

between this fact and the statements he made of property, and creditors thought it strange that hardware and other goods were so completely consumed by the fire that no traces were found in the ashes. Then the police took a hand, with the result that Mr. and Mrs. Clark and Bradley were arrested.

The mode of operations appears to have been that Clark bought a variety of goods, shoes, clothing, hats, dresses, jewellery, furniture, etc., on credit, and quietly sold them for cash, or else used them to clothe and beautify the actors and actresses of his comedy company, the Russell-Clark Dramatic Company, of which he acted as manager after the firm had made the assignment. Clark liked good living, and was evidently fond of fun; he had a nice house in Beaconsfield avenue, Toronto, and it seems that various members—the ladies included—boarded at his dwelling. At this house were found goods which are alleged to have been portions of the consignments sent to the general store at Caledon East, but which were opportunely carted down to Toronto. The most amusing part of the evidence to anybody but the creditors was that the members of the Russell-Clark Comedy Company were clothed and fitted out by the proceeds of the fraud. Having hired a milliner to make nineteen dresses for the ladies, he paid for the making by sending the milliner a set of furniture. He gave Miss Dot Murray a gold watch, but afterwards broke her heart by taking it back from Dot and giving it to Miss Ward, another soubrette. Then he had portraits by the hundred taken of the prettiest girls in the troupe, intending to sell them to audiences. Desiring a particularly swell top hat, of the sort which theatrical managers wear, he got one from a wholesale furrier on Wellington street. He even paid his printer in stolen goods, not cash.

It ought to be explained, as showing how readily this cunning fellow got all these articles on credit, that by collusion with one Neil Burton, he executed a bogus mortgage on a 200-acre farm of Bradley's in Caledon township, and got this registered; and that he told besides a very "slick" story about his other assets and his handsome surplus. But he is not having such a hilarious time now. Clark and Bradley have been committed for trial on a charge of conspiracy to defraud, but Mrs. Clark was discharged. Bail was fixed at \$7,000 for each prisoner. Clark could not furnish it, and must stay in jail. Bradley, however, succeeded in finding sureties. The creditors have done well to follow-up such rascally proceedings.

DRY GOODS PARAGRAPHS.

Shaggy-haired vicuna cloths, which resemble Angora shawls of long ago, are made up into gowns for midwinter wear.

For wear with ball gowns the slippers are made, if possible, of the material of the gown, and embroidered with pearls and rhinestones.

Every effort should from this time forward be turned to devising new ideas for the holiday trade. The public expect special displays at this period of the year, and in the competition of recent years have been taught to look for something novel every year.

Kate Field once said there were three kinds of cleanliness—traditional, æsthetic and sanitary. Traditional methods, those which have been followed because mother did so; æsthetic, the kind whose *raison d'être* is to please the appetite; and sanitary, that which is regulated by the demands of health.

Peacock feathers do not bring ill-luck, according to Mr. St. Clair Baddeley in a recent issue of "Notes and Queries." In China, from whence the bird first came, it is a bird of good omen. In Russia the feathers are a charm against the evil eye. The early Christians used the peacock as a symbol of immortality.

The exports of linen piece goods from Ireland to the following countries during October show these changes, as compared with the same month a year ago: The United States, increase, 7.3 per cent.; foreign West Indies, decrease, 49.4 per cent.; Australasia, increase, 11.4 per cent.; British North America, decrease, 29.6 per cent.; Republic of Colombia, increase, 35.5 per cent.; Germany, increase, 43.8 per cent., and France, increase, 57.6 per cent. The exports of linen thread are decreased 17.2 per cent., but "unenumerated articles" made of linen are increased 10.4 per cent. The following figures are for the port of Belfast alone, and relate to the nine expired months of this year and corresponding period 1895. Imports, flax and tow, there is an increase of 42 tons, or 1.5 per cent. Linen yarn imports show a decrease of 2,856,000 lbs., or 29.6 per cent., but in linen yarn exports there is an increase of 1,310,400 lbs., or 9.4 per cent.

Whether department stores are to be a permanent success depends entirely upon how far they are found answerable to public requirements. We ourselves believe that they have come to stay, but can only be successful at the great centres, and that groceries are not naturally calculated to be a leading line with them. This apparently is the view held by John Wanamaker, who not only suspended, after a

trial, the grocery department at his Philadelphia establishment, but on purchasing the department store business of Hilton, Hughes & Co, New York, immediately sold the groceries to a Philadelphia grocer, and abandoned that branch, thus showing that he believes that he can employ his capital to a greater advantage otherwise than in the grocery business. To a great department store there will always be attracted a large concourse of people, who may in many cases find it convenient to order groceries there. . . . On the other hand, of course, it can't afford the local facilities that are provided by the stores scattered all over the city and country, and in virtue of which these live. There is ample room for both styles of business. . . . Dealers of course are bound to watch the tactics of the new stores, and to adopt such as are successful, so far as they are applicable to their individual circumstances. This is a much better policy than any of those that have been officiously pressed upon them by their so-called friends in the trade press. —*San Francisco Country Merchant.*

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A Sherbrooke cigar factory has recently made a considerable shipment of its product to Australia.

Application is being made for letters patent incorporating "The Montreal Brewing Company," capital to be \$150,000.

The Gemmill Bros., of Richmond, have bought out W. J. Webster's bakery and confectionery business at Lanark, Ont.

For almost forty years Hugh Walker has been in the retail grocery business in Guelph, having begun in a small way in 1857. He has now retired, and sells his business to William Gay.

A Thanksgiving dinner circular has been issued by a number of Toronto grocers this week, containing an advertisement of the various groceries used in the preparation of the usual holiday dinner.

The Retailers' Association of Winnipeg held its first annual banquet at the Leland House, in that city, on Tuesday of last week. The number assembled exceeded two hundred, and the affair was in all respects successful.

Mr. J. M. Dufresne has retired from the firm of Dufresne & Mongenais, Montreal, owing to ill-health. And Mr. J. B. Mongenais has registered at the Tutelle Office as doing business under the name of Dufresne & Mongenais, grocers.

In the year 1895 the County of Essex possessed 61,198 hogs. Last year the farmers sold 36,371, besides what they put in the barrel for home use. "Essex and Kent are the only counties," an exchange says, "that produce a hog for each inhabitant."

People, farmers, that is, in Ontario, say between Hamilton and Toronto, are aghast at the fact that oats are as low as 22 cents per bushel. In Summerside, P.E.I., they were quoted last week at 23 cents, and potatoes 16 cents. Pork, at that point, had dropped, and is moving at from 3 to 4 cents.

The New England catch of salt mackerel to date, according to the Boston Fish Bureau, has been 69,242 bbls. against 23,058 for the corresponding period in 1895, 40,558 in 1894, 51,448 in 1893 and 49,196 in 1892. The imports of new salt mackerel, at Boston, from the beginning of the season to November 20th, were 28,309 bbls. compared with 21,559 for the same time last year, 30,984 in 1894, 27,752 in 1893 and 35,427 in 1892.

The members of the firm of Taylor & Williamson, grocers, Chatham, Ont., were summoned to the police court on Monday to answer to a charge of selling adulterated food, namely, pepper purchased in their store in July last. The charge was laid by Inspector Kidd, a Dominion official. The pepper was sent to Ottawa for official analysis, and the result of the inspection will be given at the police court. The pepper is said to contain flour.

The circular of Messrs. W. Weddel & Co., 16 Helen's Place, London, E.C., Nov. 13th, says of cheese: The market is not so firm as last week, as many buyers believe that top prices for Canadian and States cheese have been reached. It must not be forgotten that the consumption of cheese per head of the population for the past few years has shown a gradual decline, notwithstanding the simultaneous fall in prices that has occurred. If, therefore, the consumption has fallen off with declining prices, it is likely to diminish much more when prices are greatly increased. Other factors which will tend to reduce the consumption of cheese are, the higher price of bread and the continued cheapness of frozen meat, which are pretty certain to prevail during the coming winter.

Professor Wortley Axe, who is the consulting veterinary surgeon to the British Dairy Farmers' Association, at a recent meeting of that body quoted evidence based on the official examination of cattle that were slaughtered under the authority of the Board of Agriculture when the Pleuro-Pneumonia Act, 1890, came into operation, from which he