

marked improvement in quality noticed of late in shipments from Sarnia and Petrolia.

A Belgian inventor has devised an immense lamp, such as has probably never been seen before. The lamp is composed of 3,000 pieces. It is 6 feet high, and measures 7.10 feet in diameter. It is fed with lard oil, and the consumption is said to be very small, its light being so powerful that one may read by it at a distance of 600 feet.

A hardware association was formed in St. John, N.B., last week by the hardware and iron merchants of that city. Thirteen members of this important mercantile profession were present at the organization. Mr. W. H. Thorne was elected president, and Mr. John Barry secretary-treasurer. Messrs. S. Hayward and Thomas McAvity were appointed a committee, with the president and secretary, to draw up by-laws.

The Metal and Hardware Association, in affiliation with the Montreal Board of Trade, held its annual meeting last week. After the retiring president had read the annual report, the following gentlemen were elected officers: President, Mr. James Crathern; vice-president, Mr. Thomas J. Drummond; treasurer, Mr. J. B. Learmont; directors, Mr. F. Fairman, Mr. James Phymister, Mr. Wm. Macmaster, and Mr. A. C. Leslie.

The shipments of coal for the past month from Nanaimo, B.C., amounted to 55,949 tons, making a total for the year of 741,767, with a valuation of \$2,799,905. The total output was as follows:—

New V. C. Co.....	393,722
Wellington	366,765
Union	221,700
Total.....	982,187

In reviewing the British iron trade for 1894, Messrs. Griffiths, in the *Iron and Steel Trades Journal*, say: "In 1893 Canada ranked after Australasia in the order of importance, but this year the value of our iron and steel exports to the Dominion has declined 30 per cent., and Canada drops to the seventh place in our list. The shipments of hoops and sheets, including Canada plates, this year show an increase of about 25 per cent. in value, bringing up the figures to the level of 1892, but with this exception Canadian business shows an extraordinary decline. The contraction in the value of our pig iron exports is 50 per cent., and the shipments of railroad material show an equal decline. Cast and wrought ironwork shows a loss of 40 per cent., bar iron and steel blooms, etc., 30 per cent., galvanized iron 15 per cent., and tin plates 5 per cent. The attempt of the Canadian Government to encourage native industry by subsidizing blast furnaces and taxing the imports of bar and scrap iron, have had some effect on imports, but the whole aspect of the returns is unsatisfactory. The commercial crisis over the States border has had a depressing influence on Canadian trade generally, but this is passing, and our export business with the Dominion will almost certainly be of greater volume and value in 1895."

The following circular has been issued to the trade by the Horse Nail Association. It bears date of January 1, and is signed by the Canada Horse Nail Co., Peck, Benny & Co., and Montreal Rolling Mills Co., Montreal; and James Pender & Co., St. John, N.B.: "We have pleasure in informing you that the following prices, terms, and discounts for the sale of horse nails in Canada have been adopted by us, and will take effect this day:

STANDARD LIST.

No.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Length..	1½	1½	1½	1½	2	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	3½
Price....	\$1.10	1.00	.75	.50	.30	.27	.24	.23	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22

Trade discount: 60 per cent. Terms: (4) months, or three (3) per cent. discount for cash in 30 days. Delivered, F.O.B. Montreal."

After several meetings, and an abundance of correspondence, the nail manufacturers combination has again been patched up, with the result that the base price of cut nails has been advanced 50 cents per keg. To-day the mills quote \$2.10 as the base price with 5 cents off for car-load lots in one shipment, 15 cents off 1,000 kegs lots, and 20 cents off 5,000 keg lots. Buyers of these latter to have the whole season to take them in. But the trade are somewhat doubtful as to how long these prices will continue, as the Lower Province makers are still outside of the combine. The concerns forming the pool are the Canada Rolling Mills, Pillow, Hersey & Co., Montreal Rolling Mills, Abbott & Co., Graham Nail Works and the Ontario Rolling Mills.—*Montreal Star*, 16th.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The Easter fish trade is week by week growing larger.

The sugar refinery at Moncton is working to its full capacity.

The Redpath sugar refinery in Montreal continues shut down.

The Quebec union of journeymen bakers have decided to join the Knights of Labor.

The journeymen bakers and confectioners of London have organized themselves into a trade union.

Mrs. Humbody—"Home is the dearest spot on earth, after all." Mr. H.—"Yes; the rent is a trifle high, isn't it?"—*Philadelphia Record*.

At Houlton, in the State of Maine, where many potatoes from the Maritime Provinces find a market, prices are at present ruling very low.

A shipment of California apricots, in bags of 60 to 70 lbs. each, arrived this week. They are of exceedingly good quality and ready sale at 11½c. per lb.

The total amount of evaporated apples imported into Great Britain in the year 1894 was 34,897 pkgs., against 16,428 pkgs. in 1893, and 36,081 pkgs. in 1892.

The St. Lawrence Refining Company is turning out a grade of unbranded granulated sugar at 3½ cents per pound, intended to meet the competition from the German article.

It is stated that at the recent London convention of the Ontario salt manufacturers, an ineffectual attempt was made to bring the C.P.R. salt well at Windsor into the association.

Monday, the 14th inst., was the date upon which an early closing grocers' law took effect in Quebec city and suburbs. The grocers' clerks formed in procession and marched through the city to see that the rule was everywhere observed.

Re-exports of foreign sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard, from this country during the eleven months ending November 30th, were 41,277,293 pounds. In the corresponding period last year 15,141,410 pounds were sent out.—*N. Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce*.

Granulated sugars are again lower. The "off grade" granulated, the advent of which we chronicled a week ago, is meeting with good request, especially from the city trade. Jobbers are now almost universally handling this grade, and prices have been reduced from 3½ to 3¼c. per lb.

Large quantities of apples have been forwarded to the English market from Halifax during the past fortnight. The steamer "Mesario," carrying 11,000 barrels, and the "Halifax City" with some 13,000 barrels, sailed last week, while another cargo of 10,000 barrels is to go forward this week. Some 50,000 barrels yet remain for shipment.

The British schooner "Rimac," the last of the 1894 salmon fleet, sailed from Victoria on the 6th inst., for Liverpool, Eng. Her cargo is valued at \$190,643, made up as follows: R. P. Rithet & Co., 10,971 cases, valued at \$43,169; Findlay, Durham & Brodie, 5,673 cases, valued at \$28,365; Robert Ward & Co., 4,760 cases, valued at \$23,750; Anglo-B. C. Packing Company, 18,381 cases, valued at \$186,430.

The shareholders of the Montreal Fruit Auction Company held their annual meeting on the 10th inst. The statement of the year as presented showed a surplus after paying the annual dividend of six per cent. The following are the officers for the ensuing year as elected: J. J. Vipond, president; J. R. Clogg, vice-president; Jos. Brown, Louis Sylvester, Geo. Vipond, of Vipond, McBride & Co., Irwin Harris, of McBride, Harris & Co., Owen Hart, of O. & E. Hart, directors; C. E. Thurston, secretary and manager; C. M. Hart, treasurer.

A correspondent writing from Florida to the *London Free Press* says concerning the damage caused by frost: "The loss of oranges is estimated to be in the neighborhood of 3,000,000 boxes. Thousands of the orange trees, now that it is getting warm again, are shedding their bark. The pineapple and vegetable plantations have been frozen to the ground as far south as the Straits of Florida. It is the opinion of prominent business men of the State that Florida will feel the effects of the freeze of 1894 for some years to come, for it has taken till now to recover from the freeze of 1886, when the mercury fell to 22° above zero."

The *London Grocer* of January 5th says: "Canadian and American cheese exhibit the same features as noticed for months past, and purchases are much restricted—fine quality at 49s. to 51s., and choice at 52s. to 53s. The estimated stock in London on the 1st inst. was 143,000 boxes, as compared with between 140,000 and 150,000 boxes at the same time in 1894; but it is regarded as a hopeful sign for the future that existing top quotations are 5s. per cwt. below those of last January. Some importations of New Zealand cheese of this season's make have been recently landed here, and at once taken off at 46s. to 56s. for lots in excellent condition. Liberal quantities, we understand, are coming forward, and the development of this branch of the cheese industry in the colonies is well deserving the attention of the trade at home."

The Butter and Cheese Association held its annual meeting in Montreal on the 14th inst., Mr. Wm. Nivin, president, in the chair. The president submitted the annual report of the business transacted by the association during the past year, which was unanimously adopted and approved of, and ordered to be printed and inserted in the annual