

limited to enter into detail of all the various processes employed, but suffice it to say, that everything that the newest and latest labor-saving machinery can effect is in requisition in this interesting and extensive establishment. Putty grinding receives especial attention, and "Johnson's pure putty" commands a ready sale. A chemical department, tinmith's shops, shipping rooms, and stores for packages, etc., are some of the features that command attention. The manufacturers were awarded the Bronze Medal of the Industrial Exposition Association of Toronto, 1886, and also the Grand Gold Medal of the Dominion and Provincial Exhibitions, Sherbrooke, 1886. They do a business ranging from Vancouver, B. C., to Halifax, N. S.

SPRING HOUSE CLEANING.

We publish this week an interesting article on an interesting topic. It is only one of the many useful papers published in *Demorest's Monthly Magazine*, 15 East 14th Street, New York.

If there is one time more than another in the average house-keeper's life when she longs for a sight of those burnished golden pavements, whose eternal brilliancy needs no application of brush or labor, it is when she faces the dreaded task of house-cleaning.

If she has a large family who permeate every available corner of the house, then is the problem yet more complicated; for one cannot clean an occupied room without first dislodging the occupant. There is but one way,—unless the family are turned out-of-doors,—which is to take one or two rooms at a time, and so proceed until all are cleaned.

It is always more satisfactory to wait until the furnace heat and coal fires, and all their attendant dust and gas can be dispensed with before beginning the work of renovation and cleaning.

Begin with one room at a time, without turning all the household into a state of chaos, and then slowly evolving order from the confusion. Even if it be necessary for the men of the family to beat the carpets and calcimine the walls themselves, and they would like to get their part of the work done at one time, try and persuade them to divide their labors, and the result will be more satisfactory to all parties.

Begin at the top of the house, and clean one room or two small ones at a time. In the first place, empty the closet, if there be one, and after brushing what clothes need such attention, have them aired while the cleaning is progressing. Then dust all the furniture and remove as much as possible to another room. Then take down the curtains and other draperies, and have them dusted and folded carefully, and laid aside or sent to be renovated at a professional cleaner's. Before taking up the carpet, have it swept well, and dust will not be carried to other parts of the house in removing it. Then let the floor be swept, and all the wood-work, walls and ceiling dusted before beginning to calcimine or clean with soap and water.

When the room is ready for the floor-covering to be relaid, and the furniture returned to its place, have every piece thoroughly gone over, brushed, oiled or polished, before bringing it in the room again. The windows need to be gone over again the last thing, and then if the curtains are to be hung up again, their adjustment is the finishing touch which will leave the room in its pristine order, except for the arrangement of the dainty knick-knacks, which is only a matter of taste.

COMMERCIAL.

Little change has transpired in the trade situation during the past week. The weather has been decidedly against the development of spring trade, and heavy masses of ice, which cling about the shores of Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, delay communication by sea with ports to the eastward to an extent unprecedented in recent years. Still our merchants claim—and, doubtless, truthfully—that the aggregate volume of trade that they are likely to accomplish, will be nearly as large as that of last year, and larger than previous years showed.

The committee of the U. S. Senate has presented a majority and a minority report on the proposed Fisheries Treaty. The majority advise its rejection vigorously, and present strong arguments, from an "American" point of view, for their recommendation. The minority report in favor of the treaty, but in a half-hearted way, that looks as if they were swaying between "loyalty" to their party and to their country. "Party" has ostensibly got the advantage, but the "country" evidently retains a "strong pull" upon even Democratic senators.

The City Board of Works is gradually settling itself into regular "working order." It is wholly composed of "new material," and will, of course, find a difficulty for a while in learning the ropes, but, as all are well-intentioned, and most of them fairly intelligent gentlemen, this civic department will probably be as well administered this year as it has been in the past. In common with the majority of our citizens, we shall watch their proceedings with interest.

The new City Prison Committee promises to be a vigorous one, that will closely look after the management of that institution.

The action of Newfoundland in obtaining the assent of the Imperial Government to the act prohibiting foreigners from catching or buying bait on the shores of that island, has not resulted very satisfactorily to the Newfoundlanders, as we learn that Canadian vessels have no scruples against purchasing bait on their coasts and selling it in the best markets.

A few months since we noted the sudden disappearance of a victualler on Barrington Street, who, after doing a "flourishing" business for a few months, "departed" without going through the formality of bidding his creditors farewell. It has recently transpired that after leaving Halifax he went to Boston, and there, with the alleged amount of \$10,000, which his creditors state that he realised from them, set up a butcher shop on Tremont

street. It is reported that those who suppose that they were swindled by him, are taking steps to follow him, and attempt to recover their money.

It is claimed, with considerable reason, that, as the Dominion Government appears to have adopted the principle that the country at large should assume the charges of construction and maintenance of public improvements to harbors, rivers, etc., and has carried it out by voting some millions to deepen and remove obstructions from the channel of the St. Lawrence, to create the harbors of Montreal and Quebec, and to build extensive docks thereon; it should assume the cost of our dry dock, and do a large amount of dredging to make a harbor of St. John, N. B. We agree with this contention, while we recognise the difficulty that the Government necessarily meets in trying to do too much at once.

The following are the business changes in this Province during the past week. No assignments:—J. N. Scott, boots and shoes, Halifax, sold out to A. W. Reddon; Chambers, Turner & Layton, hardware, etc., Truro, dissolved, R. J. Turner retiring; N. P. Marshall, general store, Middleton, sold out to G. W. Andrews; Davidson & Ledden Bros., brokers, dissolved, Thos. Davidson retiring.

DRY GOODS.—There has been some improvement as regards the general dry goods trade during the past few days, and sorting-up orders are coming in rather more freely. Payments still continue to be very slow, but indications of more promptness in the near—we had almost written immediate—future are not wanting. Dealers, it is said, expect to offer now and better "styles" of goods very shortly for fall and winter wear, and country tradesmen, having apparently "got wind" of this fact, are "holding off." Therefore, few advance orders are given in this line.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The market for pig iron is decidedly dull, and prices are barely more than nominal. Little or nothing is doing in the local market. Scotch warrants are quoted at Glasgow at 38s. 2d. Other advices are:—Middlesborough No 3 foundry G. M. B 31s. 3d.; London—Tin, spot or 3 months futures £80, with a quiet market; Chili bars £80; best selected copper £82; Soft English and Spanish lead £13 5s. Owing to somewhat lighter offerings there is a little more steadiness in the pig iron market, although nominal rates are unchanged, iron can be had at the asking. The fact is, that holders are not pressing sales, fearing lower prices without increasing business. A little more enquiry is noted for manufactured iron, but it is difficult to secure fair-sized orders without shading prices. Steel rails are dull and weak, with a tendency for lower figures.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local business transacted in flour has not been large but prices have been firm, and a better demand is noticeable. In many cases holders show a reluctance to sell, seeming to expect an advance in figures soon. The *Mark Lane Express*, in its weekly review of the grain trade, says:—"Native wheat values are firm. There is a fractional advance in the provincial markets. The rates of country flour are maintained. Prices of foreign wheats in London are against sellers. Russian wheat declined 6d. White wheats are firmer. Corn is in demand, and 4d. per cental higher. Wheat was inactive. Sellers refused business under last week's prices. No corn was offered on the spot." The shipments of wheat from South Russia continue fair, but the continent still takes a large proportion of the same, for out of 44 wheat laden vessels that passed the Dardanelles recently, only three were destined for England, the Mediterranean ports taking 23, and the remainder being absorbed by France, Brussels, Holland, and Germany. A decided advance in steam freights has tended to check fresh shipments from Odessa. Nevertheless, sales were reported of some 2,500,000 bushels of from 60 to 80 cents per bushel, and freights had advanced to the United Kingdom and the continent from 9 cents per bushel to 13 cents. The last maize crop of South Russia proves to be from 50 to 60 per cent less than last year. Beerbohm thinks the wheat trade is now in a very interesting condition, and much more so than has been the case for some time past. With the promise of 44,000,000 bushels deficiency in the American crop, and with the crop outlook in Europe certainly below an average of previous years, and with no sign of any superabundance of supplies during the next three months, it is clear prices should show more buoyancy in the immediate future than seemed likely a few weeks ago, when excessive supplies were generally expected for the summer months. As the shadow of coming events is proverbially unmistakable, so will the prospective deficiency on the other side of the Atlantic, which alone will be sufficient under present circumstances of only moderate stocks and low price level, make itself felt long before the actual scarcity is apparent. In Germany and Austria Hungary, the weather has been improving after the recent cold spell, but late mail advices are to the effect that no very positive opinion can yet be given as to the condition of the crops. Farmers in France complain of the thin and patchy appearance of the young wheat plant which has evidently suffered from the recent severe weather, while spring-sowing is so late as also to give rise to some apprehension. Beerbohm's cable as to prices reads:—"Wheat a turn dearer, and corn steady, for cargoes off coast. On passage and for prompt shipment the same. In Liverpool wheat buyers and sellers are apart, but the tendency is upwards. Standard California and fair average red winter wheat 9s. 9d. to 9s. 10d. French country markets firm. The Chicago wheat market has fluctuated, but has a general upward tendency. Quotations were 84½c. June, 85½c. July and August. Corn has been stronger and advanced ½c. to ¾c, standing at 55½c. June, 55½c. July, 55½c. August. Oats have been steady at 33½c. June, 32½c. July, and 28½c. August. The report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture says:—"Low temperature and deficient rainfall, with drying winds and some frost have reduced the condition of winter wheat in the central states. It has also been cool on the Atlantic coast, and not favorable to improvement, yet the plant has held its own in this region. On the Pacific coast only a medium development is reported. Spring ploughing is not quite so well advanced as usual."

PROVISIONS.—The local provision market has been without change or animation, except that there has been a perhaps better enquiry for smoked