

the kinds of stock they really need; summer goods purchases are postponed in many cases. Later in the month wholesalers hope to sell muslins and piques and balbriggan underwear, but in the meantime what they are selling for dresses are mostly prints. Floor and table oilcloths show another advance of 5 per cent., which is doubtless owing to the continued advance in linseed oil and jute. There have been five advances of 5 per cent. each, in imported goods of this class, and four of like amount in the domestic made.

The nimble but purposeless activity of some shoppers makes one wonder how they can waste so much time and energy in accomplishing so little. We have seen women in the Montreal shops of Carsley and Morgan, and others in the Toronto shops of Eaton and Murray, fatigue themselves in looking for hours over window and show case, fatigue the shopwoman, at the counter, too, by making her show them fifty things they did not want or could not buy—and then leave the shop with a ten cent purchase. As Hawthorne puts it, in the House of Seven Gables: "Shopping about the city; ransacking entire depots of splendid merchandise, and bringing home a ribbon."

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The export of molasses from Barbadoes to April 14 was 4,498 puncheons, against 4,014 to same date last year. The market is strong and active.

Direct shipments of cheese from Montreal to Europe have begun. The first week's export amounted to 8,881 boxes, which is in excess of the opening week of last year.

"What was the disposition of those lemons I saw here yesterday?" asked the grocer of his clerk. "The disposition, did you say, sir? Sour, sir."—Yonkers Statesman.

Lewis Wigle, of Leamington, who ought to know whereof he speaks, says that the prospects for a big peach crop in Essex are bright. Also that a large yield of tobacco may be confidently expected.

There is a report from Calcutta that the Indian tea crop is a failure; but upon enquiry we are told that the story applies to only one district. At all events the price of Indian teas has not been affected by it, for they continue steady.

Japanese fishermen on the Fraser seem to have caught the May fever, for they are demanding 5 cents per pound for salmon, an increase of 1½ cents. They threaten to quit fishing if their demands are not granted. So much for strikes among white men.

Codfish are plentiful at Port au Port, Newfoundland; good catches are being secured daily. But fishermen are scarce at Grand Bank on Fortune Bay. Some vessel owners are offering \$200 as wages from April till September, and cannot secure full crews at that price.

The combination of salmon canneries on the Pacific Coast has been brought about; at least there are only five of the smaller ones outside it, all the large factories being in the combine. Their quotation for new salmon, \$5 for talls and \$5.50 for flats, has just been announced.

The increased cost of tin and of packing cases is given as the reason for an expected advance in price of canned fruits and vegetables, and it is not at all an unreasonable plea. The recent frost will probably act in the same direction; and for the present, at least, prices will be firm.

A story is told by the Youth's Companion of the discouraging answer made to the doting parents of a country boy, who had gone to New York under the patronage of a prosperous grocer. After he had been away for a fortnight the mother wrote to the boy's employer, saying that her son was "no hand to write letters," and she was anxious to know how he was getting on. "And do tell us where he sleeps!" she pleaded, earnestly, at the end of the letter. To this the grocer made answer within a few days: "Your son sleeps in the store in the daytime. I don't know where he sleeps nights."

It is worthy of remark that Ontario sends a great quantity of lambs to the United States. In the last publication as a supplement to the Consular Reports for April, 1900, we find that

out of 44 places in this province at which exports to the U. S. are declared, 28 of them ship lambs to the Americans, to a total value of \$407,580. The principal points from which these animals were shipped were Brockville, \$85,655; Guelph, \$25,089; Owen Sound, \$22,743; St. Thomas, \$82,890; London, \$14,160; Clinton, \$43,666; Galt, \$11,616; Port Sarnia, \$15,028; Stratford, \$29,511, and other places to the value of smaller sums.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

The Liverpool and London and Globe is to erect one of the finest structures in Montreal. The company's old offices at the corner of Place d'Armes and St. James street are to be replaced by an eight-story building of extensive dimensions and thoroughly modern in design. It is probable that a beginning will be made next spring.

We learn that Mr. Walter B. Ferrie, who for a number of years has been manager of the Canada Life Assurance Company's branch at Halifax, has received the appointment of manager of the business of the Canada Life in British Columbia. Mr. Ferrie appears to have done well for the company in Halifax, at all events he made warm friends there, who miss him while they rejoice in his promotion. While en route for the West Mr. Ferrie made a brief stay in Hamilton, where he has relatives.

When, some years ago, the Mutual Life Company of New York sent to their friends a little book advising the householder what to do in emergencies, such as accidents resulting in wounds, or in persons being poisoned, it was thought a curious and novel thing for a company to do, but the book was welcome all the same. Now the Canada Life has done a welcome thing—and nobody asks whether it is an unusual thing—in issuing for free distribution among business and professional men an Atlas of the World, containing some eighty maps of the countries of the world. The geography of Africa has been more studied this year than ever before, and we assume that this little book, with clear and recent maps, will help this study.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

E. C., Montreal.—Have not observed the particular instance you quote, but know that plenty of such notices appear in newspapers whose editors never write them. There are some papers, however, which write their own notices, and among these The Monetary Times hopes always to be.

D. M., Detroit.—Yes, the story of "An Uncanny Cargo" was related in The Monetary Times last Christmas, exactly as narrated by Capt. Crangle, owner of the "California," the steamer mentioned. We have no more copies of that issue, but the story was reprinted by The Globe on 21st March last and by The Montreal Witness of 5th May. You may be able to get copies of these papers.

—It is gratifying to hear that the trade between Canada and the West Indies is growing. The steamship service between Halifax and the islands has been taxed of late to its fullest capacity, and larger boats will be put on to accommodate the trade. In the meantime a knowledge of what the islands want to buy from us is being obtained, and our manufactures are being shown to them. Halifax merchants are hopeful that our trade with these islands may yet grow to its normal proportions.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, May 10th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	May 10, 1900.	May 3, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$.....	\$12,776,914
Toronto.....	10,698,449	9,369,903
Winnipeg.....	2,024,289	2,012,777
Halifax.....	1,533,116	1,313,292
Hamilton.....	833,699	861,548
St. John.....	752,523	694,154
Vancouver.....	848,369	759,066
Victoria.....	714,842	427,695
	\$.....	\$28,248,349

Aggregate balances, this week, \$.....; last week, \$4,146,887