

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

The manufacture of Oriental rugs is of great antiquity; they are made entirely by hand, and with the simplest appliances. Knots of wool are tied into the warp of linen or cotton threads, thus forming the pattern. The greatest care is required in the manipulation of these wool threads so that the proper blending of the various colors may be obtained. It is the soft, harmonious colorings which render these rugs prime favorites with buyers and the public in general.

Cable advices from London regarding the auction sale of feathers now in progress state that Feminas and Spadones are 10 per cent. higher than prices ruling at the last series. Whites are very firm. Long black and long drab are 15 per cent. dearer, with medium black and drab showing an advance of 10 per cent. over previous prices. Broken and curls are very high, and in some cases prices have gone beyond the reach of many buyers. The attendance of buyers was large.

In Montreal last week a winding-up order was granted by Mr. Justice Archibald for the liquidation of the affairs of the Canadian Fibre Chamois Company, Limited, insolvent. Mr. F. S. MacLennan was appointed provisional liquidator thereunder. A meeting of the creditors is called for December 21 to appoint a final liquidator. The order was granted on the petition of Dame Lucy Ann McLaughlin, of Brooklyn, N.Y., who, it appears, is a shareholder in the company to the extent of 558 shares.

One of the European correspondents of the *Dry Goods Economist* writes: "The very latest productions in fur capes are quite short, and some smart capes in velvet or cloth, not reaching below the elbows, are in preparation to take their places later on. Sometimes the latter are composed of three graduated capes or flounces cut in form and then slightly gathered. The trimming that carries the day for all descriptions of capes is the band of cross cut velvet or of cloth stitched down in the centre. This simple method of ornamentation enjoys the favor of the important houses, which accounts for my reference to the subject again."

A letter from Leeds contains the following: "The continental purchases made during the last fortnight seem to suffice them for the present, and even the Canadians have curtailed considerably similar operations. But their operations in winter fabrics show a little enlargement, and this gives great satisfaction to many producers of naps, presidents, beavers and reversibles, and stocks have again to-day been reduced to an extent of some importance, and prices in all cases have been strictly upheld. Stocks of low woollens and mixture worsteds are so large as to afford a good opportunity for speculators."

American textile markets show some variation, but prices are on the whole fairly maintained. Cotton is stronger in spite of estimates ranging from 10,100,000 to 11,000,000 bales by well known authorities. Last week the Fall River mills announced a reduction of 11 per cent. in wages, and the strike threatened by the workers, it was thought, would relieve the market from overproduction. But the difficulty is not a temporary one. It results from an increase of machinery, north and south, exceeding the demand for goods. The demand has been much restricted, *Dun's Review* points out, by the idea that the fall of over two cents in cotton must bring a corresponding decline in goods, of which quotations are but 2 per cent. lower than in July, when cotton was selling at eight cents. The demand for woollen goods in the States has clearly improved; more wool has just been purchased abroad and is being imported. While some grades have been sold largely at prices lower than a month ago, quotations are generally maintained.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Very attractive windows are the order of the day in grocery circles. They are trade winners at Christmas time.

An agent of the Dominion Government creameries in the North-West Territories is reported to have contracted with a Vancouver, B.C., firm for the purchase of close upon 100,000 pounds of butter.

The Minister of Agriculture is sending to all millers in England who grind imported grain, packages containing standard samples of the wheat grown this year in Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

The Dewitt Langlois Milling Company of Montreal, Limited, is asking for incorporation for the purpose of operating grist mills and carrying on business in flour, grain, hay and provisions of all kinds in the several provinces of Canada. The chief place of business is Montreal. The amount of capital stock is \$90,000, divided into 9,000 shares of ten dollars each.

The Dairy Commissioner reports that the output of butter from the creameries under Government supervision in the North-West Territories this summer amounted to 478,873 pounds. There were sixteen creameries in operation, whereas in the previous year there

were only three. Arrangements are being made to pack the butter from these creameries so that it will be suitable for the Japanese and Klondyke trade. Despite this year's progress the work this season has been hampered by the market conditions, and by the lack of knowledge among the farmers.

The meeting of the Montreal Grocers' Association, held last week, was one of importance. The gathering was unanimous in its resolve to make a fight for the right of selling patent medicines and other family medicines such as castor oil, cod liver oil, Epsom salts, senna, alum, bicarbonate of soda, borax, castor oil, cochineal, cod liver oil, cream of tartar, flavoring extracts, ginger, sulphur, glycerine, gum arabic, hops, linseed and linseed meal, which the law does not at present allow them to sell. It is not easy to see why they should be thus interdicted, for most of the articles in the above list are such as any western grocer is supposed to keep in stock and sell. The grocers of Montreal will also oppose the separation of the sale of liquors from groceries. Also they propose to petition the Federal Government that a portion of the salaries of civil service employees be made seizable for just debts; that the inspection of weights and measures be done by an inspector, paid by the Government, and not by the merchants, as formerly, and that a fruit inspector be appointed as soon as possible.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Last week, the second of the self-propelling steam fire engines recently added to Boston's equipment had its trial for acceptance in the presence of a large group of fire experts and others. It worked at 138 pounds pressure and threw two big streams through 200 feet of hose, to the entire satisfaction of the spectators.

Our thanks are due to the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company for a copy of their calendar, giving an admirable portrait of George Washington, engraved on steel. Any one who desires a copy of this work of art may procure it by sending ten cents by mail to the calendar department of the company in Boston.

Here is the biggest life insurance risk we have heard of. As he was leaving for Europe last week, Geo. H. Vanderbilt, the youngest son of Wm. H. Vanderbilt, took out a policy calling for \$1,000,000 in the Mutual Life, New York. The policy is what is known as a twenty-payment life contract, and provides for a premium of about \$35,000. After Mr. Vanderbilt has paid that sum yearly for twenty years, the payments cease and the principal becomes due at his death.

Commenting upon a recent statement of the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* that the marine underwriters have concluded to increase 20 per cent. their insurance rates next spring on the St. Lawrence River trade, and on vessels and cargoes trading to Cape Breton, owing to the disasters which have happened within the last two years, Mr. E. L. Bond, of Montreal, says he has not been advised of any increase of rates. He dwells strongly, however, on the necessity of reform in the pilotage system of the St. Lawrence, citing the case of the "Turret Cape" going ashore at St. Vallier shoals on a bright moonlight night, and after being floated, proceeding to return to Quebec under her own steam. Within a short distance of Quebec, while in charge of the same pilot, she ran ashore at Indian Cove, with the result that she has been abandoned to the hull underwriters.

Five agents for different steam fire engine makers, and two or three agents for rubber hose companies were present before the municipal council of St. John's, Que., last week. The council is considering fire appliances. The Canadian talkers were outnumbered, but we doubt if they were out-talked, for Ronald was there, and he can hold up his end very well. But the Amoskeag and the La France, the Silsby, the American, and the Shand & Mason were all heard from. The council resolved, however, to take a rest and consider all they had heard. They deemed it prudent to defer decision respecting the engine till another meeting, but in the meantime decided to purchase 800 feet of standard 2½ inch hose. Regarding the steamer, it is very possible that the Silsby will be overhauled and rebuilt, as the manufacturers offer to rebuild and guarantee it.

It is certainly a gain to have the chief of the London fire brigade admit that the disastrous fire in Jewin street had taught him something. This is an admission that his predecessor would not have made. He thought he "knew it all," and after a visit to the United States declared that the American brigades could not give him any pointers, or words to that effect. At last week's sitting of the enquiry into the causes of the late fire Commander Wells said that chemical engines were not used at the fire. He had been in New York, he said, and had not seen any such engines there. He declared that there were a sufficient number of fire engines at the fire, and that the supply of water was also sufficient. There was, however, an insufficient supply of coal for the engines. He had had no experience with water towers. The chief admitted that the fire had taught him a great deal, and he was now considering the introduction of reforms, such as telephonic fire alarms, etc.