

Messrs. J. F. Blanchard & Co., of Truro, have one of the best equipped dry goods houses in the Maritime Provinces. Their warehouse is one of the finest in the business—they carry a complete stock of the best quality of goods, having so special a reputation for millinery and fancy dry goods that many Halifax ladies prefer to send to Truro for these articles to buying in Halifax. They also have a most complete assortment of carpets, this line being equal to most found in large cities. Their samples are constantly on the move, being sent for by persons in every town in the Province. They employ over eighty hands, and keep five travellers constantly on the road. They buy direct from the manufacturers, sell at close prices, and their terms are as liberal as any. The cash railway system is employed in their store with great success, and the entire building is lighted with electricity. Messrs. Blanchard & Co.'s is the only house, so far as we know, in Nova Scotia that has introduced the cash railway system. In all the cities of the United States it is in use, and were a Halifax firm enterprising enough to follow the example of Messrs. Blanchard & Co. in this respect, it would be sure to pay, as every one would go to see it, and would of course buy on purpose to see it work. Truro is ahead of Halifax in some respects, and is certainly coming to the front as a distributing centre.

#### CITY CHIMES.

The "early spring" has not been keeping up its reputation. Monday and Tuesday were fair specimens of what we might have expected in March. Snow and slush, rain and mud, over head and under foot the weather and walking were alike execrable. The little birds, many of which had arrived and were thinking of going into summer quarters, suffered severely by the cold and snow. Many trees in the suburbs were filled with our little feathered friends, and the kind-hearted and thoughtful lovers of these little warblers spread crumbs where the little birdies could get them, for with the ground covered with snow they were in danger of death by starvation. Even with these reverses of fortune robin red-breast and chickadee-dee did not repine, but kept up a cheerful twittering in the cold, cold air, a brave example to "bipeds without feathers," who are too apt to give way when fortune does not smile on them.

House-cleaning time is upon us in all its severity, and few there are who can escape the epidemic. Carpets up, curtains down, and lots of things turned inside out, there is no rest for the wicked of the masculine gender. The prudent housewife is busy now, and soon order will be brought out of chaos, and all will be well again. How the bright weather does show up faded and dingy places, and seems to make it imperative that something should be done to make the dwelling look in keeping with joyous spring! New art-muslins, and pretty mate, tidies and other knick-knacks, arranged with good taste by the mistress of the house, have a pleasant effect after all the hurry, bother and uncomfortableness of cleaning is over. So, by the time that real *bona fide* warm weather comes we shall be quite ready to receive it in a becoming manner.

Bishop Courtney and his family will almost immediately take possession of their residence on Tobin street. His Lordship has just returned from an extended Confirmation tour throughout the Province.

Several well known Halifaxians have taken a trip to Bermuda. Among them were Mr. John Doull, Mrs. Frank Doull, Mrs. Alex. Doull, Mrs. Alex. Keith and the Misses Keith. They went on the *Alpha* on her last trip.

Another of those happy events which seem to be so popular this spring, drew a gay crowd to St. Paul's church on Tuesday morning to see Mr. J. C. C. Almon united in marriage to Miss Edith Ritchie, daughter of Judge Ritchie. The bride was dressed in a white satin costume with tulle veil, and orange blossoms in her hair, and carried the usual bouquet of white flowers. The bridesmaids, Miss Maude Ritchie and Miss Nellie Almon, wore gowns of white silk, white hats trimmed with ribbon and ostrich feathers, and carried large bunches of roses tied with white ribbon. Mr. M. B. Almon, jr., was best man. The ceremony was performed by Bishop Courtney, assisted by Rev. Dr. Hole and Rev. F. H. Almon. The service was full choral and very impressive. What a beautiful service it is, this solemnization of matrimony. Does not every one feel how solemn and sacred are the vows that are spoken that make the man and maid man and wife? Then the music too is beautiful, from the hymn "The voice that breathed o'er Eden" to that grand, triumphant wedding march, as the newly wed go to the vestry to sign the marriage register, and then set out in the strength of youth and happiness to face the world together. Mr. and Mrs. Almon will take with them to their home in Montreal the best wishes of a host of friends.

There will be no lack of these events to chronicle as after Easter a number of them will take place. The next one is that of Miss Sophie Almon, a young lady well known in Halifax, though Windsor claims her as a daughter, to Mr. Herbert A. Hensley. It will take place in St. Luke's Cathedral, on Thursday, the 25th, at 4.30 p.m.

The People's Theatre and Comedy Company have been performing in the Academy of Music this week, but have not succeeded in commanding very extensive appreciation.

The choir of Grafton Street Methodist Church will give a sacred recital on the evening of Monday, April 15th, to commence at 8 o'clock. Mr. W. Powell is organist and choir master, and a treat may be expected. Tickets are 15c. each, or two for 25c., and can be procured at the office of the Hali-

fax Piano and Organ Co., 157 and 159 Hollis street, or from members of the choir. The proceeds will be in aid of the choir fund.

#### COMMERCIAL.

The general condition of trade has undergone no real modification, but a fair volume of business has been reached in most departments, and on that ground no very serious complaints are made. The matter of profits, payments, and the unpleasant frequency of failures of late, especially in the Western Provinces of the Dominion, have, however, attracted some serious attention, which has expressed itself in more or less anxiety, and has produced a more cautious disposition in granting credits and forcing business.

The sudden change at the beginning of the week from dry and warm weather to blustering winds and snow and rain falls has seriously checked the development of the spring trade. The country roads have been thus suddenly relegated to a state of almost impassibility, and the delivery of goods has been rendered very difficult. Still, in nearly all lines the spring trade progressed during the previous two or three weeks of fine weather as favorably as could have been expected, and our country merchants have, as a rule, fairly well supplied themselves. Leading houses report that payments are coming in a little more freely, though they are not yet quite up to the mark. As soon as the weather becomes settled again sorting orders will come in.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—Shaffner and Fisher, gen'l store, Berwick, N.S., sold out to Jas. Shand; Acadia Organ Manufacturing Co., Bridgetown, assigned to W. M. Forsyth; W. H. Crosby, picture-frames, Marshalltown, removed to Digby; Mich'l McPherson, grocer, Spring Hill, assigned; Wm. Wallace, tailor, Wolfville, assigned; B. C. Munro, stationer, Annapolis, selling out; Wm. Robertson, gen'l store, Westville, sold out; M. Starr Eaton, gen'l. store, Canning, assigned; Layton & Freeman, grocers, Amherst, assigned.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:

	Week Prev.		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date.			
	Mar. 29, week	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883
United States...	161	242	230	227	200	3546	3053	3144
Canada.....	20	38	20	44	18	534	528	369

**DRY GOODS.**—The volume of orders in dry goods shows a steady improvement, doubtless owing to the promise of an early spring. Travellers throughout the country districts report having met with a very satisfactory degree of success. Some of the buyers for Halifax and other Nova Scotian houses have begun to return home after placing their orders for fall goods. The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* says:—"Whilst in no wise discouraging home industries, we have repeatedly shown the absurdity of Canadian mills attempting to compete with the production of English cotton prints, for the reason that our market is much too limited to turn out the diversity of patterns that are offered in the English market, to say nothing of the superiority of finish in the foreign goods. The Mago mills have undoubtedly made a plucky fight in trying to satisfy Canadian tastes and establish a home industry upon a paying basis; but the Company have failed to accomplish their object, and consequently a meeting of the directors have been called for April 8th, to consider an offer made by another company to buy out their plant and stock, the latter being pretty large. Whether or not the Company which is negotiating for the purchase of the Mago mills, machinery and plant, intend running on print goods is not stated."

**IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.**—There has been a fairly active business, and trade has a fair tone throughout, owing to strong cables and the generally advancing tendency of the market abroad. Great excitement has occurred in tinplates, which are cabled 6d. to 9d. higher than a week ago with indications of a further rise. No quotations can be given because makers refuse to state terms for future delivery until matters become more settled. Canada plates have also advanced, being 5s. to 7s. 6d. per ton dearer than two weeks ago. In Philadelphia prices continue weak in all directions. An active demand for steel rails is expected to spring up in the current month all over the country and a large spring trade is confidently looked for, but at present everything is quiet and buyers and makers are waiting for a general improvement.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—The demand for flour continues slow and the market has ruled quiet with only a small volume of business in progress owing to the fact that buyers are holding off and only taking sufficient for actual wants. Manitoba strong bakers have been in moderate demand and some business was accomplished in a jobbing way at steady prices. Bearbohm's cable reports wheat and corn cargoes both off coast and on passage and for prompt shipment very quiet. French country markets quiet. Liverpool spot wheat quiet but steady. Corn heavy. English country markets quiet. Antwerp spot wheat steady. The Chicago wheat market was active and stronger and a fair volume of trade was accomplished at an average advance in options of about  $\frac{1}{2}$ c. In New York and Toledo wheat was weak and fell off  $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to  $\frac{3}{4}$ c., while in Detroit and Milwaukee it was strong and moved up  $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

**PROVISIONS.**—The feeling in the local provision market has been steady. The demand in pork was slow and the market has ruled quiet with only a small jobbing business. The demand for lard has been fair. No change has occurred in the Liverpool provision market but prices have been steady. The Chicago provision market was fairly active but weaker, and pork declined 10c. to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Lard was easier and fell off 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. There was a strong tone to the hog market and prices advanced 10c. to 15c. The cattle market was quiet and steady.

**BUTTER.**—The tone of the butter market has continued firm. New butter comes in very slowly and what is received meets ready sale at full prices. The stock of old butter remaining over from last summer and fall has been fairly well worked off and the new season will open with a very small amount of surplus butter on hand.