

We desire to direct special attention to the advertisement on last page of J. F. Blanchard & Co., of Truro. They are without doubt one of the leading dry goods houses in the Maritime Provinces. They have magnificent premises, lighted throughout with the incandescent light, heated with hot water, and are probably better adapted for an extensive wholesale business than any house in Nova Scotia. They always carry a most complete stock, but this season the importations are exceptionally large, as we notice they have already received over 1300 cases and bales. Any firm handling this quantity of goods must have the *inside track* in buying. We understand their sales are very large, both in Halifax and St. John. Truro is certainly away ahead of Halifax in many respects, and as a dry goods centre is well to the front. It would pay any of our merchants to give them a call, as they have a well-deserved reputation for selling at very close prices. We understand J. F. Blanchard & Co.'s travellers will be on the road again in a few days on their assorting trip, with some very special lines.

CITY CHIMES.

There has been nothing in the way of society events to chronicle this week, but a few lectures and other entertainments have come off with fairly good audiences. The shops, especially the millinery emporiums, are gay with new spring head-gear, and the ladies are busy trying to decide on the color and shape that will best suit the particular style of beauty of each. To judge by the varieties of hats and bonnets in the windows, all styles should be able to find the right thing. It is gratifying to those who wish to see the cruel and savage fashion of wearing little dead birds done away with to observe that flowers are to be in the ascendant this spring. Transparent lace or net hats and bonnets will be the proper thing to wear, and nothing is prettier or more becoming. A very pretty hat of this description was noticed at a fashionable wedding lately. The wearer was a beautiful blonde, and the black lace seemed to bring out the delicate tints in her complexion better than anything else could have done. It was trimmed with a wreath of pale green flowers and foliage.

The weather has been disagreeable, and walking in the park has not been a fashionable amusement for some time. Mayflowers are making their appearance, and if the weather is fine we shall soon hear of picnics to the Arm and other places where they abound. Mayflowers gathered by our own hands always seem to be different to those which the Preston people bring to market.

In one way at least Halifax is keeping up with the times. Some of our dentists are equal to the best in the United States, where they are acknowledged to be ahead of all other countries in this respect. Anyone who has a difficult operation in dentistry to be performed need not go away from Halifax to have it attended to, and the patronage accorded to our best dentists is testimony of the appreciation with which they meet. Is there anything that more forcibly reminds us that this is "a vale of tears" than a visit to the dentist? How our courage oozes out as we approach the torture chamber where we know we shall "suffer grief and pain." Then there is the trial of getting into the chair, which is only exceeded when you have to open your mouth and submit to the scraping process necessary to find out where those abominable cavities are. The electric search light with a little glass attached is one of the most frightful looking machines, and strikes terror into the heart of the boldest at first sight, but do not be afraid, it will not hurt you, reserve your fears for the inevitable cold steel, or the grind of the drill, if filling is your particular misfortune. The sounds that issue from the operating room will no doubt dismay you, for there "shriek the timid" and the brave do not always stand still. Now is the time, though, to have your teeth put in order for the summer, and, like house-cleaning and other nuisances, it is necessary to be done. So screw up your courage and have the ordeal over. Unlike the photographer who tells you to shut your mouth and look pleasant, the dentist bids you open your mouth—the looking pleasant is a matter of personal taste. Blessed are those who have false teeth, for they will no more suffer with toothache.

The Wanderers A. A. Club, at their eighth annual meeting held recently at the Halifax Hotel, passed the following resolutions:—1. That the committee lend all the assistance in their power towards making the summer carnival a success. 2. That the game of La crosse be one of the active games of the club. 3. That ladies are now eligible for tennis members. 4. That joining the amateur base ball league be left to the discretion of the incoming committee. The treasurer submitted the estimates showing a probable expenditure of \$2000.

The fire alarm and electric light wires got crossed on Tuesday night, with the result that the fire alarm was rather restless, and caused many people to think there was a fire somewhere.

COMMERCIAL.

A fairly active and steady volume of trade has progressed during the week. However, as no strikingly new phase has been developed, there is little to add to recent weekly reviews. Owing to changeable weather and the consequent bad condition of country roads, distribution has not been active. Still it has attained fair proportions.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—R. Dickson, dry goods, New Glasgow, sold out; Photo Engraving and Printing Co., Geo. E. Fitch & John Byenton, Amherst,

Co-partnership; H. W. Davis & Philip Casey, Leicester, Co-partnership; McLean & Baillie, butchers, Port Mulgrave, dissolved; Shaffner & Dickson, Bridgetown, dissolved.

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

	Week April 5, week.	Prev. 1889	Weeks corresponding to April 5, 1888	1887	1886	Failures for the year to date.
United States	141	161	147	182	141	1889 3687 1888 3200 1887 3326 1886 3480
Canada	26	20	39	22	26	1889 560 1888 567 1887 391 1886 386

DRY GOODS.—Travellers are sending in orders that appear satisfactory to their principals. Sorting up orders are coming in freely and payments are as good as can be expected. The probabilities are very largely in favor of the present firm attitude in textile fabrics being maintained. Cotton and wool in raw state are very firmly held at producing points, and cheap goods in those lines seem impossible at the present.

IRON, METALS AND HARDWARE.—The iron and hardware business has been fairly active and quite a considerable amount of trade has been accomplished for future delivery, though prices are reported to have been somewhat shaded. Cables have continued strong throughout. Warrants in Glasgow have advanced 8d. Bar iron and hoop have an upward tendency and tin-plates are higher. Canada plates are firm. A considerable volume of trade is doing in shelf goods of all descriptions at steady prices. Spot tin in London is quoted at £95 and Chili bars at £41 10s. In the United States iron centres trade is reported active and mills are generally running up to their full capacity, with orders enough already in hand to keep them going for at least four months ahead. In fact iron may be said to be "booming."

BREADSTUFFS.—The demand for flour has continued slow and the market has ruled quiet with only a small jobbing trade doing. The volume of business transacted was light and we do not hear of any round lots changing hands. The indications are that there will be no improvement for some time, as buyers generally have ample supplies on hand for all probable present necessities. English cables report wheat a turn dearer and corn rather easier. French country markets are slow. Flour in Paris firm. Antwerp spot wheat easier. In the Chicago market wheat has continued weak and prices have broken 1½c. to 2½c. Business has been very active and a large amount of trade has been effected at the reduced prices. On the other hand corn was firmer and moved up ½c.

PROVISIONS.—Business in the local provision markets has continued quiet, and no new feature has been developed. The demand for pork has been slow, and trade was of a merely jobbing character at steady prices. The enquiry for lard has been fair, and small lots have changed hands quite freely. There has been no change in the Liverpool provision markets, and prices have remained steady at previous quotations. The feeling in the Chicago provision market has improved, and prices for pork moved up 5c. Lard improved 2½c. The hog market was weak and dropped 5c. to 15c.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.—The butter market has been steady under a moderate demand, though nothing important has developed. Old stock has been pretty well worked off, and new comes in very slowly. A report from Liverpool, G. B., says:—"The arrivals have been too large, and pressure to sell, with a falling off in the demand, has caused a further decline, low prices being asked for inferior goods, but sales are small. We quote finest American and Canadian here, 90s. to 100s., but this kind is scarce, though mediums are plentiful—quoted at 60s. to 80s. according to quality. Finest Kiel, 120s. to 125s. Irish—Cork Firsts, 122s.; seconds, 107s.; mediums 100s.; thirds, 96s.; fourths, 81s. per cwt." The cheese market has been very quiet and void of any interesting features. The remaining supply is being steadily worked down and as no new can be expected for six or eight weeks a temporary advance in prices is to be looked for. In Liverpool, G. B., a report received by mail is as follows:—"The market has been steady, with a quiet consumptive demand at our quotations. Stocks are not large, but, in the absence of far of any speculative or brisk demand, holders do not attempt to advance prices. We quote finest cheese 55s. to 57s., and good Augusts 48s. to 52s.—colored of this grade being scarce. There are some arrivals this week of winter-made mediums, more or less skimmed, which sell at 30s. to 40s., buyers, though complaining of quality, being compelled to take them owing to scarcity of medium grades. Skims and comm. lots offered at 15s. to 26s. sell slowly."

POTATOES.—Large quantities of potatoes have recently been received in this city, mostly of excellent quality, and they are offered at very low prices. This is the result of the neglect or refusal of farmers to sell last fall when their produce was in demand. Now they have to dispose of what they have wintered at what prices they can obtain. In the meanwhile they have lost interest, storage, insurance, etc. on their holdings, and have to accept an average lower figure than they could have secured without trouble last fall. The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* remarks:—"The large supplies of potatoes and their almost unprecedented cheapness, have played no unimportant part in keeping down the price of wheat and it may therefore not be amiss to advert to the present condition of the potato market. In this city stocks are heavily in excess of the demand; but low and unprofitable as prices are to growers, they appear to be forwarded here from different parts of the country for sale, with transactions in car loads reported at 35c. per bag, and a lot of common stock was disposed of as low as 25c. A year ago prices for round quantities were steady at 80c. to 85c. per bag. In New York there is quite a glut of old tubers, State Hebron and Peerless selling there at 75c. to \$1.05 per bbl. of 180 lbs. or equal to two bags, whilst common State descriptions have been placed at 60c. to 70c. per bbl. Potatoes, therefore, being only about half the price they brought last year, consumers have used them unstintedly and have thus been enabled to dispense with no inconsiderable portion of flour."

APPLES.—Sound Spice and Baldwins are in request but hard to