

somewhat circumscribed area in which cotton is grown to any large extent; and the idea is suggested of extending the cultivation of the plant largely within the British Empire. We do not know where this could be done with much prospect of success at present, except, it might be in parts of Australia. Experiments have been made, in a minor way, to see whether it will flourish in parts of South Africa, and we believe they were successful; indeed, in similar semi-tropical climates, the shrub becomes a perennial, though the fibre at the same time gains a tendency towards coarseness.

CHEESE BOARDS.

Prices of cheese continue high, and, judging from cables from the other side where the demand is brisker than ever, they are not liable to decline. At Russell, 11c. was offered, but refused. At Ingersoll, the price offered, 11¼c., was not deemed enough by holders. At South Finch, 11½c. was offered, but rejected. At Napanee, the majority of the boxes of cheese remaining unsold on the board were sold afterwards on the curb at 11¼c. and 11½c. At Chesterville, 11c. was offered, but no sales made on the board. At Kemptville, no sales were made, holders considering the price offered, 11½c., too low. At Brockville, Inspector Publow addressed the board, remarking, among other things, that August cheese this year was hardly up to standard quality. He suggested also, that each buyer should place his offer in a sealed envelope. The highest bidder to get the goods.

Boards and date of meeting	No. of factories.	Cheese boarded Boxes.	Cheese sold Boxes.	Price per lb. Cts.
Russell, Sept. 19	..	..	none	..
Peterboro', Sept. 19 ..	..	3,200	all	11½
Stirling, Sept. 19 ...	..	770	498	11½
Picton, Sept. 19	18	940	345	11½
Campbellford, Sep. 18 ..	..	1,130	all	11½
Ingersoll Sept 18 ..	..	225	none	..
Cowansville, Sept. 15 ..	48	2,492	1,930	11-11½
London, Sept. 15	13	2,189	75	11
South Finch, Sept. 15 ..	16	1,036	none	..
Cornwall, Sept. 15 ..	..	1,692	1,102	11-11½
Napanee, Sept. 14 ..	..	920	165	11½
Iroquois, Sept. 14 ..	..	672	400	11½
Kingston, Sept. 14 ..	..	327	..	11½
Winchester, Sept. 14 ..	..	773	723	11½
Perth, Sept. 14	..	1,400	850	11
Chesterville, Sept. 14 ..	..	499	none	..
Brighton, Sept. 14 ..	11	986	36	11
Ottawa, Sept. 14	..	908	744	11
Kemptville, Sept. 14 ..	..	350	none	..
Kingston, Sept. 13 ..	..	227	117	11½
Tweed, Sept. 13	..	880	755	11½
Madoc, Sept. 13 ...	..	820	715	11½
Brockville, Sept. 13 ..	..	3,200	all	11-11½

—The following figures will assist to show up the world's present shortage in cotton: The stock at Liverpool now is only 209,000 bales, against 843,000 last year, and 750,000 the year before; on the continent there are only 209,000 bales, compared with 498,200 bales a year ago, and 386,300 bales two years ago; and in the United States there are only 168,066 bales compared with 725,655 a year ago, and 306,083 two years ago. The total visible supply for the whole world is 682,999 bales, as against 2,171,415 bales last year, and 1,579,207 bales the year before last.

—What appears likely to become one of the most important strikes in recent years is that which is now beginning in the Pennsylvania anthracite coal mines. At present 118,000 men are said to be idle, and the number may be increased any day. One company has already advanced prices 25 cents. So far no trouble has occurred, and efforts are being made to get both sides to come together.

—New Zealand's revenue for its last fiscal year was £5,700,000, and its expenditure amounted to £5,400,000, leaving a record surplus of £560,000, in addition to £45,000 from the previous year. All branches of revenue exceeded the estimates. Considerable reductions are being made in the tariff, and mining, agricultural, dairy and dredging machinery, engines and boilers are to be admitted free of duty.

TORONTO STOCK TRANSACTIONS.

Considerable briskness, comparatively speaking, has characterized the Stock Exchange this week. Loan companies stock has been quiet, but some few bank shares have changed hands, the prices remaining steady. The transactions in detail were as follows: Montreal, 1 at 257; Ontario, 37 1-3 at 126; Merchants', 8 at 156; Commerce, 401 at 151¼-152¼; Imperial, 94 at 217-¾; Dominion, 91 at 232¼-233; Traders', 28 at 112; National Trust, 35 at 132; Western Assurance, 230 at 118-120; Canada N.W. Land, 44 at 48-49; C.P.R., 452 at 87½-89; Toronto Electric Light, 145 at 132-3; General Electric, 71 at 169-¾; Commercial Cable, 225 at 169-172¼; Bell Telephone, 8 at 173; Montreal Street Ry., 150 at 262¾; Toronto Railway, 308 at 101½-2½; London Electric, 135 at 115-½; Cycle, 15 at 81; Coupon Bonds, 12,000 at 101-2½; C.P. & W.C., 449 at 111-¼; Reg. Bonds, 15,900 at 101-2½; Canada Landed, 43 at 111; War Eagle, 2,500 at 155-7; Republic, 5,750 at 78-85; Golden Star, 12,000 at 6¼-¾; Crow's Nest, 50 at 147; Carter-Crume, 167 at 101¼-½; Payne, 5,200 at 98-100½; Virtue, 500 at 67; North Star, 200 at 101; Hamilton Reef, 2,000 at 5, and Cariboo, 500 at 87.

—The Commissioner of Agriculture, with a view to securing the highest possible price for Canadian products in England, has appointed three agents charged with the duty of watching the unloading of Canadian food products from steamers, and of facilitating the transmission of produce from cold storage compartments on steamships to storage warehouses on shore. They will also watch the handling of cheese and butter, so that if any boxes are broken they may be promptly repaired, in order that the quality of the article may not be depreciated. The names of these agents are Homer Goff, of Ottawa, who will be stationed at Bristol; J. B. Oke, of Peterborough, who will go to Glasgow, and J. W. Welton, of Auburn, N.S., who will be placed in London.

—One of the interesting features of the meeting at Bradford of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was the address delivered by Dr. William Saunders, director of the Canadian experimental farms, who gave a very gratifying account of his twelve years' experience on the state farm near Ottawa. Benefits had accrued to farmers in connection with the management of the farm, treatment of crops, stock, dairy and fruit growing, etc. Dr. Saunders' paper, which was read on September 7th, excited great interest, and a discussion touching on scientific farming and Canada as a field for agriculturalists followed.

—A report upon municipal ownership in the United States has been prepared by Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor for that country. Its figures show that of the 3,226 water works in the United States 53.73 per cent., or more than half, are owned by the cities and towns and 46.27 per cent. by private companies. There are 935 gas works in operation, and 98.55 per cent. of them are owned by individuals, the remainder by municipalities. The electric lighting plants number 3,032, but only 15.47 per cent. of these are owned by the cities and towns they light. The striking feature of these figures is the small proportion of gas plants that are operated by municipalities.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, September 20th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Sept. 27, 1900.	Sept. 13, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$15,574,245	\$14,455,601
Toronto	9,695,614	10,191,909
Winnipeg	1,655,999	1,719,214
Halifax	1,441,779	1,519,879
Hamilton	935,361	727,949
St. John.....	946,725	871,335
Vancouver	1,042,353	1,038,007
Victoria	532,999	727,492

\$31,825,075 \$31,251,386

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,318,848; last week, \$4,759,064.