

## CITY CHIMES.

The Fisk Tennessean Jubilee Singers gave two very enjoyable concerts in Orpheus Hall on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Good audiences were present and the sweet music of these Southern singers was thoroughly appreciated, nearly every number on the programme being *encored*. Miss Gatewood, whose voice is very rich and powerful, took the leading parts and pleased her audience greatly. The occasional drops indulged in by the basso were somewhat amusing, as the voice sounded like the rumbling of thunder under the platform, and rather surprised the listeners. The voices of the company blended perfectly in chorus and make very soothing music. The Tennesseans were under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., and it is to be hoped that a satisfactory sum of money has been realized.

The Edith Ellis Comedy Company has been playing in the Reform Club Hall, Dartmouth, during this week to large audiences, and their performances are highly appreciated. Next week the company appear in Truro, and during the summer will continue their tour of the Provinces, returning to Halifax in September or October, when they will open in Orpheus Hall after it has been re-furnished with opera chairs. Miss Ellis is pretty and vivacious, and those who spend an evening at her entertainments will certainly be pleased.

The law students of Halifax have clubbed for the purpose of training themselves for professional work. A mock court has been established, juries are to be empanelled, criminals tried according to law and sentences pronounced in accordance with verdicts. The move is a good one.

Building in Halifax during the coming summer promises to be very brisk. The corner stone for the new hall for St. Mary's T. A. and B. Society has already been laid. A \$20,000 building is shortly to be erected by the American order of Odd Fellows, and substantial additions are to be made to the School for the Blind and Pine Hill College.

Last Saturday, being the anniversary of the birthday of that gracious lady who has for 52 years ruled over us, was as usual a public holiday. Queen's weather prevailed, and out door sports were indulged in by a large number of people. A salute of 21 guns was fired from the new battery on the citadel, and all the troops in the garrison lined the ramparts and fired a *feu-de-joie*. Several private picnic parties were off in the woods having a good time, and the day generally seems to have enjoyable and quietly passed. The reign of Queen Victoria has been one of marked prosperity and advancement for her people, and we with all other good subjects wish that her life may be prolonged for many years to come.

Harkins, with his 5th Avenue Company, has been attracting large audiences at the Academy of Music during the present week, giving two performances of the "Golden Giant," and a like number of "Jim the Penman." These plays are decidedly sensational, but they are free from the vulgarisms which too often disgrace popular drama. The Company is strong throughout, and the parts are well sustained, but the characteristic rapidity of speech of those born in the neighbouring Republic, makes it difficult at times to catch the dialogue. This and to-morrow evenings the company will give the melodrama "The Unknown."

## COMMERCIAL.

In general trade rules quiet at the moment, although the improvement in the weather has created a fair but cautious movement. Buyers throughout all branches of trade are still actuated by that cautious spirit which has characterized them all along, and this, with the fact of an unsettled feeling about values in some lines, induces purchasers to hold off more or less in a general way. Reports from the country indicate that traders there are not doing a very active business, and that considerable stocks of winter goods are being carried over, so that care has to be exercised. Travellers complain that they are making poor trips. We cannot see what else they had to expect. They start out earlier with each succeeding year, and if they secure large orders the country dealer must be in a sense going it blind, for he certainly cannot gauge his course so far ahead. Payments this year are not as good for the season as they were last, and it is acknowledged that more customers are being carried over for the necessity of the thing than for a considerable time previously. However, the feeling is on the whole hopeful, and it is believed that by judicious action the dangerous features of the situation can be nullified, while most people seem satisfied that a healthy movement is in progress, although it is of limited dimensions.

Owing to the expectation that the McKinlay tariff bill, which has now passed the House at Washington, would become law, the egg trade of Canada has become thoroughly demoralized ever since the commencement of the season. So much so that Canadians have allowed United States dealers for sometime past to buy up large quantities on grounds which the former virtually monopolised before the McKinlay bill was framed, because they knew that, after a duty of 5 cents per dozen was imposed on eggs going into the United States, the outlet for the large surplus which this country produces would be virtually cut off. In anticipation of all foreign supplies being cut off American buyers have been as busy as bees storing all the eggs that they could collect at their various centres. Advices from Boston and New York state that all the room available in the principal warehouses is full, and that private storehouses have been brought into requisition. The same is said to be the case in Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Buffalo, Cincinnati and other large centres. One Boston firm alone has stored in its own ware-

house 100,000 dozen Canadian eggs. The question now is what the result will be if the McKinlay bill goes into force. The value of eggs exported from Canada to the United States was last year \$2,156,725. If this large traffic be entirely stopped it will mean one of two things—a serious curtailment of production, or a considerable drop in prices here. The latter is doubtless the most probable.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week Prev.	Weeks corresponding to		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date.
	May 23, 1890	1889	May 23, 1888	1887	1886	1885
United States..	186	51	140	139	107	1627
Canada.....	28	16	19	22	17	764
						1889 1888 1887 1886 1885
						1909 1888 1887 1886 1885
						753 781 537

DRY GOODS.—Nothing striking is presented by this branch of trade at the moment and trade is rather quiet than otherwise. The volume of transactions is undeniably much less than it was last year at this season. Yet a fair trade is moving, and the restriction is mainly due to the fact that dealers who have had to carry over a large stock of last spring's purchases are determined that the same shall not happen to them again, especially as they have, as a rule, considerable fall goods unsold. Consequently every one is guarding against overbuying. It is, therefore, likely that the stock of travellers who have already started out with their early fall samples will all have the same story of non-success to tell. This fact cannot be looked upon as altogether unfavorable. It is in fact rather the reverse. Dealers will not have the expense of carrying a heavy stock over a season, returns will naturally be more prompt, and wholesale houses will not be put to the strain that some of them are now undergoing of bolstering up of necessity customers who are more or less shaky. Buyers have about all returned from the other side, and they seem to agree that the firm position of woollens is maintained on the whole and that, when the first cost of the goods and the present temper of customers are considered, everything will have to be sold at a very small margin of profit.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The iron market continues to rule easy on the whole and, in most instances, concessions are made to effect sales, when the prospective order is really worth considering. Pig iron rules rather lower, and to accomplish the sale of anything like a round lot resort is had to considerable shading. During the past few weeks a fair amount of business has been accomplished, but chiefly in small-sized lots and to arrive, as very little iron is in stock here just now and little or no new has actually come to the market as yet. Copper is steady, while tin-plates and lead pipe rule easier. Taken on the whole the market for the former is moderately active, and importers seem to have considerable orders on hand, but, generally speaking, they will not take hold of more than is necessary for their immediate wants. Reports from American markets state that manufacturers appear pretty busy with stocks well worked off, and the indications are that the market in some sections, as at Pittsburg for instance, is telling slightly in sellers' favor.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour is quiet and firm with a good steady jobbing business in progress. Prices are maintained all round on the whole and there is no change to mention. Beerbohm's cable reports:—"Wheat steady but very dull; corn quiet but firm as to price." At New York the earlier options of wheat declined half a cent, while later options showed an equivalent advance. In Chicago wheat has ruled nervous and irregular. The tendency seems to be upward owing to converted bears buying largely on the strength of unfavorable reports of the condition of crops in Missouri and Kansas. The Cincinnati *Price Current* has helped the upward movement by publishing an article which stated that winter wheat has not improved since the beginning of the month. At St. Louis wheat advanced  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  c. There was a further advance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. to 1 c. at Toledo in the price of wheat, but corn was dull.

PROVISIONS.—The local provision market is still without feature. There is a fair hand-to-mouth trade doing, but no large lots are moving. At Liverpool lard declined 3d. At Chicago prices were nominally unchanged, though the tendency throughout the entire line has been in favor of lower figures. It is believed that considerable shading is being done there to effect sales.

BUTTER.—This market has continued to rule easy, and there is an evident willingness on the part of sellers towards concessions to buyers in order to keep stocks down. Consequently there has been no great accumulation of new stock, which has so far been of fodder make chiefly, though grass stock has begun to come forward in small quantities. There is no doubt that the certainty that the receipts of new will constantly increase during the summer months has its influence on the minds of farmers and others who have held over last season's make of butter for the chance of a possible increase of values which has not been realized.

CHEESE.—Cheese continues about steady, but there is nothing particular doing in it just now. Country advices show no change in the position, the inclination being in favor of accepting any fair offer.

FRUIT.—The fruit market is fairly active on the whole with a moderately good jobbing movement in progress, especially in fresh imported fruits, such as bananas, oranges, etc. In dried fruit business is moving along quietly in a small way, and small lots are arriving from time to time. The feeling is firm, especially in raisins of which stocks are light. Advices indicate also a scarcity of Sultanias, as the new crop is reported to have suffered considerable damage. Currants are firm at quotations, and we hear of several fair-sized lots changing hands at figures at which they could not probably be replaced.

SUGAR.—Stocks are at present very light in the hands of country merchants and jobbers, and the refiners are looking forward for a good business. Prices are very firm, but buyers show no special anxiety to stock-up hurriedly.

MOLASSES.—There has been no movement of importance in molasses. A private cable from Barbadoes quotes the market there strong and active, and