

The number of seal skins entered at the custom house by the sealing schooners already returned to port is 19,038—13,633 being from the North Pacific ocean and 5,405 from the Pacific coast. The total catch of 1887 was 33,700, so that there will be a deficiency this year of 12,562 as compared with last year's catch. The value at present is \$6 per skin, which makes the total catch worth \$128,028. The value in 1887 was about \$7 per skin.

An excellent demand is reported for sardines. Mustard sardines are fast superseding those packed in oil, and this year's demand for them is said to be at least twice as great as last year's.

An iron syndicate is being formed at Glasgow. Its success depends upon the Cleveland iron moulders joining the combination.

One of the German industries which seems to have been most benefited by protection is that of iron and steel. A German trade journal declares that in 205 of the iron and steel establishments of the empire, employed 147,000 operatives, the average monthly wages has increased from 66.20 marks in January, 1887, to 69.67 marks in 1888. The condition of the German working classes has, moreover, in all ways improved.

It is estimated that Hutchinson cleared about \$3,000,000 out of his September deal in wheat.

The Cookshire (J. Mills Co. are doing a very large business in the lumber line. Other industries are springing up. This is an excellent location for a pulp or paper mill, as a very large amount of wood could be obtained, and some of the finest springs of water for that purpose are plentiful.

THE VASTNESS OF INDIA.

For 80 years, at least, writers have endeavored to bring home to the outside world a knowledge of the vastness of India, but, so far as can be perceived, have failed. The average man, says the *Fortnightly Review*, reads what they say, learns up their figures, tries to understand their descriptions, but fails, for all his labor, to realize what India is—a continent large as Europe west of the Vistula, and with 30,000,000 more people, fuller of ancient nations, of varieties of civilization, of armies, nobilities, priesthoods, organizations of every conceivable purpose, from the spreading of great religions down to systematic murder. There are twice as many Bengalese as there are Frenchmen, the Hindostans, properly so-called, outnumber the whites in the United States, the Mahattas would fill Spain, the people of the Punjab, with Seinde, are double the population of Turkey, and I have named four of the more silent divisions.

Everything is on the same bewildering scale. The fighting peoples of India, whose males are as big as ourselves, as brave as ourselves, and more regardless of death than ourselves, number at least 120,000,000, equal to Gibbon's calculation of the population of the Roman empire. There are 100,000 trained brown soldiers in native service, of whom we hear perhaps once in 10 years, and at least 2,000,000 men who think their proper profession is arms, who would live by arms if they could, and of whom we in England never hear a word. If the Prussian conscription were applied in India, we should, without counting reserves or landwehr, or any force not summoned in time of peace, have 2,500,000 soldiers actually in barracks, with 800,000 recruits coming up every year—a force with which not only Asia, but the world, might be subdued. There are tens of millions of prosperous peasants, whose hoardings make of India the grand absorbent of the precious metals, tens of millions of peasants besides, whose poverty, fellahs or Sicilians or Connought men, are rich; millions of the artisans, ranging from the men who build palaces to the men who, nearly naked and without tools, do the humblest work of the potter.

Every occupation which exists in Europe exists also in India. The industry of the vast continent never ceases, for India, with a population in places packed beyond European precedent, imports either nothing to eat or drink, and but for the Europeans would import nothing whatever. She is sufficient of herself for everything save silver. Amid these varied masses these 250,000,000, whose varied descriptions would fill volumes, the tide of life flows as vigorously as in Europe. There is as much labor, as much contention, as much ambition, as much crime, as much variety of careers, hopes, fears and hatred. It is still possible to a moneyless Indian to become vizier of a dynasty older than history, or finance minister of a new prince, whose personal fortune in hard cash is double that of the late Emperor William, or the abbot of a monastery richer than Glastonbury ever was, owner of an estate that covers a county, head of a firm whose transactions may vie with those of the Baring or Bleichroeders. One man, Jule Pershad by name, fed and transported the army which conquered the Punjab.

COMMERCIAL.

The volume of general trade during the past week has been fair but the broken weather that has been experienced has retarded country distribution and has, therefore created some complaint. On the whole there has been, nevertheless, as large a movement as was anticipated but no special activity has been developed in any quarter.

Payments are in general fairly satisfactory and the percentage of renewals sought is reported to be relatively small.

The failure of a leading hardware firm in this city, which assigned this week, took no one by surprise, as it has been classed as "shaky" for two or three years past. The head of this firm retired about a year since to accept

a civic position and this fact may have hastened the event that was even then inevitable. Want of capital is said to be the prime cause of the result. It is reported that the creditors will realize but little from the estate to divide or to quarrel over between them.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:

	Week Nov. 2	Prev. 1888	Weeks corresponding to Nov. 2	1887	1888	1888	1887	1886	1885
United States	220	208	207	213	170	8,294	7,925	8,625	9,660
Canada	60	28	23	20	21	1,460	1,075	1,011	1,037

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—A. A. Taylor, general store, Margaree Harbor, succeeded by Daniel McNeil; Thankston, Angwin & Co., hardware, Halifax, assigned; Hiram B. Naid, jeweller, Canning, reported to have left the country; Frank Gallant, hotel, Tignish, P. E. I., called meeting of creditors, offering to compromise at 50c. on \$; Uriah Mosher, Parker's Cove, assigned to H. E. Gillies in trust for benefit of creditors; Calvin Bishop, grocer, Kentville, reported to be closing out business.

Dry Goods.—The continued wet weather has militated against new business as the country roads in many sections have become almost impassable. Travellers, however, in this province returning home report that country shopkeepers take a sanguine view of the business outlook during the coming winter, for the reason that farmers as a rule have harvested their crops of roots and cereals in good condition and have disposed of them at satisfactory prices. This makes money comparatively abundant in the country and agriculturalists are better able and more willing to invest it in dry goods than is usually the case.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—A fair inquiry continues for pig iron and a satisfactory amount of business has been accomplished. Advice from Glasgow report that a combination is about to be formed of all the principal English and Scotch makers in order to curtail the present rate of production and to put prices upon a more profitable basis. It is estimated that the combined stocks of pig iron held in Glasgow and Middlesborough aggregates close upon 1,500,000 tons, which is quite out of all proportion to current requirements. Cable quotations are as follows:—Glasgow, warrants 41s. 6d.; Middlesborough, No. 3 foundry G. No. B. 34s. 6d.; London, spot tin £102 7s. 6d., three months futures £102 17s. 6d., market dull; Chili bars, spot £78, futures £78. 10s.

BREADSTUFFS.—Owing to the decided weakness in the western markets, which we are forced by circumstances to follow, an easier feeling has prevailed, though prices have not been materially changed. Beerbohm's Cable says:—"cargoes off coast, wheat strong, corn nil; do on passage and for prompt shipment, wheat strong, corn firm. California wheat off coast 43s. to 43s. 3d. Liverpool standard California wheat including club white 8s. 2½d. to 8s. 3½d. Australia wheat off coast 43s. 4d.; futures 43s. 9d. Walla Walla wheat off coast 40s.; futures 41s. 3d. Liverpool, California wheat firm at 8s. 5½d. November; 8s. 6½d. December; 8s. 6½d. January and February; do. mixed maize steady at 4s. 6½d. November; 4s. 7d. December 6s. 7d., March 4s. 4d." In Chicago there was considerable excitement and weakness and prices steadily declined and broke 4½c. to 5c. Quotations are \$1.15 December, \$1.13 January, \$1.16½ May. Corn was also weak in sympathy with wheat and declined to 38½c. November, 38½c. December, 38½c. May. In New York the wheat market was weak and prices broke. Corn also was weaker and declined ½c. to ¾c. Oats there were 30c. November, 31c. December, 32c. January, 34½c. May. At Toledo wheat was active and very weak, prices dropping 2½c. to 4c. Corn was dull and stood at 42½c. cash. May oats were active and closed at 25½c. cash. The Detroit and Milwaukee wheat markets were dull and weak.

PROVISIONS.—The local provision market was quiet and little business has been accomplished. The demand for pork was slow and few sales were effected, but prices have ruled firm. There was little enquiry for lard also, though prices were steady. In the Liverpool market a stronger feeling prevailed as to lard and bacon which advanced 3d. to 6d. Lard stood at 42s. 3d., bacon 45s. 3d. to 46s. 6d. Pork was firm at 80s. The market was bare of tallow. In the Chicago provision market there was a weaker feeling and pork declined 5c. to 12½c., to \$14 45 for December, \$14.72½ January and \$14 95 for May. Lard was also weaker and dropped 7½c. to \$8 07½ December, \$8 10 January; \$8.27½ May. There has been a stronger tone to the hog market and prices advanced 5c.

BUTTER.—The market has worn a very quiet aspect but prices have remained steady. Of course choice brands always find their market but second and inferior grades are difficult to place. The export trade of butter from Montreal this season as compared with the last shows a falling off of 43 106 packages, the figures being 59,200 in 1887 and only 16,054 in 1888. Hodson Brothers of Liverpool, G. B., report:—"A small but steady trade passing in American and Canadian at 80s. to 90s. according to quality. Finest Kiel, 125s. to 130s.; Irish—Cork firsts, 102s.; seconds, 97s.; thirds, 87s.; fourths, 76s. per cwt."

CHEESE.—The cheese market has remained very quiet. As a matter of fact, there has been no interest in it, as business has continued to be unimportant. Prices have remained about steady. The time is approaching when those who delight in such details will figure up the stock in hand, and will tell us how little we have to starve upon, but at present there are no reliable data to go upon. Mr. Charles Bowles, cheese factor, of London, England, who runs a market report in the *Grocer* of that city, occasionally indulges in editorial comments on the cheese trade. In the *Grocer*, of Oct. 13th, Mr. Bowles addresses the readers of that paper on the subject of cheese as follows:—"There has been a ring formed, and prices have been forced up, but, as far as I am concerned, I believe prices will not be maintained, as stocks are large, and trade steady. My advice to my buyers is, take only what you require weekly." Now, if this editor and cheesemonger had confined himself to simply quoting the market firm and advancing, he