

"We are selling a better grade of goods," is the report which has been given to The Dry Goods Economist by retailer after retailer for many months past. This abandonment by the public of the old desire for trash is a gratifying result of the prosperity which the country has enjoyed for some years. It is worth noting in this connection, says that journal, that the day of the cheap glove is past. We no longer see sales of so-called kid gloves at 79 cents a pair. The public is perfectly willing to pay \$1 and more. Many retailers report larger sales of gloves at \$1.50 than at any time during the past eleven years.

TORONTO STOCK TRANSACTIONS.

Although the volume of business carried through has been quite up to average for the present time of the year, a general easiness in prices has prevailed, and several stocks have made considerable drops. Not so much so as in New York, however, for there the heavy declines on Wednesday recalled the panic days of 1901, and many stocks dropped a dozen points or more in an hour or two. The immediate cause of the slump is difficult to define, but there can be little doubt that what some of the best informed of the New York journals are saying is true, and that speculators are now undergoing the penalties due to former over-zealous booming. The following is a summary of the transactions of the week: Bank of Ontario, 10 at 128; Toronto, 4 at 238; Commerce, 186 at 159; Imperial, 98 at 231½; Dominion, 174 at 234-7; Hamilton, 56 at 226½-8; Ottawa, 16 at 205; Traders', 10 at 137; Western Assurance, 62 at 88; Consumers' Gas, 24 at 209-210; C.P.R., 9 245 at 119-125; Tor. Elect. Light, 157 at 136-8; New ditto, 19 at 134; Can. Gen. Elect., 392 at 158-162½; Com. Cable, 739 at 155-163; Bell Tel., 50 at 158; Rich. Ont. Nav., 617 at 88-95; Tor. Railway, 637 at 68¾-104; Twin City, 2,029 at 95-101½; Can. Per. Mortg., 133 at 119¾-120¼; Sao Paulo, 537 at 88½-91½; Dom. Steel, 1,145 at 15-20¼; Bonds, \$26,000 at 72¾-76½; Preferred, 35 at 42¼-7; Dom. Coal, 3,003 at 96½-105¼; Nova Scotia Steel, 1,755 at 93½-108½; Bonds, \$1,000 at 109½; and Lake Superior, 600 at 2-2¼.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Imperial Institute, London, 3rd July.—A firm in Rennes, France, asks to be placed in correspondence with Canadian shippers of apples, suitable for the production of cider. The firm states that a considerable demand exists for such apples thereabout. Rennes is in the west of France, north of Nantes. A person wishing to acquire a first-class manganese deposit would like to hear from Canadian owners of properties. A Liverpool firm invites quotations from Canadian shippers of box shooks for shipment to South Africa in lots of 10,000 to 20,000 boxes. Selling agents for several makers of railway supply goods seek the services of a first-class Canadian firm in close touch with railway or tramways, to act as their representatives in the Dominion.

—Stratford, Ont., is a thoroughly enterprising city. A number of its citizens have clubbed together and bought up all the unoccupied land in the southeastern part of the city, where a large portion of its factories are located. This they purpose having surveyed into building lots of one-fifth acre each. The lots will be sold to factory employees at \$100 each, one-half of which is to go into a fund to be administered by trustees for the purpose of inducing industries to locate in Stratford.

The Boston wool market continues very firm and prices are steadily hardening. Medium grades are higher, and sales have been made at last week's outside asking prices. A good amount of Territory wool has been sold at full prices, and there has been a call for fine staple, the first for some time. London is firm, and medium and coarse crossbreds are 7½ to 10 per cent. higher. In Montana there are a great many Eastern buyers waiting to pitch in, and

everything points to good, active competition for the clip of that State. The shipments of wool from Boston to date from December 31st, 1902, are, 118,936,443 pounds, against 139,218,763 pounds at the same date last year. The receipts to date are 124,987,985 pounds, against 147,942,005 pounds for the same period last year.

—A copy has been sent us of the prize list of the Eastern Townships' Agricultural Association, which will hold its annual Exhibition at Sherbrooke, Que., 29th August to 5th September next. This great show has been for many years one of the most prominent in Canada. The secretary of the association is W. M. Tomlinson, Sherbrooke, and Mr. N. T. Dussault is the president. The prize list takes a wide range; there are prizes not alone for cattle and horses, poultry and pet stock, but for dairy produce and products of field, garden, and orchard; machinery; manufactures; woman's work; the fine arts. Sherbrooke is a fine city, with a list of fourteen hotels, and is situated in as pretty a countryside as the sun shines on.

—The New York firm of R. H. Macy & Co. have been at loggerheads with the American Publishers' Association and the American Booksellers' Association. The trouble was that the two organizations refused to sell books to the department store firm because they declined to enter into an agreement not to sell books below a certain price. R. H. Macy & Co. claimed that each firm had the right to sell books at as small a profit as it chose, and when the Association directed its members to refuse to sell them they applied for an injunction. This was granted on Tuesday by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. Justice Ingraham, in his decision, holds that the Association, being incorporate for the purpose of maintaining a uniform price, formed virtually a monopoly in the restraint of competition, contrary to the anti-trust act of 1899. Thus the decision is in favor of Macy.

—A Montreal despatch says that as a result of the recent visit to Canada of Commissioner-General Sargent, of the Immigration Department of the United States, Robert Watchorn, Commissioner-General for Canada, has left that city for the West to establish a number of new investigating stations throughout the far West of Canada. Two new stations are to be established on the Pacific Coast, one at Vancouver, the other at Victoria.

—Mr. Peter A. Ball, Canadian Commissioner at Birmingham, writing to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, says that there is a big opening for Canadian produce in England. He further declares that he has written to a number of manufacturers and produce dealers in a business way, but has not received any acknowledgment from them. These letters meant business to Canadian merchants, and Mr. Ball is somewhat chagrined at the manner in which they were received.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures for Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, July 16, 1903, compared with those of the previous week.

CITIES	July 16, 1903	July 9, 1903
Montreal.....	\$23,442,607	\$25,559,580
Toronto		20,244,475
Winnipeg.....	4 515,570	9,939,042
Halifax.....	1,696,630	2,145,831
Hamilton.....	1,044,275	1,181,338
St. John	966,622	1,004,081
Vancouver	1,335,307	1,542,641
Victoria	543,025	554,761
Quebec	1,621,241	2,085,956
Ottawa.....	2,535,636	2,533,383
London	889,886	1,136,737
\$.....		\$67,927,824