

Indications point to a short supply of Brazil nuts this season

The stock of mild coffees in the United States decreased 20,000 bags during the past week.

Lunenburg, N.S., fishing fleet, now on the way to the banks, has been increased by dozens of new vessels built last winter.

On Wednesday last Canadian refiners notified the trade of an advance of five per cent. in both yellow and granulated sugar.

The stock of cloves in London is now reduced to 21,093 bales, as compared with 42,937 bales last year, and 67,370 bales in 1898.

It is understood that the Columbia River Packers' Association will not announce prices on Chinook canned salmon till the middle of May.

The Japan tea market opened this week; cable advices say that quotations are ten per cent. higher than last year, and freights are higher also.

Owing to frost the Washington and Oregon prune crops are reported practically destroyed, and it looks as if California would have the market to herself.

It is reported from Baltimore that the crop outlook for pine-apples continues good, and that the new season for the canned product will open with old stocks very light.

M. E. Riley & Co. expect to have their flour mill in St. John, N.B., in operation by June 1st. The machinery for turning out 150 barrels per day is now being placed in position.

Only two ships of the Newfoundland sealing fleet failed to pay expenses this season. On the whole the fishery has been unusually successful, while there has been but one death among the 5,000 men engaged.

Toronto is to have another biscuit factory. It will be known as the Canada Biscuit Company, and the provisional directors are: Hon. John Dryden, Brooklin; J. C. McKeggie, H. C. Fortier, T. Kennedy and E. S. Reade, Toronto. The share capital is placed at \$100,000.

The dried fruit season in New York is about over. Berries continue scarce and comparatively high in price. Dealers are buying prunes in from hand to mouth fashion, and awaiting the result of the California Cured Fruit Association's attempts to secure the acreage or extension of time on which its existence depends.

Bridgetown, N.S., apple house is, according to The Monitor, being completely emptied. A shipment of one thousand barrels, which will constitute the last export for the season, is being sent to Liverpool via steamer from Halifax. The London market on 15th April is reported as several points lower than during March.

Over one thousand fishery bounty cheques have been distributed to fishermen in Cape Breton county during the past fifteen days. The bounties to vessels and crews are larger this year, but to boat fishermen they are the same. The fishermen should build a suitable class of vessels for deep sea fishing, and not depend on inshore fishing in small boats.—Sydney Herald.

Among dealers in woodenware in this market, says The New York Journal of Commerce, there is noted more demand for brooms, clothespins, washboards and glass jars. Many of the retail dealers, it is said, have cleaned up their stocks very closely, expecting lower prices. These, however, have not come, and while in some quarters brooms are selling at shaded figures, holders are generally firm in their views.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRIES.

H. W. C. J., Rosslund.—Thanks for the additions. They will help to make the list of boards of trade complete. Have applied as you suggest.

S. S., Preston.—We do not know the concern, and have no especial facilities for obtaining information about it. Someone in Rosslund might know who are in it and what sort of promise it holds out. It may be all right, for there is plenty of mineral in that district. In the meantime our advice is not to be led away by what you hear of the showing made by prospectors. One in a score or one in a hundred of such promising borings or diggings reaches development into a mine. Here is what was written us from Greenwood months ago by a correspondent: "If you can say a word in your papers to keep folks who have

a few dibs from putting them into wild-cat ventures, you ought to do it. Gold mining is a decent business; but raking in the cash of widows and servant girls on the strength of fake "reports" and blue-print sketches of imaginary holes in the ground is rascality—and there are slews of scallawags at it all the time, East and West."

A subscriber sends us the following enquiry: "Can you give me the names of any wholesale houses in Toronto or Montreal that do the cutting of dress goods in dress lengths?" We reply that the cutting of dress lengths, once regarded as a retail business, has now become quite common in the wholesale trade, and all the houses in Montreal do it now for their customers, not in cheap goods, but in fabrics ranging from 35c. upwards. Among the names of Montreal houses quoted to us in this connection are those of Gault Bros. Co., limited; S. Greenshields, Son & Co.; Brophy, Cains & Co.; Wm. Agnew & Co.; Thibaudeau, Bros. & Co.; A. Racine & Co.; Liddell, Lesperance & Co.

—Brandon city council will look for legislation authorizing that body to institute a new system of taxation. The burden is now said to fall too heavily on the property owners of the place, and a business tax is to be asked for. The basis of taxation proposed is the annual rental value of the premises occupied and is not to exceed 12½ per cent. of this sum. A special schedule is applied to hotels and liquor selling places, the tax not to exceed \$15 when the assessed value of the premises is not over \$300, and so on, the maximum being about 5 per cent. of the assessed value in each case. A special tax is to be levied on horses and vehicles, not exceeding \$5, on chartered banks up to \$100, on private banks up to \$50, on lumber yards not exceeding \$50, on implement warehouses \$50, on telephone systems \$100, on telegraph companies doing business \$50, on electric light plants not exceeding \$350.

—We notice with pleasure that the Editor of Le Progres Medical, of Paris, declares in favor of making tuberculosis a notifiable disease. We hope that other medical authorities who are of the same opinion will not hesitate to express it. If the spread of phthisis is to be prevented, disinfection of tubercular sputa, etc., must be practised; but the latter procedure necessarily implies knowledge of the houses where the germs of tuberculosis abound. Not only is disinfection of houses occupied by tubercular patients neglected, but in many a city on this continent, even though a health department is in operation, no disinfection of houses where deaths from consumption have taken place is either asked for or done. Disinfection in such cases should be obligatory.—Canadian Journal of Medicine.

—A friend in Montreal, an old resident, with whom The Monetary Times had correspondence on the subject of malfeasance by some municipal employees in that city, has the following: "The fact is that the Montreal city hall is the natural habitat of boodling; and it has become such a regular thing that the business men of Montreal look for it as a matter of course, and are painfully apathetic over the whole business. They occasionally extract a bit of amusement out of some of the 'deals.' I instance one where a city official ruled that a fountain statue, approaching the nude, was too suggestive for a public square, and (therefore) bought it from the city at the price of old metal, and set it up on his own lawn."

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, May 3rd, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	May 3, 1900.	April 26, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$12,776,914	\$13,769,874
Toronto.....	9,369,903	9,369,903
Winnipeg.....	2,012,777	1,660,776
Halifax.....	1,343,292	1,341,213
Hamilton.....	864,548	766,195
St. John.....	694,154	645,550
Vancouver.....	759,066	1,009,969
Victoria.....	427,695	522,983

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,146,887; last week, \$4,409,671