

The Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce has passed a resolution requesting the discontinuance of the United States official crop reports, owing to inaccuracy. The official reports placed the wheat crop of Minnesota and Dakota at 72,000,000, whereas it is now claimed the figures should be 95,000,000.

There has been a considerable movement in green cod, at Montreal, and prices have advanced 50c to 75 per cbl, with the demand still unsatisfied. Wholesale grocery houses have been the principal buyers, and sales of between 1,000 to 1,500 bbls have taken place at prices ranging all the way from \$3.75 up to \$4.62½.

Germans are said to be preparing to introduce their agricultural machines into Mexico during the current year on a larger scale, particularly in the State of Guanajuato, and have instructed their agents in the methods adopted by their American rivals by sometimes exhibiting the qualities of the machines in the open field.

The statement for 1886 of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, shows policies and annuities in force at 31st Dec. last of \$393,000,000. The premiums of the year were fifteen and a half millions; five and a half were paid in death claims; five millions in endowments and purchases; nearly three millions in dividends and annuities. The assets of the company are \$144,181,963.24.

### Slashing Prices.

Our article last week upon the reckless manner in which certain Quebec travellers in the boot and shoe trade were cutting below established values, right in the heart of the Montreal preserves of Ontario, has caused no little comment and indignation, amongst those houses which confine themselves to a legitimate business. We have since learned that this slashing down prices has been perpetrated chiefly by one Quebec concern, which has taken orders for certain lines of goods, it is said, at below first cost. In sooth, the proofs of the underselling of this firm have been so palpable, that one of our leather dealers informed us that he refused to sell it a line of goods except for cash down. That is the only way to treat those concerns who are known to do business more for the sake of financiering, than for making living profits.—*Trade Bulletin.*

### Items of Interest.

The *Alberta Live Stock Journal*, published at Calgary, estimates that 70,000 cattle will be driven into the Territories from the States during the coming season. Several ranchmen have already made arrangements to drive in large herds in the spring.

The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad Company is delivering at Moose River, Montana, the winter terminus of the line, steel rails and other material to cover 350 miles of track. It is reported that track-laying will begin and proceed from both directions next spring, with the intention of completing not less than 150 miles from Helena. Arrangements are in progress for delivering engines, cars, and material in Helena as soon as possible, so as to push the work during the winter.

*Tid Bits* has this neat "take-off" on the tea store inducements: Customer—"My wife says your goods aren't quite up to the standard, and haven't been for two months." Tea store proprietor—"I don't see how that can be; I buy all my tea at the same place." Customer—"Who said anything about tea; I'm talking about chromos now."

The father, was a brusque, matter-of-fact man, who had no liking for anything dudish, and he noticed with sorrow that his son returned from college with bangs and various other insignia of dudedom. The old man surveyed him critically when he appeared in his office, and then blurted out: "Young man, you look like a fool." Just at that moment, and before the young man had time to make a fitting reply, a friend walked in. "Why, hello, George, have you returned?" he asked. "Dear me, how much you resemble your father." "So he has just been telling me," replied the youth. And from that day to this the old gentleman has found no fault with bangs.—*Chicago Rambler.*

A CORRESPONDENT of the *London Boot and Shoe Traders' Journal* writes to that paper that the Northwest, meaning the British Provinces of North America, offers a hopeful field for the development of trade by England. We believe England needs new outlets for trade as much as any other country in the world; but we think she will reckon without her host, if she counts upon building up any big trade in that region. The people who have settled in that part of Her Majesty's dominions are too much like the American Yankee to depend much upon far-off England for their goods. With the enterprise thus far manifested by those people, we shall expect them to be making all their own goods in a very short time.—*St. Louis Leather Gazette.*

ARROPOS to the statement made in the *Witness*, on the authority of an interview had with a large wholesale dealer at Ottawa, that not one quarter of the brandy offered to-day for sale in Canada as Hennessy's, ever saw the establishment of the firm, and that the same may be said regarding Holland gin. We have seen several importing gentlemen in the trade, who inform us that the statement is utterly unfounded, and contend that if the story have any foundation, it is then to the interests of the public health and the bounden duty of the wholesale dealer, to communicate with the public analysts. For our own part, we say that the merchant, if he be what he is represented, is doing a grievous wrong to the trade and to the public by withholding the facts.—*Trade Review.*

The labor agitation is somewhat paralyzing the United States shoe and leather trade. They are however, gradually working off superfluous stocks. So, when activity is restored the traffic will be lively for some time. If the spring trade be dull, the chances are it will be brisk in the autumn. Meantime, raw materials are declining and the cost of production may be appreciably diminished. The volume of indebtedness will be abbreviated, the terms of credit shortened, and the prospects of doing business safely essentially improved. Everybody appears to have been realizing for a good while that curtailment would be sound policy.

but nobody seemed quite willing to practice it. Now, however, there is every reason to expect that salutary benefits will accrue because of it. The necessity for some sort of relief has been so urgent that it cannot be unwelcome.—*Trade Review.*

ENGLISH millers are beginning to express fears of serious competition as a result of the building of large mills in India. It is said that the work of raising \$250,000 for use in building a roller mill in India can be accomplished in a few hours among London financiers. If this outside competition continues to grow as it has during the past ten years, another decade will witness the extinction of the British flour milling industry. The Scotch millers seem to be holding their own pretty well, but those of England are not slowly approaching the hopeless condition which the millers of Ireland seem to be struggling along in. We are not well enough informed to say just why the majority of England's millers cannot do at least as well as their Scotch brethren, but we are satisfied that they are not doing as well, and cannot help believe that the responsibility rests mainly upon their own shoulders.—*Northwestern Miller.*

### Germany's Trade with Central America.

The export trade of Central America with Germany has increased at an enormous rate during the last 10 or 12 years as will be seen by perusal of the following. In 1874 Central America despatched to Hamburg goods to the value of 3,094,190 Mk., while the total for 1885 was 13,839,890 Mk.; the amount having more than quadrupled. To comparison a little we may mention that Mexico's export during the same period increased from 4,869,380 Mk. to 10,223,780, about double; the export from Guatemala nearly reached Mexico's total. On the other hand the export trade of Venezuela with Germany during the same period has receded from 18,731,430 Mk. to 6,313,090 Mk., about a third. There is not much doubt also that the import trade with Germany of all the Central American States has augmented in a great degree, and is ever on the increase; it is very difficult however to accurately gauge the value, as unlike formerly, an important quantity of German goods find their way thither by way of Antwerp and Liverpool.—*Kuhlow's German Trade Review.*

THE *Alberta Stock Journal* says that, though the past month has been a severe one on stock, there have not yet been any heavy losses on the ranges. Some "pilgrim" cattle have suffered. Beef cattle and young stock are said to be in good condition. Sheep are doing well. If March is favorable, nothing serious is apprehended.

NOTICE has been given in the *Manitoba Gazette* that application will be made for an act incorporating "The Northwest Commercial Travelers' Association of Canada," having for its object the advancement and welfare of its members, the insuring of its members against accidents, the application of its funds to benefits or bonuses to its members or to their beneficiaries in the event of death, the insurance of members' lives, and other purposes incidental to such an association.