

Some of the firms are getting ready to pack spring salmon, should these run in sufficient numbers. At present, however, these fish are not plentiful enough to more than meet local requirements, while the majority are undersized."

Smuggling in the Mennonite Reserve of Manitoba has ceased, in the opinion of the inland revenue officers. The duty collected at Gretna now amounts to a considerable sum, in comparison to that received during the several months of last year. Local dealers are also disposing of large quantities of Canadian tobaccos and other goods for which previously there was little demand. — *Winnipeg Free Press*.

Ontario letters patent have been granted to Hugh Malcolmson and Manson Campbell and others, in Chatham, to can and deal in vegetables and fruits and also meats, under the name of the Kent Canning Company, limited, to acquire Hugh Malcolmson's canning and pickling works. They have power to deal in cold storage, and to appoint branches in Kent and Essex.

Describing the display of Easter beef at the Toronto abattoir agency on Barrington Street, a Halifax exchange declares that almost every side of western beef there displayed on Saturday had found a customer, and another car had been ordered for Monday. The manager has found the demand for Ontario beef exceptionally strong. He has also sold large quantities of beef to wholesalers both in and out of the city.

The Montreal Butter and Cheese Association has addressed a petition to the Ottawa Minister of Agriculture, and to the Ministers of Agriculture of Ontario and Quebec, asking the several ministers to warn butter-makers against the use of boracic acid, because it is an adulterant under English law, and exporters have to give guarantees that the butter they supply is absolutely pure. The petition also especially mentions the use of "preservaline," which is extensively employed by the farmers, as this is said to be an adulterant containing borax, and comes under the English act. It is important to observe that the London Home and Foreign Produce Board has gone so far as to appoint analysts to examine all butter entering the United Kingdom, and any impure importations are heavily fined.

#### WITH THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

The tailor-made costumes now in vogue have led to an increased demand for ladies' neckwear. In bows a butterfly pattern in fancy silks, chiffons and cottons is very attractive.

The Ayrshire Scotland lace factories, says the *Drapers' Record*, are well employed. The home demand for curtains and curtain nets has improved, while combinations and bar ground effects are in steady request. The shipping trade is not as good as manufacturers would like, but a fair trade is being done with Canada and Australia. The orders from the United States have fallen off considerably.

From Ireland it is reported that bleaching and finished linens are being ordered in increasing quantities, and shipments have been made to a satisfactory extent across channel. Buyers content themselves with purchasing moderate parcels, but as orders are frequent the total amounts to a considerable sum. The making up factories continue to take fair quantities of tailoring linens, and union pales and dowlas are largely in demand by apron manufacturers. Canadian trade is very good. Local stocks are well in hand, and prices firm.

Textile Britain has recently been somewhat excited over the reports of the formation of a combination of cotton manufacturers. The *Draper's Record*, March 26th says: "It is announced that the final details of the great cotton combine have now been arranged. The share capital, it appears, is to be four millions, and not five as originally expected. Of this sum £2,000,000 will be five per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each. There will also be an issue of £2,000,000 of four per cent. debenture stock. The executive board, which will be responsible for the working of the company, will, as provisionally appointed, consist of Mr. A. H. Dixon (chairman), Mr. Vernon Bellhouse, Mr. Scott Liggs, and Mr. Louis Rivett. The amalgamation will be known under the somewhat unwieldy title, "The Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association."

A description is given in a recent issue of the *Winnipeg Free Press* of an unusually valuable fox skin shipped by a merchant of that city to London. It illustrates what prices rich folk are ready to pay for luxuries to eat, drink or wear, provided they come up to a certain standard. The skin in question was one of a lot shipped by Mr. F. W. Stobart, who ships many furs for his customers to the European markets. He last week received advices about the latest fur sale of Lampson & Co., of London. In looking over the list of prices obtained he came across one item that is a record breaker in its way. A silver fox skin shipped by Mr. Stobart was sold for the enormous price of £135 or about \$675. This is all the more remarkable when it is known that the skin was sold in the raw, undressed state.

#### CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, April 7th, 1898, compared with those of the previous week:

| CLEARING.      | April 7th, 1898. | March 31st, 1898. |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Montreal ..... | \$11,852,182     | \$11,623,222      |
| Toronto .....  | 8,922,878        | 7,324,991         |
| Winnipeg ..... | 1,110,575        | 1,110,575         |
| Halifax .....  | 1,148,527        | 986,966           |
| Hamilton ..... | 762,228          | 577,293           |
| St. John ..... | 537,823          | 436,872           |
|                | \$24,334,213     | \$22,059,919      |

Aggregate balances this week, \$3,584,772; last week, \$3,066,416.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, April 14th, 1898, compared with those of the previous week:

| CLEARINGS.     | April 14th, 1898. | April 7th, 1898 |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Montreal ..... | \$8,721,075       | \$11,852,182    |
| Toronto .....  | 6,126,506         | 8,922,878       |
| Winnipeg ..... | 1,257,159         | 1,110,575       |
| Halifax .....  | 1,108,266         | 1,148,527       |
| Hamilton ..... | 609,857           | 762,228         |
| St. John ..... | 454,895           | 537,823         |
|                | \$18,277,758      | \$24,334,213    |

Aggregate balances this week, \$2,365,656; last week, \$3,584,772.

—It has been found impossible by Sir Wilfred Laurier to accept the invitation sent him by the Chamber of Commerce in Cleveland, Ohio, to be present with other distinguished men, at its annual banquet, at the close of the present month. The session will not probably then be over, and the Premier can hardly absent himself even for so agreeable and proper a purpose as that of addressing a friendly American audience on the subject of trade relations with Canada. But the Cleveland Chamber, since they cannot get Sir Wilfrid to their dinner, may be able to get him to speak on another occasion, such for instance as the dedication, later in the present year, of the new building of the Chamber. And since they appear to have a decided admiration for the man and the orator, as well as a neighborly interest in the people whom he represents, we predict that they won't stop trying till they get him.

—Some changes recently made among branch managers of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, include the following: Mr. William Manson, for some years manager at Peterboro, goes to take charge of the North-West Toronto branch. His successor in Peterboro is Mr. R. C. McHarrie, who has a good record as manager in succession of several of the subordinate branches of the bank in Toronto, and has most lately been in charge of the Market Branch. In the last-named post Mr. McHarrie is succeeded by Mr. H. W. Fitton, long in the responsible position of accountant at Toronto branch. Mr. G. A. Holland, late of North-West Toronto branch, goes to be manager at Blenheim.

—A special meeting of the directors of the Eastern Townships Bank was held in Sherbrooke last week. One of their number, Col. Foster, had accepted the position of United States Consul, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and this rendered necessary the choice of his successor on the board. The meeting selected Mr. C. H. Kathan, of Rock Island, in the county of Stanstead, Que., who was accordingly made a director.

—An important gathering of American iron masters took place on Tuesday last at Cleveland, Ohio. The bulk of the makers of foundry iron in the Northern and Western States were represented. This is a complementary association to those already formed by the non-Bessemer men in the South and in the East respectively. By-and-by these three may be merged into one big "combine." The reason for the formation of this body at Cleveland is the outcome, probably, of the forming of the association of Bessemer steel makers, which was consummated in Cleveland not long ago.