

A cheese board for the district surrounding Madoc in North Hastings has been formed.

According to the *Kingsville Reporter*, the prospects for the peach crop of Essex county this season are excellent.

The butchers of Sherbrooke, Que., are agitating for protection against the sale of meat on the market by outside vendors.

The Government dairy at Wellman's Corners, Hastings county, has been making 1,500 pounds of butter per week during the winter, which has been sold at 24½ cents per pound.

The world's visible supply of coffee, as compiled to first of month, shows a decrease of 75,000 bags, as against the amount on hand Feb. 1st. This shrinkage is about 5,000 bags greater than originally intimated.

The Edmonton (N.W.T.) Creamery Co., Ltd., is ordering a plant and completing arrangements with a first-class butter-maker from Denmark. Five hundred cows will supply milk for the creamery, which will be situated at Poplar Lake.

A deputation from the Fruit Growers' Association has waited upon the Dominion Government, making strong representations in opposition to the ratifying of the French treaty, which, they urged, would ruin the grape growers and wine manufacture of the Dominion.

At New Orleans the molasses market is dull for centrifugals. No sound open kettle goods are in first hands. The bad weather has affected the clean rice market unfavorably, and but a moderate movement is reported. Rough rice is strong. The light stock on hand is firmly held.—*Planter*.

The fish-drying establishments at Halifax and Annapolis are doing a flourishing business. Two thousand quintals are to arrive from Newfoundland, for drying in Halifax, and 1,500 quintals will be placed in the one at Annapolis, the fish for the latter coming from Grand Manan.—*St. Andrew's, N.B., Beacon*.

A story is now going the rounds, and it pretends to freshness, but is there not an echo of former laughter when it is repeated? At any rate here is the tale: An Englishman said to a Boston girl: "What do you do with all your vegetables in the United States?" She replied: "We eat all we can, and we can what we can't."—*Boston Journal*.

Prunes, says the *California Grocer*, are not meeting with active demand. There is a heavy stock left in the State and the east is well supplied. The demand runs on large and small sizes, the intermediate being neglected. Fine, large ones, are not in excessive supply, and fancy ones sell at good prices. There is a demand for the other extreme at very low prices.

Says the *Belleville Intelligencer*: "The farmers of Hastings and Prince Edward are arranging a schedule of prices for which they will grow vegetables and fruits for supplying the canning factories. They claim that the canneries are not paying them enough for their products, and that they have formed a combine to keep the prices of what they have to sell down below living prices. They purpose to combine also.

About the only thing left here, says the *California Grocer*, is prunes. For four sizes 4½c. is about the market. The demand is for very large and very small sizes. The intermediate grades are neglected. Fine large prunes sell at pretty good prices. On other kinds of dried fruit quotations are not much better than nominal in the absence of busi-

ness. Choice peaches, pears or apples are worth fully top prices.

The smelt fishing season has closed and the shipments are coming to an end. Although the fishermen say it was a dull season, about 1,332 tons of fresh fish, including salmon, smelts, bass and tomcods, were shipped from Chatham (N.B.) station. In December, 1,173,540 lbs. fresh fish went forward; in January, 619,940 lbs.; in February, 823,330 lbs.; and in March, 47,900 lbs.—*Moncton, N.B., Times*.

Among the first ocean steamships to reach Montreal will be the fruit boats from the Mediterranean. It is probable that more oranges and lemons than ever will be brought to Montreal this year, as reports from the fruit centres say the crop is large. The fruit steamers coming to Messrs. R. Reford & Co. this year are the "Fremona," "Escalona," "Avlona," and "Dracona." Messrs. Vipond, McBride & Co., the wholesale fruit men, who last year ran the steamer "City of Kingston" direct from the West Indies to Montreal with fruit, have not yet completed arrangements for the continuation of this service during the coming season.

HARDWARE AND METAL TRADE NOTES.

Toronto and Hamilton have been placed on the same footing as Montreal as to freight rates on bright galvanized, annealed and coppered wire. This has been brought about by the removal of ten per cent. freight allowance. London is still rated four cents above these figures. The cut is made to meet the competition of American manufacturers.

The nail works of S. R. Foster & Sons, St. John, N.B., are reported to be running overtime in consequence of large orders received.

A new foundry, it is said, will shortly be erected in Berlin, where the manufacture of broom-handle machinery and elevators will be carried on.

An attempt is being made to re-organize the St. Thomas Pipe and Foundry Company. The present shareholders purpose putting in the building and plant which cost \$36,421 at \$20,000, and taking up themselves some \$10,000 of the new issue of stock, if the citizens will take up a like amount.

Our weekly letter, dated March 2nd, from James Watson & Co., Glasgow, says: The price of Scotch warrants has remained remarkably steady. There is a total indisposition on the part of the public to buy at present, but the position might quickly change. Iron is very much in the same groove as other metals; the statistical figures are all favorable, but, apart from the improvement in shipbuilding, the prospects are not considered satisfactory.

Shipments of pig iron from centres in Great Britain since the beginning of year are as follows: Scotland, to Feb. 24th, 35,249 tons; Middlesbro', to March 1st, 133,767 tons; Cumberland, to Feb. 24th, 54,847 tons. Shipments made during corresponding periods last year are: Scotland, 38,026; Middlesbro', 100,547; Cumberland, 40,831 tons.

At Ashburnham, on the river Otonabee, is a factory of cheese-boxes, owned by Mr. Sam. Bickell. This has been recently fitted, by the Wm. Hamilton Manufacturing Company of Peterboro', with new and ingenious machinery, which will enable him to turn out 500 cheese-boxes per day, which means, say, 150,000 this year. The heads of these boxes are

made of basswood and pine, while the hoops are made of elm. The factory is driven by a 40-inch water-wheel, which we understand was also furnished by the Wm. Hamilton Company.

The Metal and Hardware Association, recently formed in connection with the Montreal Board of Trade, has located its quarters in the building of the latter. Henceforth its meetings will be held every Wednesday.

Toronto wholesale merchants say that the week has developed a good trade in wire and cut nails, also in fencing wires.

In sympathy with a further rise in London of about 15s., prices of pig tin in the New York market hardened to the extent of about 10 to 15c. per 100 lbs. The advance, however, was quite as ineffective as that of the previous day in the direction of accumulative interest, and the market presented a quiet appearance, with indications that the strength displayed is more superficial than otherwise.—*N. Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce, March 13th*.

CANADIAN ALSIKE CLOVER.

In the early part of the growing season everything pointed to a large yield of alsike last year; but, owing to different causes, these expectations were not fully realized. In some districts the crop harvested was exceedingly poor, and the cost of threshing the seed almost absorbed its total value. This, however, has reference only to individual cases, for in the last season what was probably the largest crop of alsike ever grown in Canada was harvested. And had the yield per acre resulted in accordance with the early indications, the quantity marketed must have been even in excess of this large quantity. Fortunately for Canadian growers there was a shortage in the crops of some foreign countries, notably Bohemia and Silesia. This, of course, gave a wider market to the Canadian product. The exports from Ontario alone, during the past season, according to the estimate of the Steele, Briggs, Marcon Seed Co., one of the largest exporting firms, were of an aggregate value of \$350,000.

PETERBORO' BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Peterboro' Board of Trade was held in the Council Chamber on the 6th March, Mr. Robt. Fair, president, in the chair.

The annual address of the president dealt first with the creditable record of Peterboro' all through the commercial depression of 1893. Though the board had not shown as much strength as was desirable, it was because members' own business took up all their time. He urged that the membership be increased, and reminded his hearers that there was a Merchants' Protective Association, which had not been utilized as it might. The building and opening of the street railway in Peterboro' was referred to as one of the most important advances yet made by the town. And the speaker had a good word for the liberal policy of the town council in attracting new industries to their midst.

"The members of the new Council," said Mr. Fair, "have many questions of vital importance to come before them, prominent among which is the municipal union of the village of Ashburnham to the town. Should annexation take place, a fair and equitable adjustment of the respective interests involved should be aimed at." He closed with an expression of regret that the board was losing Mr. Burnham's services as secretary, but con-