

The Halifax Amateur Dramatic Club met on Monday evening at the Halifax Hotel. A number of well known actors and actresses were present, and about forty members enrolled their names. The club decided to give a series of three performances this winter, in January, February and March. Of course the plays to be produced have not yet been decided on, or the charitable objects to which the club intend to devote the proceeds. Great things are expected, and the public, remembering the success of the theatricals in aid of the School of Art and Design that took place last year, will look forward to seeing many of those who distinguished themselves then, as well as some new faces, behind the footlights this winter. The members, after discussing many business points, broke up, expressing thanks to Consul-General Phelan and Mr. Hesseloin, to whom they were indebted for the use of the parlors for the evening.

CHRS.

## COMMERCIAL.

No marked features have been developed since our last report as regards the state of trade. In some sections heavy falls of snow have occurred but in others bare roads, either slushy or frozen into ruts that are uncomfortable at least, and sometimes dangerous to drive over, have seriously interfered with the delivery of goods ordered and the reception of orders. Despite these drawbacks a fair volume of trade has been accomplished which will, doubtless, be largely augmented as "harder" weather succeeds.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:

	Week		Prev. week		Weeks corresponding to				Failures for the year to date.			
	Dec. 7.	1888	1888	1888	1887	1886	1885	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884
United States...	273	261	238	260	214	183	183	9,439	8,977	9,690	10,518	
Canada.....	35	34	29	29	29	29	29	1,601	1,204	1,108	1,201	

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—John S. Jones, music dealer, Halifax, closed out by Sheriff; Thos. Lindsay, gent. store and lumber, Belmont, N. S., assigned; A. S. McLean, (Estate of) G. S., Summerville, N. S., advertised for sale by auction.

DRY GOODS.—Very little improvement may be looked for in the wholesale trade until after the advent of the New Year. Some sorting orders come in slowly but they are not up to the usual and expected mark. Cotton goods are rather slow and prices continue to rule low. In woollen goods a better feeling prevails and a decided improvement is confidently predicted with the opening year. An advance is looked forward to as a certainty in sympathy with the advance of the price of the raw material and the probability of its further appreciation. Millinery and fancy goods in the retail departments are doing a very satisfactory trade. Remittances are reported to be slow, but this is usual at this season of the year.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The market for pig iron continues firm with an advancing tendency in prices. Comparatively little is doing just now in the local market. Warrants in Glasgow are firm and advancing, having moved up 8d. during the week to 42s. to 42s. 1d. At Middlesbrough No. 1 foundry G. M. B. is quoted at 33s. 9d. London cables are:—"Spot tin £100. 2s. 6d., three months futures £100. 15s.; market dull. Chili bars spot £77. 10s.; futures £78. G. M. B. copper £77. 10s.; futures £78. Soft Spanish lead £13. 2s. 6d." The United States iron and steel markets are quiet but firm, and most manufacturers allege that they have sufficient orders in hand to keep their mills going through the winter with full forces of workers. This is indisputably true as regards steel rails and other steel and iron goods required for the construction and the maintenance of the vast network of railways that is rapidly intersecting the whole of that portion of the continent.

BREADSTUFFS.—Owing to large stocks held and free offerings for which there was little demand, the local flour market has been weak. Beerbohm's cable says:—Cargoes of wheat quiet but steady; corn nil.; do on passage and for shipment, wheat steady; corn quiet. Californian wheat of cost 40s 3d. to 40s 6d., do promptly to be shipped 40s 3d.; nearly due 39s. 9d. Liverpool: wheat, spot, steady; corn do. strong. Liverpool mixed maize 4s 9d. English country markets quieter. Wheat in Paris quieter at 46s December, 46s 3d January. Flour in Paris firm; 37s. December. Liverpool: California wheat weaker, 7s 4d December; 7s 11½d January and February; 8s March and April. Liverpool mixed maize firm, 4s. 8d December; 4s 7d January; 4s. 3½d February; 4s. 3½d March. Antwerp: spot wheat quiet. The tone of the Chicago wheat market was weak and prices steadily declined. There has been a fair amount of activity and considerable trading was accomplished; quotations were \$1.04½ Jan'y, \$1.05½ May. In corn the feeling was weaker and prices declined to 35½ cents January, 35½ cents February, 37½ cents May. Oats were steady at 26½ cents January, 29½ cents May. The Montreal Trade Bulletin says:—"Not many weeks ago the millers west of Toronto were paying \$1.20 to \$1.22 for Canada red winter wheat, and during the past week or ten days farmers have been rushing in supplies to the mills at such a rapid rate that prices have dropped to \$1.02, \$1 and 98c, at which prices the millers took hold liberally, and have now sufficient to last them for some time. In Manitoba, however, the decline has been still more significant, now No. 1 hard selling as high as \$1.13 to \$1.17, whilst to day 82c to 85c. are the quoted prices, showing a decline in a very short period of 31c to 32c per bushel. Now No. 1 hard spring has been offered on this market recently at \$1.25 without being taken. There is a lot of about 80,000 bushels of No. 1 hard Manitoba in elevator here for which \$1.40 was refused, but which to day is only worth \$1.25, showing a loss of \$12,000. As regards flour, the market will wholly depend upon the future course of wheat. At the moment prices are easy and the demand dull but dealers are looking for good snow roads when they confidently expect a decided

improvement both in the volume of business and prices. During the past week, however, it is said that a large miller has sold city strong bakers at \$0, and some state that even that figure has been shaded. Private advices from Minneapolis state that millers there hold as much wheat as they can well carry, at higher prices than could be obtained for it to-day. On the other hand, it is reported that English buyers are bidding 2s. per sack advance for large quantities of Minnesota patents, and that one large sale of 15,000 sacks has been made by a Minneapolis mill. A few days ago a fine sample of a steamer cargo of 80,000 bushels of Russian "Azima" wheat was received. The berries are longer although less plump than Canadian, but they are not in the least shrivelled, and are said to be glutinous, and admirably adapted for roller mills. The cargo from which the above sample was taken cost 35s 6d. per quarter ex quay Glasgow, and from this wheat British millers are enabled to produce a patent flour at 31s 6d. to 32s. 6d. per 280 lbs., which yields them a handsome profit, whilst Minnesota patents would cost 42s per 280 lbs. c.i.f., Glasgow. In addition to this, Hungarian merchants are throwing on the English markets their fine Thois Valley wheat at 42s. to 43s. per quarter, and Australian shippers are sending their white wheats at 40s. 6d. to 42s. per quarter. With so many sources now to draw their supplies from, British millers are feeling more independent of shipments from this side of the Atlantic. The Russian wheat above referred to is gaining in favor every day, owing to its excellent value as compared with other foreign wheats. The sample of this wheat has been inspected by several grain merchants, who pronounce it a dangerous competitor with the Canadian and American product.

PROVISIONS.—The local provision market has continued quiet and no improvement is expected until the weather turns colder, when the demand is likely to improve. The call for pork has been slow and only a small jobbing business has been transacted at steady prices. Lard was quiet and steady. In Liverpool pork was unchanged at 82s 6d.; lard was strong and advanced 9d. to 47s. 9d.; bacon was weak and declined 6d. to 45s. 6d. to 46s. 6d. The Chicago provision market was fairly active and strong and prices advanced somewhat. Late quotations were:—Pork \$13.67½ January; \$14.07½ May. Lard was strong and moved up to \$8.07½ January; \$8.17½ May. There was a stronger tone to the hog market and prices advanced 5c. to 10c.

BUTTER.—The market for choice creamery is firm and outside figures are obtainable for really choice qualities. These, however, are very difficult to find, as a large proportion of the make this fall was not fine enough for export. This is accounted for by the excessively wet weather which was unfavorable to butter making.

CHEESE.—The market continues firm under a good steady demand from the other side, which is ahead of anything ever before experienced at this time of the year, which is usually the quietest of the whole season.

APPLES.—Never before in the history of the apple trade was such a glut of supplies flung among the markets on both sides of the Atlantic as at present, and it is thought that several weeks must elapse before a clearance can be effected. Cable advices from Liverpool on Wednesday reported sales of good Baldwins and Spies at 9s. to 11s. with the market sick and declining. One of our large shippers informed us that about 18,000 bbls. of frosted apples were on the way to Liverpool from Portland alone, and that a large quantity shipped from Boston was in the same condition. Shippers, therefore dread the result of these damaged lots going on the English market, and more unfavorable returns are looked for. A London buyer advanced \$1 per bbl. on a large lot of apples booked on a through bill of lading from the west by the S. S. Pomeranian, but the apples could not be put on board, and were frozen as hard as cannon balls on the wharf. Sales of frozen fruit have been made in this market at 42c. to \$1 per bbl. and of round lots of good to choice at \$1.35 to \$1.50. It is said that \$1.50 is the highest price that can be had for a round lot of choice varieties, although some holders are holding at \$1.75. It is estimated that the stocks in store in Montreal are about 75,000 bbls, although some believe there are more. One of our oldest and richest apple dealers made the following remark a few days ago:—"This is a most extraordinary apple year, and we have all got bitten through paying too high prices." Regarding the English market, a large Liverpool firm writes as follows:—"The arrival of two large cargoes yesterday from Boston proved too much for our market, and prices had at length to give way. Boston Baldwins sold freely at 8s 9d., 9s 6d., 10s. and 11s. 6d. for really good fruit, and with the prospect of 60,000 to 70,000 due for next week, we do not see much chance of any immediate recovery. Now York fruit participated in the decline. Baldwins made 10s 6d. to 11s 6d. A great deal of poor and wasty stuff is also coming forward, and this does more damage to prices than anything else. Buyers are afraid to buy when they see such quantities of wasty apples and will not bid for any but choice lots."

DRIED FRUITS.—A Montreal exchange says that heavy losses have been made this season in that market in Valencia raisins. We quote:—"Owing to the large supplies of Valencia raisins in this market and the indifferent quality of a large portion thereof through being rain-damaged, prices have sustained a further decline, the sale of a lot of 2,000 boxes having transpired at 4½c, the quality of which was not very desirable, although a short time since the same fruit would have realized 5½c. The very choicest brands of Valencia raisins are offered at 5½c, in lots of 250 boxes, but buyers do not appear to be willing to give over 5½c. There were three direct steamers received here last fall with good sized cargoes of Valencia fruit. The *Dracona's* cargo came in first, deliveries from which were made at 6½c. to 6½c. Then came in the *Barcelona*, when sales were made at 5½c. to 5½c. The last cargo was on the *Alcama*, a portion of which sold at 4½c. to 5½c. Importers admit that they have lost considerably on their first purchases, whilst some of the consignments which followed have so far