

dress goods are still selling well. Damasks and household linen keep somewhat dull. The handkerchief trade is improving. Bleached and finished linens are selling moderately on home account at hardening values.—Draper's Record.

The Dry Goods Economist, referring to what it observes in New York, remarks as follows: "Never in the history of the world has there been a time when it was so easy for the average woman to be well dressed, and never, it would seem, have the average women been able to spend so much money upon their clothes. They pile it on. At every public gathering, whether it be the theatre, the restaurant or only the public promenade at the shopping hour, there are to be seen women arrayed in furs and velvets which, a few short years ago, would have been only obtainable by the millionaires. The same tendency to call for really good goods is at work in Canada."

—It is estimated by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture that the total production of all grains in that province during the year 1903 was 82,576,519 bushels. As compared with the year previous, 1902, this season's crop shows a falling off in the total production of 17,475,824 bushels, by far the larger portion of which is made up by wheat and flax. The total yield of each cereal is stated as follows: Wheat, 40,116,878; oats, 33,035,774; barley, 8,707,252; flax, 564,440; rye, 49,900; peas, 34,154. Total, 82,576,519.

—The article in our issue of November 27th, upon "Boiler Inspection," seems to have been read under a misapprehension, so far as the United Factories are concerned. It was very far from our intention to suggest that this company had been negligent in the care taken of their boilers; or that they had not complied with the law in the fullest sense. The boiler which exploded had been regularly looked after and examined, and, as it happened, had been inspected only a few weeks before the disaster, and been pronounced safe by an expert. It is worthy of note, too, that the enquiry, held after the accident, brought out the fact that, so far as human knowledge could go, it was impossible to discover any reason for an explosion.

—An increase of between six and seven per cent. is shown in eleven months of this year, as compared with same period last year, in shipments of coal from the Cape Breton collieries. The total for this year was 3,253,448 tons, and for last year, 3,041,986 tons. The Dominion Coal Company's shipments were 2,603,391 tons, as compared with 7,704,360 tons for the corresponding period in 1902, a slight decrease. The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, for these eleven months in 1903 shipped 429,989 tons, as compared with 237,929 tons for 1902, an increase of 192,060 tons. The Port Hood Coal Company shows an increase in its shipment for this period of 34,715 tons, the amount being 70,540 tons, compared with 35,825 tons for the previous year. The Inverness Railway and Coal Company shipped for eleven months 149,528 tons, an increase of 85,656 tons over 1902, when the shipments were 63,872 tons.

By an order-in-council of the Dominion Government, the following clause has been added to the enactment concerning the surtax on goods from Germany: "Such surtax shall also apply to any article imported into Canada when the chief value of the article was produced in Germany, although it may have been improved or advanced in value by the labor of another country; notwithstanding the provisions of the British preferential tariff and regulations thereunder. In determining whether or not any article imported into Canada, which has been produced, improved or advanced in value by the labor of any country other than Germany, is subject to the surtax by reason of a portion of the value thereof having been produced in Germany, the fair market value of the article or material grown or produced or manufactured in Germany, which has entered into the manufacture of the article imported into Canada, shall be held to be the value produced in Germany, within the meaning of the tariff act respecting the surtax."

—The power-plant of the St. Louis Exposition will, it is said, include a 3,000 horse-power gas engine from Belgium, the largest gas engine in service. The World's Fair power-plant will embrace more than 40,000 horse-power, "but by far the most interesting feature of this power-plant to Americans," says The Scientific American, "must be the gas engine display."

—Mr. P. B. Ball, this country's commercial agent in Birmingham, England, writes to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association pointing out that British colliery owners at the present time import each year something like 2,000,000 tons of pit props from various parts of the continent of Europe, and urges the possibilities of this trade for Canadian lumbermen. The same officer has made arrangements for sending to this country some 200-pound samples of Welsh coal. They will be brought across the ocean free by the Canadian Pacific steamers. Toronto manufacturers are manifesting considerable interest in the question, as to how this coal will be found to compare in steam qualities, etc., with the American and Cape Breton articles.

—Some days ago it was stated in a letter written by Phillips Thompson, a socialist, an employee of the Dominion Government, and an apparent sympathizer with the attempts of labor leaders to manage the labor market to suit themselves, by fair means or foul, that a thousand men, laborers and artisans, were, upon a certain day this month, walking the streets of Toronto, unable to get employment, and that many of them were destitute. We pronounce the statement untrue, and an injury to Canada, which cannot be too widely contradicted. National society managers tell us that there is far less destitution at this time in Toronto than at similar times of former years. And the kind of persons who profess to be unable to find work are those who will not take work offered them, but insist on getting the especial sort of "velvet" employment that suits them. This reckless statement of a flighty man has, we are told, been contradicted by cable.

—At the annual meeting of the tanners' section of the Toronto Board of Trade, held this week, the following officers were elected:—Chairman, J. C. Breithaupt, Berlin; vice-chairman, R. M. Beal, Lindsay; executive committee, W. D. Beardmore, George C. H. Long, A. R. Clarke, F. T. Daville, G. P. Beal; Inspection and Arbitration Committee, C. J. Miller, L. J. Breithaupt, W. D. Beardmore, S. R. Wickett and George McQuay; Transportation Committee, L. J. Breithaupt, C. G. Marlatt, S. R. Wickett, W. D. Beardmore, Geo. C. H. Long and R. M. Beal. The retiring chairman, Mr. Daville, made a few remarks in which he stated that the commercial situation during the year had been good, though, in the matter of profits, the high prices paid for hides and skins, and the uncertainty of the labor supply had prevented the tanners from being especially benefited, in spite of the fact that their plants had been run to their full capacity, and the demand for leather had been active.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures for Canadian Clearing House for the week ended with Thursday, December 18th, 1903, compared with those of the previous week:

Cities	Dec. 17th, 1903.	Dec. 10th, 1903.
Montreal	21,318,868	21,822,222
Toronto	15,864,281	17,875,802
Winnipeg	6,024,337	6,919,676
Halifax	1,862,352	2,133,973
Hamilton	1,234,121	1,213,503
St. John	909,414	1,073,950
Vancouver	1,258,724	1,377,046
Victoria		630,755
Quebec	1,374,629	1,569,016
Ottawa	2,394,563	2,191,802
London	884,324	886,870
	\$53,979,527	\$57,694,615