapse before the full benefit of the present comparatively low prices of these fine wools are seen in the increased consumption caused by a resumption of the use of those cloths, which were altogether neglected when merino wools were forced up too high by the speculation of last year.

Slowly, but steadily and surely, says a correspondent of the Draper's Record, the linen market continues to improve. Orders are being placed in increasing numbers, and as the rates for raw material do not appear likely to be less for some time, but the reverse, the prices of manufactured articles have a firming tendency. Production has been kept fairly well within limits, so that stocks are of a very moderate character, and holders will hardly be under the necessity of realizing them at a sacrifice.

Never perhaps has the question of the first appearance of frost been of such paramount importance to the cotton interests as now. Each day it is deferred is calculated to add some 50,000 bales to the crop figures. Estimates of the probable amount of crop vary at the present time from 9,500,000 to 11,000,000 bales.

Some clerks never progress; they are destitute of the ability to grow in usefulness. Of course, there are instances where individuals are born salesmen, but this state of things is the exception. Some people are able to add to their knowledge and power to please a little each day, through experience, while others know at the end of the year exactly what they did at its beginning, and no more. Now, these things go to make or mar a clerk's usefulness in merchandising, as in anything else. A merchant has a right to expect value received in clerical assistance the same as in any other commodity.—Buyers' and Dry Goods Chronicle.

Values in the Lyons market are rather firm, but the demand is not active and few contracts for future delivery or for silk to arrive are being made. Holders are waiting for developments and are not pressing sales, but if any lots are offered at reasonable figures with a concession from the highest quotation, there is no lack of buyers. In European silks holders are firm, and as present figures do not leave much margin over