

materials has been unusually large this year, having been shipped all over the Lower Provinces, and large orders have also been filled for Newfoundland and England. Their factory will be lighted by electricity within 30 days, a local company having secured the lighting of Amherst by the electric light, the wide-awake factory-owners in that go-ahead town having agreed to take from two to six lights each.

COMMERCIAL.

No change has occurred in the general markets of a noteworthy character during the week, and trade has continued steady and fair in volume without any excitement or unusual activity in any line. The continued absence of severe frost and snow are beneficial to the operations of both the merchant and the farmer.

The first of the weekly mail steamers, the *Vancouver*, for this port this season from England, arrived here on Friday, after a remarkably quick, but rather boisterous passage. The outgoing steamers will continue to sail from Montreal, taking the mails at Rimouski for two or three weeks longer.

Money continues to be tight and somewhat difficult to obtain, but, happily, not so much so as to hamper business transactions. A Montreal contemporary remarks:—"A rather singular phase in the present stringency is the fact that junior partners are now asking for discounts, who not long since compelled their seniors to find outside employment for their capital, as they had no use for it at the ordinary rates of interest. To-day, however, they would be very glad of it, but as it has passed into fixed shape, they have no alternative but to accept the advanced rates of bank accommodation. This shows how sudden has been the transition from a period of ample funds to one of stringency. Parties are consequently paying 7 and 8 per cent. on time loans, who two months since could have provided for the future easily at 6 per cent." This shows a lamentable lack of business foresight on the part of the "juniors," and does not reflect creditably upon the "seniors," who, with their presumed superior experience, should have been able to restrain their younger partners from locking up funds that were sure to be needed as the season advanced.

The following are the assignments and business changes in this Province during the past week:—Daniel H. Pitts, ship chandler, Halifax, assigned to Thomas Forhan; Coady Brothers, Margaree, assigned to Shorey & Co., and D. J. Leahy & Co.; R. McNaughton, Rawdon, general store, sold out and removed. Win. McKeel, genl. store, Pictou, assigned to Allan A. Ferguson.

DRY GOODS.—Business is rather quiet at present, being confined largely to sorting-up and to small local dealings. There has been some activity in the way of getting off the last goods of the season that have to be sent to their destinations by water. Complaints are made in some quarters of undue competition and cutting of prices, but we cannot ascertain that this has been done to any marked extent. The fall business has been satisfactory as to the amount done, but it is generally admitted that the profits made have not been large. Remittances have been rather below the mark in some instances, but as a rule there is little cause for complaint on this score.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—A good steady trade has transpired in all lines, and dealers have been working hard to fill orders, as is usually the case towards the close of the fall season. Prices have remained very steady. The *Trade Bulletin*, speaking of the Montreal market, reports as follows:—"In pig iron business has been done at former prices, viz. Coltness, \$20 50, Langlois and Calder, \$19.50 to \$20, Summerlee, \$19.50, Gartsherrie, \$19, and Shotts, \$19. Bars, sheets, and plates have been in steady request at \$2 for bars and plates, and \$2.40 for sheets. In tin plates and Canada plates a fair trade has been accomplished. A round lot of Charcoals sold at \$4 20. Canada plates are firm at \$2.70 to \$2.75." The tin market in Europe has undergone severe fluctuations recently. The price in London rose to £135, or £9 advance; but the last cable quotes the market quiet and lower at £130. The advance in copper has been sustained, and 12s. is marked on the inside, with Chili bars cabled £3 5s. higher at £47 5s.

BREADSTUFFS.—There has been a healthy local demand for flour, though some descriptions appear to be rather easier. Beerholm's cable reports:—"Cargoes off coast—wheat, quiet; corn, nothing offering. Cargoes on passage and for shipment—wheat, very little demand, corn, quiet. No. 1 California wheat off coast, 32s. 6d., red winter wheat, for prompt shipment, 31s.; do. present and following month, 31s.; California wheat, promptly to be shipped, 33s.; do. nearly due, 32s. 9d. The French country markets seem to be improving. Liverpool spot wheat firmly held, corn do., moderate demand. Wheat and flour in Paris a turn dearer. No. 2 club Calcutta wheat, ex ship and present and following month, 29s. 6d. Liverpool, Chilian wheat off coast, 32s., present and following month, 32s. 6d.; Walla Walla wheat off coast, 32s. 6d.; present and following month, 32s. 9d.; La Plata maize off coast, 21s. 6d. English country markets slow. Flour in Paris, 31s. 6d. for November, December." In Chicago the wheat market has been more active, and there was a stronger feeling shown by a slight advance in figures. Quotations were 73½c. for December; 73½c. for January; 78½c. for May. Corn, on the other hand, was weaker and declined ½c. to ¾c., being quoted at 41½c. December, 41c. January, 45½c. May. Oats were steady at 25½c. December and January, and 29½c. May. A Chicago despatch says:—"The local wheat market is narrow, and seems to be getting narrower as the stocks of grain continue to decrease. There is nothing in the speculative situation to encourage investment, and the light local stocks deter speculative short selling. So long as the bears run at every little bulge, the professionals cannot engage in a long campaign. Indications point to the conclusion that they are merely milking the markets, and unless a radical change occurs they are not liable to deviate from this programme immediately. With local stocks so light and so closely held, there is very little prospect of the market being oversold at reigning prices.

Unless it should get in that condition, or the public come in, there is little for the professionals to play for at this juncture. That they are playing hard for that little is evident, however." At the seaboard wheat was quiet and steady, being 83c. for November, 83½c. December, 85c. January, and 86½c. February. Corn has been firmer, and quoted 52½c. November, 52½c. December, 52½c. January, and 53½c. May. Oats in New York are 33½c. November, 33½c. December, 34½c. January, and 35½c. May. The Toledo and Detroit wheat markets are quiet and unchanged, but in Milwaukee it was unsettled.

PROVISIONS.—The local market for provisions has been quiet, but at unchanged prices considerable business has been transacted, mostly confined to filling in small jobbing orders to meet the hand-to-mouth requirements of both the city and country trade. Smoked meats have been quiet and steady. In Liverpool provisions have been steady except lard, which is stronger, and advanced 3d. Our advices quote pork, 71s. 3d.; lard, 34s.; bacon, 39s. 6d. to 40s.; tallow, 23s. 3d. Provisions are fairly active in Chicago, and again stronger with prices improved, 7c. to 10c. on pork. Quotations being \$12.05 January; \$13.12½ May. Lard also moved up 2½c., being at \$6.40 December; \$6.45 January, and \$6.75 May. Meats are weaker, and have dropped 5c. to 10c. The hog market was firm on light trades, while mixed and heavy were strong, and advanced 5c. to 10c. The *Cincinnati Price Current*, of November 3, says:—"The unfavorable packing weather and the satisfactory prices current for hogs, stimulated the marketing of them far more than had been expected for the last week of the summer season, and, therefore, the packing in the West has been considerably in excess of the corresponding week last year, and the total for the eight months of the summer packing season is practically the same as last year; the final returns may alter the result slightly, but it will be unimportant. The receipts of hogs have increased largely in Kansas City and Omaha, and have been liberal at all points."

BUTTER.—The market has ruled very quiet and practically unchanged, the movement light and limited to local wants. We note that some of the Ontario factories have decided to hold their last three months' make for a rise in prices. We do not doubt that, as is too often the case, they are now regretting that they did not accept good offers when they were going a few weeks since. A practice that should be abolished by country shippers is that of working low grades of packed into roll, and packing them in with fresh-made roll, with the intention of palming it off as fresh-made. The deception is always detected, and such lots are invariably sold at same prices that low grades of packed command. Regarding packages, new tubs or hard-wood boxes are the most desirable, and half barrels or kegs will do equally as well, and these only should be used. Care should also be taken before putting the butter in packages, that all the sides and ends of the package be lined with new white muslin, thus keeping the butter from defacement by touching the wood. A bad practice is in putting the butter up in paper; this should not be done, as the paper sticks to the butter and damages the appearance. Each roll should be separately placed in a piece of new muslin cloth, washed in warm water to take out the starch, and thoroughly wet in good brine. The rolls should also be of moderate size and not too large. Then, again, they should be of uniform color, not packing the light and fresh-made with other that has been colored.

CHEESE.—The cheese market is quiet, and though it is without activity holders appear confident and exercise no pressure to sell. The cable keeps its quotations at 57s. The *New York Commercial Bulletin* says:—"Cheese, if it has not reached a turning point, appears to have found a resting place, and there has been a steadier and more hopeful feeling regarding strictly fancy stock during the present week. The first development was made last Saturday, when reports of increased demand in Canada were confirmed, and this being followed up by some pretty liberal purchases in the northern and western counties of this state, sellers plucked up a renewal of courage and assumed quite a firm attitude, especially as they found buyers evincing greater interest. All demand, however, was most pronounced in requiring the perfection of quality and under September date, as it was such that had been taken up by the buyers who invested in the country and raised the question of probable slight reduction in quantity of that one particular grade of cheese, and it yet remains to be seen whether the beneficial influence will extend to other qualities." There appears to be a healthier feeling developing in England, the price of cheese in Liverpool having advanced 1s. 6d. per cwt. during the past few days.

APPLES.—The apple market is active, there being a good demand, and prices are firm. A cable from Liverpool quotes Canadian apples at 14s. to 19s., and Glasgow cables are steady at 15s. to 18s., for good to choice colored stock. Owing to the large quantities of apples that have been shipped from Ontario lately to the Western States, it is not likely that apples will go begging for customers this season. A report on the Liverpool market for American and Canadian apples, for week ending 29th October, 1887, says:—"Arrivals are again large, but we attribute a slight fall in rates, more to the bad quality and condition of the fruit, than to the quantity offering. Boston apples especially have been very bad—the fruit seemingly worm-eaten, small, and in soft condition. The *Palatine's* cargo was especially wasty, and at least 30 per cent. of sales were rejected, and re sold at a heavy reduction. This steamer, as usual, missed Monday's sale, and we had to sell part on Friday, which is generally a bad day to offer apples. It was impossible however, to keep the fruit over till Monday, as further steamers are due, and the fruit is of such a character that immediate sale is a necessity. New York shipments were slightly better, and any fancy lots made outside prices. Canadian arrivals were of fair quality, but we have yet to receive the first-class fruit we have been accustomed to in former years. No doubt it is yet early in the season, but taking it all round, we should pronounce Canadian shipments barely up to the usual high average quality." Messrs. Boyd, Barrow & Co., fruit dealers and salesmen, Glasgow, write to the Montreal