

large packing houses elsewhere, and our local firm are not to be behind the times in securing whatever is latest and best in their line. A part of the large building has been specially reserved for the storage of butter, cheese, eggs, in which lines J. Y. Griffin & Co., do a large trade. The new system of refrigeration will be extended also to the produce storage rooms. We show herewith a cut of one of the ice machines, or compressors, used in this system of refrigeration. This machinery is supplied by The Frick Co., of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. When all this work is completed Messrs. Griffin & Co. will have a factory modern in every particular, capable of handling 500 hogs per day, making an increase of about 200 hogs per day over their former capacity. The present supply of hogs is not equal to this capacity, but no doubt the supply will steadily increase. At any rate, Messrs. Griffin & Co. evidently look at it this way, as they have facilities to handle a large increase in the supply of hogs. Their brands of hog products, known as Red Cross, are now in demand from the great lakes to the Pacific coast, and away north to Yukon. No finer goods are placed on the market anywhere in Canada, and we doubt if the famous Irish and Danish bacon would show any marked superiority over the product made right here in Winnipeg. Just here we may say that Manitoba hogs are not corn-fed. They are raised and fed on mixed feed, and where proper attention to breeding has been given, this country can show ideal bacon hogs. In the matter of breeding, there is room for further improvement, though good progress has been made in this respect.

Another new departure announced by J. Y. Griffin & Co., is their decision to open a branch house at Vancouver, B. C., about April 15. This has been decided upon owing to the large increase in their business at the coast, where they have been represented through commission agents for years. D. Naismith, a gentleman well known in Winnipeg and held in high esteem for both his personal and business qualities, will have charge of this branch. The Vancouver branch will assist in extending the market at the coast for Manitoba farm and dairy produce.

Besides the Vancouver branch, J. G. Moody will represent the firm in the Kootenay region, with headquarters at Rossland and M. Kyle will have charge of the Rat Portage district. R. McGowan will have charge of the prairie region, on the road. R. Robertson, an experienced produce man, recently in charge of Hodgson Bros.' branch at London, Ontario has been engaged to look after the produce department in Winnipeg. With this well organized staff and greatly increased facilities, Messrs. Griffin & Co. will be prepared to largely extend their operations during the present year.

#### An Enormous Business.

Sir Thomas J. Lipton, the Chicago pork packer, Ceylon tea and coffee grower, fruit and cocoa manufacturer, has just formed his British retail business into a joint stock company. The flotation of the company is the sensation of the day in "Lunnon." Twelve million dollars was asked for the business, and on Thursday subscribed for twenty times over, the applications amounting to near-

ly \$250,000,000. Extraordinary scenes were witnessed at the Bank of Scotland, London, where the lists were opened; the police had to be called to regulate the rush of applicants for the shares. Ladies of title, army and naval officers and public men were conspicuous amongst the people who besieged Sir Thomas, imploring him to take their money.

So much in favor is "Lipton's" with the people that already the ordinary 20s shares are quoted at 50s. The career of this merchant prince has been a marvellous one.

Sir Thomas Lipton's parents migrated from the north of Ireland to Glasgow, where he was born just forty-two years ago. Beginning life as an industrious warehouse lad, he has climbed the ladder of success from the very lowest rung. Experience gained in America stood him in good stead when he opened, on his own account, a modest shop in the High street of his birth-place. The results of his first venture proved so satisfactory that other "stores" were acquired in rapid succession, and Mr. Lipton soon became the head of the Lipton Packing company, of Chicago, and the mainspring of the great commercial organization which has made his name a household word all over the globe. The purchase of the Ceylon estates led to the transfer of his headquarters from Scotland to London, and the change of his residence from Cambuslang to the borderlands of Hertfordshire. At the present moment the business operations of Sir Thomas Lipton include Kentish fruit farms, meat stores and refrigerating cars all over America, curing factories in Liverpool and elsewhere; biscuit bakeries in Scotland, and markets all over the united kingdom. His chief place of business is in London, where he is in direct communication with Glasgow, Liverpool and Dublin. As might be expected, the Lipton central offices have their museum. The latest addition to its relics is the monster cheque in payment of customs duty, £50,000, equal to \$250,000. Sir Thomas Lipton is tea merchant to Her Majesty, and some 200 tons of tea are received and sent out by him every week. Every other department of his business is organized on the same scale, and, in addition to his own "markets," he employs no fewer than 5,000 agents. Sir Thomas Lipton seems to have solved not only the problem of production, but that of distribution. His liberality last summer is not forgotten, but the distinction which has recently come to him is the well merited reward of one of the most remarkable commercial enterprises of the times. Success has not spoiled Sir Thomas Lipton. Nothing can persuade him to relax those personal efforts which have led to such astounding results.

#### Britain's Daily Bread.

From the accompanying diagram, says the London, Eng., Daily Mail, the position of the United Kingdom's wheat supply can be seen at a glance. The statistics upon which it is based are from the reports of the Board of Trade and the Board of Agriculture for 1897. Briefly summarised, they amount to this—that last year 73.5 per cent. of the wheat and wheat flour requirements of the United Kingdom were obtained from overseas, only 26.5 per cent. being grown in Great Britain. Of the imported sup-

plies, it is noteworthy that only 6.3 per cent. were grown in British Colonies and possessions. The great bulk of our supplies, viz., 67.2 per cent., or more than two-thirds of our whole requirements, were produced in foreign countries. From the United States we imported 43.9 per cent.; from Russia 13.6 per cent., and from other foreign countries 9.7 per cent.

The following table gives the chief countries of origin and the total quantities of wheat, wheat meal, and flour imported from each; and also the quantity produced by Great Britain:

Imported	Cwts.	P. ct.
From the U. S. ....	48,066,170	43.9
From Russia ....	15,049,900	13.6
From other foreign countries ....	10,783,929	9.7
From British possessions and colonies ....	6,923,950	6.3
Grown in Great Britain 29,417,801		26.5

Tot. imports and home grown supplies ..... 110,841,750 100.0

Next in importance to the United States and Russia as a source of our wheat supplies is British North America which last year sent us 4,820,500 cwt. of wheat and 1,530,690 cwt. of wheat-meal and flour. Turkey comes next with 1,862,540 cwt. of wheat; then France, which supplied 1,682,420 cwt. of wheat flour; Austrian territories sent us 1,143,950 cwt. of flour; Germany 1,333,400 cwt.; Roumania 1,224,340 cwt.; Chili, 1,019,300 cwt.; and the Argentine 933,100 cwt.—all of wheat. For the milling interest it is worthy of note that the supplies of wheat came chiefly from Russia, British North America, Turkey, Germany, Roumania, Chili, and the Argentine; the flour-exporting countries being the United States, France, and Austria. The British East Indies last year supplied us with only 572,760 cwt. of wheat.

Looked at from the British colonists' point of view, the position is of par-



ticular importance. That so very small a percentage of the mother country's wheat requirements should be obtained from British colonies is an anomaly which should be speedily rectified. The year was, of course, an unfortunate one as regards India and Australia, but even during normal seasons the proportion of supplies received from our colonies is ridiculously small. Last year, however, Canada made considerable progress, and it is highly probable that during the present year she will surpass her achievements in 1897.

Spratt & Gray, machinery, Victoria, have been incorporated under style of the Victoria Machinery Depot Co., Ltd.