

Staple gingham have ruled strong throughout the Eastern States, but no further changes in prices noted. Dress style gingham in light work also strong. In napped fabrics, both printed and woven patterned, the market is against buyers; several lines of domets have been advanced ¼c. per yard.

Who says the Britishers are not as great faddists as the Americans? They appear to have made khaki a fad. Besides khaki hats produced in the Manchester district, khaki dinner cloths have been brought forward. The idea is being carried out to extremes, and does not seem likely to last for long. In the meantime, however, a steady sale of khaki colored materials is expected.

According to a despatch of 11th February to the New York Bulletin, trading was dull in the London wool market during the week pending developments in Australia. It is reported from there that the 1899 clip will show a deficiency estimated at nearly 110,000 skins. The arrivals of wool for the next series of auction sales amount to 102,966 bales, including 30,500 forwarded direct.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Sugar is unchanged this week, and molasses very firm in Montreal.

The British Columbia Fish Company has been formed to catch and cure herring on a large scale at Vancouver, B.C. Mr. E. Barrett is the manager.

In American markets there is not much doing in canned fruits and vegetables at wholesale; packers and jobbers seem to be apart.

There was 6,000 tons of beets ground during the past initial season at the Waverley sugar factory, in the State of Washington, and at the close there were left on hand 4,000 sacks of refined sugar.

Said the shopkeeper to Mr. Poorman, a farmer near town: "Is your son making any progress in his profession?" And the farmer replied, slowly: "Yes. He is learning some of the things he thought he knew when he came out of college."—Life.

The jobbing demand for California dried fruits in New York is good, and is reported to be steadily increasing, but large buyers still withhold their interest. Prunes are steady in price with a moderate retail demand. California loose muscatel raisins dull, after the spurt of last week.

In one February week 32,500 barrels of apples were sent to Britain; 5,000 barrels from New York, 6,600 from St. John, 12,000 from Halifax, 7,000 from Portland, and a few from Boston. In the same week of 1898 only 19,500 barrels were sent. The total quantity of apples shipped since the season opened is 1,115,255 barrels, as compared with 1,073,305 barrels the previous season and 756,349 barrels in the same time season 1897-98.

Wrapping papers are good stock, these days, and the advance in price will perhaps make some retailers more economical of this article. In New York on Wednesday Manilas were very active. American mills are well supplied with orders, and with continued high cost of paper stock values are very strong. Print papers are also very strong, makers complaining of scarcity of pulp. Book papers are fairly active and recent advances are well held.

Eight applications for membership were received at the monthly meeting of the Toronto Retail Grocers' Association, held on Monday night in St. George's Hall. The new officers elected at the previous meeting were duly installed, and a lengthy discussion took place on the early-closing by-law. As an evidence of patriotic feeling it may be noted that \$100 was voted towards the Canadian Patriotic Fund. The members held their annual At Home in the Temple Building.

The Retail Grocers' Association of Montreal is determined to fight the Licensed Victuallers' Association on the amendment proposed by the latter, to the license law, looking to the separation of the sale of liquors from the same store in which groceries are vended. The Grocers' Association discussed it a few nights ago. The Ontario grocers thought such separation an impossibility, and for a time it undoubtedly was a nuisance to them. But now the arrangement works well enough.

—A convenient and desirable investment for small sums of money is afforded in the bonds issued now by the Insurance Agency Corporation, of which our readers have already heard as lending money largely on life policies. The security offered by this business is absolute, for the lending company holds the policy, whose reserve value is accurately known, and every succeeding payment of premium, every succeeding year of life passed, makes the security the nearer realization. Blocks of the company's debentures have been sold to Trust companies, and another issue is now being offered to the public; period from two to five years. These debentures will doubtless attract purchasers, being issued in amounts of \$100 to \$1,000, interest payable half-yearly.

—A clergyman in Montreal has caused the arrest of a man for obtaining money under false pretences. Among other lies told by this man, who solicited undeserved charity from Rev. Mr. French, he said he lived at a certain number on a street, which number had no existence; and last year he lived at another number, which also was untrue. The reverend gentleman renders a service to the community when he prosecutes such scoundrels. Their lies and impositions stand in the way of help which might otherwise be given to the deserving poor.

—The Ontario Government has decreed that in future tan bark cut on Crown lands cannot be exported. This has been done in deference to the representations of a deputation of tanners, headed by Mr. Walter Beardmore, who pointed out the increase in the tanning business in Ontario, the limited supply of bark in the United States, where manufacturers were beginning to preserve their forests for future use and purchase present supplies from outside, and the prospect that unless some restrictions were made the supply in the province would be speedily exhausted.

—An aggregate of fire insurance equal to \$3,758,000 was on the books of the Merchants' Fire Insurance Company at the close of 1899. Its fire losses were light, and management expenses were reduced as compared with 1898. A dividend of six per cent. was declared. Mr. James Scott, of Toronto, is president, and Mr. John H. C. Durham, general manager.

Some interesting details of an important method now being tried in Prussia for bringing down coal, was given in a recent number of Kuhlows' Review. Recently some experiments were made by the Clausthal mine inspectors with an electrically-driven percussion rock-drill made in Berlin.

—We are informed that Mr. E. L. Gower, of the Hamilton branch, Canadian Bank of Commerce, has been appointed manager of the Berlin branch of that bank.

—It is the intention of the Bank of Hamilton to open a branch in Dundas about the 1st of March.

—A report of the Brantford Board of Trade annual meeting is unavoidably held over.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Feb. 15th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week :

CLEARINGS.	Feb. 15, 1900.	Feb. 8, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$13,716,977	\$15,008,027
Toronto.....	9,477,580	10,026,243
Winnipeg.....	1,582,311	1,847,898
Halifax.....	1,366,303	1,604,175
Hamilton.....	705,087	950,189
St. John.....	590,462	659,719
Vancouver.....	703,446	772,720
Victoria.....	590,238	709,920
	<u>\$28,732,404</u>	<u>\$31,558,931</u>

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,159,591; last week, \$4,628,520