

and the ribs to the bottom. A recent improvement that has found much favor, is a semi deck or running board. The skiff is decked at each end for three feet, and this decking is continued all round the boat, being about four inches in width, except at the ends, where it is decked in; it has several important advantages—only adds a few pounds in weight to the boat, and does not interfere in the least with the oars, and the space under affords ample room for stowing fishing rods, guns, and other traps, when not in use. The builders claim for this class of boats that they are a good all-round general-purpose boat, easily handled by one person, rows or sails equally well, very steady, large carrying capacity on a light draft, holding from three to eight persons, according to size, weighs only 70 lbs. to 100 lbs., and will stand almost any sea that rolls on the St. Lawrence River. In addition, boats can be furnished with Brough's radiating centre board and improved double ratchet wrench, a great advantage in sailing. In canoes, they can point to first-class work, the sailing canoe "Remona," well-known in canoeing circles, having been built by them. In addition, this house deals in all kinds of boat-gear, all of first-class style and workmanship.

The Gibson Cotton Company of New Brunswick has joined the cotton combination. Steadier, but not higher prices, we are advised, will be the result. It is noticeable that the *Recorder* recently urged every one to purchase the Gibson cotton, because the proprietor was superior to the allurements of combination. This might have been matter of opinion, but we failed to see any reason for a personal attack on the highly-esteemed President of the Halifax Cotton Mill, except the animus against all home manufactures, which is just now thought the correct thing in the Liberal Press.

## COMMERCIAL.

The markets have been somewhat affected by the usual midsummer period of dullness, but, after all, trade has been fairly active, and there has been a satisfactory distribution of merchandize. In fact the volume of business has been quite as large as could reasonably be expected at this season of the year.

Seasonable rains during the past two months, alternated as they have been by warm weather, have very much improved the hay crop, and no doubt is now felt by farmers that it will be an average one. In some sections the foggy and "muggy" atmosphere that prevailed during a portion of the week caused some who had cut their hay to fear that they would not be able to "cure" it in good shape, but these fears have been dissipated in this Province at least.

We regret to note that it is reported that the Ottawa Government is contemplating the false step of appealing against the decision of Chief Justice Sir William Ritchie in the celebrated Ayer case. To all honest men and civilized nations the spy system of the Canadian Customs is simply detestable. It is a dark blot in the administration of our customs laws. The decision of the Chief Justice was a most righteous one, based on evidence which, in the eyes of upright men, cannot be controverted into any other meaning than that which the learned Judge so lucidly put upon it. Anyone can see at a glance that his judgment exposed in all their unsightliness the dark methods which the present system of espionage brings into play, through the alliances of custom detectives with discharged employees, informers, etc. It is evident that the only alternatives offered are either to sweep the spy system of Her Majesty's customs clean off the Statutes, or to endeavor to upset Sir William Ritchie's decision. The former is, evidently the only honest and manly course to pursue, and we have faith to believe—despite reports to the contrary—that that the Government will adopt.

The Inland Revenue system is infested with similar spies, and very much needs a clearing out.

The St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery, which was wiped out some five months since, has rebuilt on a larger scale than before, and has supplied itself with the latest and most improved machinery, and will be in running order within a very few weeks. Although it was unfortunate in meeting destruction just as a profitable season was commencing, still the sugar boom promises to be larger and more active in the coming than in the last year, and we trust the enterprise of the "St. Lawrence" will meet their reward in the success that they deserve.

The *Recorder* is responsible for the following:—"It is said that the Cunard steamer *Alpha* has been purchased by New York and Halifax capital, that she will run between this port and Havana, calling at Boston on the homeward voyage, and that Captain Crowell will likely command her." We are not pessimists, but we fail to see any possibility of such a venture being a paying one. Our chief—in fact almost our only—article of export to Cuba is fish, and everyone in the trade knows that there is no profit in that. In fact, our "fish-boxes" depend upon the return cargo to yield the profit on the voyage. But this scheme proposes to return *via* Boston. This evidently to take her return cargoes of sugar, molasses, or fruit to that port. In coming home from Boston, she will have to encounter the rivalry of two lines already established, and must "cut" below paying rates in freights to secure a cargo. We are not impressed with the feasibility of the scheme.

An intercolonial free trade conference is now sitting at Sydney, New South Wales. The object sought is free trade between all the Australasian Colonies, and protection against the rest of the world.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—John Silver & Co., dry goods, Halifax, offering to compromise at 30 cents on the \$, cash; C. F. Warmunde, jeweller, Amherst, assigned in trust; D. Nelson & Son, genl. store, "Turo, advertise business for sale; C. & G. Wilson, Windsor, assigned to W. H. Blanchard.

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

	Week July 13 1888	Prev. week 1888	Weeks corresponding to July 13— 1887	1886	1885	Failures for the year to date, 1888	1887	1886	1885
United States	141	162	162	194	185	5,694	5,641	6,971	6,999
Canada	18	27	24	20	14	960	708	695	798

**Dry Goods.**—The volume of business in this line is rather smaller than might be desired. What little is doing in Canadian manufactures of cotton and woollen goods shows practically no profit, owing to prices being cut so fine. The fall trade has made a fair start. About all travellers are now out and, as a rule, are making fair returns for early sales. Payments have, on the whole, been satisfactory.

**IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.**—Although no large trade can be reported, something has been done in Scotch pig iron. English, Scotch and United States prices are unchanged. It is reported all around that as good a business is doing as was accomplished last year at this season, but there is no special stir, and it is not probable that the market will show any activity for the next few weeks at least.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—The local flour market has shown evident signs of greater firmness. A Montreal report says:—"In straight rollers, there has been an advance of 5c. to 10c., sales having taken place at \$4.55, whilst some holders refuse to sell under \$4.60. This stiffening of values in straight rollers has enabled similar grades of American to slip in, and cut the Newfoundland trade and Lower Ports from under Ontario millers, as dealers inform us that American straight rollers can be laid down at St. John's, N. F., at about the same price as is quoted for Canadian rollers in this market. In Manitoba strong flour, there have been sales at \$4.35 to \$4.45, with Ontario flour made from Manitoba hard wheat selling at \$4.30. There has also been some demand for export, and sales of spring patents have transpired over the cable at firm prices." Beerbohm's cable says:—"Cargoes off coast, wheat quiet and firm; corn nothing offering; do. on passage and for shipment, wheat firm, corn steady. Liverpool, spot wheat rather easier; mixed maize 4s. 7d.; California wheat quiet at 6s. 8½d. July; 6s. 9½d. August; 6s. 9½d. September; 6s. 10½d. October and November; 6s. 10½d. December. Mixed American maize 4s. 6½d. July; 4s. 6½d. August; 4s. 7½d. October; 4s. 8½d. November and December. English and French country markets firm. Flour in Paris firm at 34s. 6d. In Antwerp spot wheat is a turn dealer." In Chicago wheat has been rather stronger at 80½c. August, 79½c. September, 80½c. October, 82½c. December. Corn was more active and stronger, and prices moved up to 47½c. August, 47½c. September, and 46½c. October. In New York wheat and corn both improved, and were very strong. At Toledo wheat was firm. No. 1 white wheat at Detroit advanced 1c. to 93c. for cash. Wheat in Milwaukee also advanced, being 75½c. July, 76½c. August, 77½c. September.

**PROVISIONS.**—No important features have transpired in the local provision market during the week. Business is fairly active, there being a good demand for small lots, and sales have been made at fair prices. Some fair-sized lots of pork have changed hands at quotations. Lard has met with a fair demand, and a number of small sales have been made. No change has transpired in the Liverpool provision markets, except as to bacon, which has been strong, and advanced 1s. to 42s. to 43s. Pork remains at 70s., lard at 41s., and tallow at 21s. The Chicago provision market was strong. Pork advanced 12½c. to 15c., being \$13.50 August, \$13.67½ September. Lard was also stronger, and moved up 5c. to 7½c., to \$8.40 August, \$8.47½ September, \$8.45 October. The hog market was strong, and advanced 5c. to 10c. The cattle market was fairly active, and prices were steady.

**BUTTER.**—Butter has been quiet and steady, the enquiry being limited to the necessities of local consumption. We regret to note that farmers are showing the usual disposition to put their best makes into collars, forgetting the oft-taught lesson that there is more money in good butter when promptly marketed with its original freshness and nutty flavor than there can ever be in storing it, and then trying to sell it in a more or less stale state. However, there are some people that even experience cannot teach, and we regret to see our farmers appear to compose a large portion of that class.

**CHEESE.**—The market has undoubtedly weakened considerably of late, but as the season has so far been very uncertain, the weakness may or may not endure long. The Liverpool, G. B., market has recently declined to 47s., which has put a damper on operations on this side. A Liverpool report says:—"Buyers have not come forward so briskly this week, and as the week's arrivals show profits to importers, there has been a disposition on the part of some holders to realise the same and to sell more freely, the consequence is that some portion of the advance of last week has been lost, to-day's quotations being about 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. below our last week's report. Although this has had the effect of causing a slight reaction in America, next week's arrival here (as also the shipments now being made) will show considerable losses unless our market stiffens up again. Some 'bear' efforts are being made here to depress prices, but there appears to be a general belief that finest goods, June made, cannot decline much, and that buyers will come forward very freely if any further reaction takes place. There is a good steady consumption at present prices, and country dealers are nearly all bare of stock, though it should not be overlooked that the consumptive demand has hitherto been chiefly on American goods, and that a large English make is going on all the time, which has hitherto been accumulating somewhat in dealers' hands. We quote finest colored at 46s. to 47s., and white at 46s. to 46s. 6d. There is a good enquiry for lots below best at 40s. to 43s., and good mediums at 35s. to 40s., as also an improving sale for common goods at 10s. to 20s." The New York market continues somewhat dragging, and the present advantage seems to be with buyers. Arrivals there are not particularly large, and the stock comes to hand in good average condition, but there is plainly a neglect of the offering, especially by the most prominent shippers, and business lacks a general life that has a more or less discouraging effect upon receivers.

**APPLES.**—It is too early to predict anything respecting the coming crop