

The trade in bananas is more than a season's average. A Toronto firm is importing three car loads of them each week. Cranberries are low in price, and the demand has been very limited. Stocks of Tarragona almonds are large; merchants quote 10c. to 11c. per lb. The supply of Brazil nuts is not large, dealers quoting 8c. per lb. Advices from Brazil are to the effect that a fair crop of medium Brazil nuts must be expected, but that the supply of large sizes will be unusually limited this season. Filberts are in good supply.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Grocery stores, like houses, should be subjected to a thorough overhauling in the early spring months. "Cleanliness is next to godliness."

The great Cognac firms of James Hennessy & Co. and Martell & Co. have had the managers of the Chicago department stores arrested for selling brandy with counterfeits of their labels.

The American journal named *Tobacco* tells of curious things given away as bonuses to the purchasers of a certain brand of tobacco. Bicycles, watches, etc., have been tried, and now a blanket is offered, of the kind worth \$2 per pair.

Concerning the raisin situation, the *California Fruit Grower* says, in its issue of March 13: "Raisins are reported selling fairly well in a jobbing way, with stocks much lighter than at this time for several years. Holders are firm in their views as to prices for good stock. Buyers and sellers are apart on prices. The market is soft, and in order to make sales, prices have to be shaded."

The price of granulated sugar in New York is higher than the same article in Montreal, the quotation in New York on Tuesday being 4½c., and in Montreal yesterday 4c. per pound. We are told that a speculator hailing from the latter city has bought largely of raw sugars in New York (reported at 1,200 hogsheads and 10,000 bags of centrifugals and muscovados), put them into store in Montreal and paid duty on them, in the expectation of a good profit. This shows faith in higher prices.

The shipments of fruits and nuts from the State of California during the calendar year 1896, as estimated by the president of the California State Board of Trade, were as follows by rail and sea in car loads: Fruits and deciduous fruits, 5,763.7; citrus fruits, 9,915.5; cured fruits, 4,852.2; raisins, 3,443.3; nuts, 497.1; canned fruit, 4,554.5; vegetables, 1,618.3; total car loads, 30,644.6. The decrease in shipments for the year 1896, as compared with those of 1895, was 4,421.6 carloads.

The annual report of R. P. Rithet & Co., Victoria, B.C., says "considering that 1896 was what is known as an 'off' year, the total catch of 601,570 cases is not a little surprising. Various theories have been put forward to account for this, but the truth appears to be that the operations of the hatchery are now beginning to bear fruit, although considerable allowance must be made for the increased number of canneries engaged." The 1896 pack is several thousand cases greater than that of any previous year.

According to a British Columbia journal, the following vessels have been chartered to carry the 1897 salmon pack to Europe: British barque "Mennock," 787 tons, at 31s. 3d.; Swedish barque "Adelaide," 459 tons, Capt. Patterson, from Santos to New Westminster, H. Bell-Irving & Co.; British ship "Lonsdale," 1,685 tons, to New Westminster, Evans, Coleman & Evans; British barque "Baltimore," 1,422 tons, Robt. Ward & Co.; British barque "Silverhorn," 1,853 tons, Turner, Beeton & Co.; British ship "Irby," 1,480 tons, R. P. Rithet & Co., Ltd.; German ship "Kehrweider," 1,355 tons, H. Bell-Irving & Co.; British ship "Ladore," 1,658 tons, Evans, Coleman & Evans.

Wisner & Co.'s circular, Shanghai, Feb. 19: Black teas—Rather more demand early in the interval. Settlements amounted to 1,300 half-chests. Although the stock is reported as 3,400 half-chests, we think there are only about 1,000 half-chests here; the remaining teas are represented by musters only, the bulk cargo being held at Hankow. Settlements since the 22nd ultimo; Ningchow, 14.50 to 16.50 taels; Oopack, 12.25 taels; Oanfaa, 11.25 taels. Green teas—Small chop of Moyune and two of local pack disposed of; the market for country teas of all kinds may be considered closed for this season. The remaining stock of Pingsueys is of very poor quality, and nobody seeming disposed to deal in such teas, the greater part will probably be carried forward to next season.

ABOUT DRY GOODS.

In England serges in rough, well covered makes, are again taking the lead for suits, but some of the new tweed combinations are also doing well.

Changeable taffetas in silks are very scarce in New York, says the *Journal and Bulletin of Commerce*, and are practically out of the mar-

ket. It isn't a question of price, but of procuring the goods, that figures as the chief factor.

In Huddersfield a few orders are being placed in fine coatings for America. Makers of the very best class of woollens and worsteds for the home trade are well employed, and seem to have produced cloths which for fabric and design defy competition.

Creditors of Messrs. McMaster & Co. have been agreeably surprised during the week to receive a first dividend of 60 cents on the dollar. This is certainly very creditable to Mr. Clarkson. There is no Canadian accountant who brings cases to an end quicker than he. —*Drapers' Record*, March 6.

Mr. W. H. Finch, of Finch Bros., dry goods merchants, Hamilton, has returned after an extended purchasing trip abroad. Miss Wallace, the firm's millinery buyer, has also returned from London and Paris. Mr. Finch reports no material changes in value of merchandise; but they find spring trade opening up well.

Some of the damaged Cape of Good Hope wool sold in Montreal last week, at auction, was purchased by a Chambly woolen mill. The quantity sold was 152 bales, and most of it was secured by a Boston house and the mill mentioned. It brought from 11 cents to 11½ cents per pound. Ordinary greasy Cape is worth 15 or 15½ cents.

Prices of all goods in season are reported firm in Leeds. With some manufacturers new coarse Cheviots, fancy and black worsteds are in good demand, and there is some probability of improved prices. Presidents and reversibles also sell better than they have been doing for forward delivery. It is quite otherwise with sealskins, some producers of which have greatly miscalculated matters.

From the circular of Vivanti Bros., dated Yokohama, February 25, 1897: "The latter part of last month witnessed considerable operations for Europe, filatures of medium and low grades being the principal stock dealt in, but inquiry for the United States remained very slack until the present month, when a brisk trade sprang up and transactions of importance were effected. Values recovered the difference they had lost and a healthier feeling was established."

Although there is not much variety in the textures shown for next fall, writes the Berlin correspondent of the *Dry Goods Economist*, there is no lack of beautiful colors and color combinations. Strong, positive and even fiery tones prevail, and the new color card shows a number of reds. The darkest, reddish purples, as helio, Ursuline and Chauvine, are seen, and Coquelicot, Grenada and Seville shades close the series. The yellowish red are shown in the colors called Caprice, Pompadour and Richelieu, and some strong blue tones are called Moré and Marceau.

Reports received from Nottingham say that lace and curtain yarns have been in steady request; there is no buoyancy in the demand, though the tendency of prices has been in favor of buyers. Bobbin nets, Mechlin tulles, mosquito nets, and other plain goods in silk and cotton are in active request for the home trade and for export. The machinery is well engaged, and prices remain firm. The fancy silk and cotton millinery lace departments are less fortunate. The home demand is by no means active. There is much machinery and many hands unemployed.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, March 25th, 1897, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	March 25.	March 18.
Montreal	\$8,567,247	\$8,917,498
Toronto	5,810,078	5,628,824
Halifax	1,087,421	1,120,228
Winnipeg	1,031,933	858,602
Hamilton	603,081	548,409
St. John	460,982	443,550
	\$17,560,742	\$17,517,171

Aggregate balances this week, \$2,440,734; last week, \$2,961,640.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

Our insurance readers will doubtless remember the story in THE MONETARY TIMES special issue of August 28th last, entitled "That Adjuster Fellow." It described the supposed procedure of a man who had a suspicious fire loss and wanted his money, but "that adjuster fellow" hindered his getting it. Such cases are of very frequent occurrence, yet our sketch of last summer may have been looked upon as merely humorous imagination. This month's *Insurance Monitor*, however, contains the report of "The Case of Thomas West" vs. British America Insurance Company, which is on the same lines as our sketch. We reprint it on page 1294.