

It has been understood that if the Connors' syndicate got the privileges it asked for, Mr. Brown, one of the largest grain shippers in Boston, would open an office in Montreal next year. As the Harbor Board and the Buffalo syndicate have come to an agreement, it may be expected that next season Mr. Brown will contribute his quota towards augmenting the trade of the port. It is understood that the syndicate will at once give out contracts for the building of a number of vessels for grain transportation. The Bertram works, at Toronto, will probably be given all it can do.

The annual meeting of the Metal and Hardware Association, Montreal, was called for Wednesday. Officers will be elected, and among other things to be discussed is the question of the recent advance in railway freight rates—the abolition of commodity tariffs and the charging of freight at class rates.

### TEXTILE CENTRES.

The Glasgow Herald of 25th November gives the following about English textile markets:

**BRADFORD.**—The wool market yesterday was wholly satisfactory both in tone and events. The excitement has gone down, but it has left matters on a solid basis of improvement, and with a tendency to still go forward. There is practically nothing in the market which is not in a somewhat better position than it was last Monday—better to sell if not actually dearer to buy. Users are coming into the market in greater numbers, though they buy somewhat sparingly. Values may still be expected to move upwards, and whilst this is no doubt especially the case in regard to fine and medium crossbreds, the stronger sorts of crossbreds are now coming more in favor. Kent wools and Irish and Shropshires and Downs are selling more freely and at better prices, and all other kinds of English wools are feeling the stimulus of the improved business in greater or less degree. Mohair is finding a steady market, though quotations are not actually dearer. The yarn trade shows no new feature, except a hardening of the attitude of spinners. Two-fold forties are perhaps the best-placed sorts in regard to the general advance. Spinners of merinos are not taking much new business, they being full up for a long time to come, and wanting prohibitive rates for any more business. The piece trade continues good.

**MACCLESFIELD AND DISTRICT SILK.**—In all branches of the Macclesfield silk weaving industry there is a continuance of full activity—a circumstance which has not been known to very many of the present younger generation of silk weavers. . . . The flourishing state of the current trade is, however, more marked in the power-loom branches, where, notwithstanding the fierce competition of America and other countries, Macclesfield fabrics have been expressly preferred, and ordered in very considerable bulk. All round the run is on the light and ornamental article, and this is fortunate for the maker with the present high value set on the raw material. Dressers, dyers and finishers are only moderately employed. If the current demand had been for heavy goods these respective branches would have been as busy as the weaving departments are. An excellent report is given by Congleton manufacturers of their state of trade. Most of the available labor is employed. Some particularly large orders have been secured for all classes of goods, and to keep pace with the out-turn in the weaving sections of the trade dressers are working overtime. The general industry at Leek remains in a very satisfactory state, the ornamental branches in chief turning out a large quantity of goods for home and abroad. Cheadle orders for specialties are not showing the expansion of those concerning Leek, but the district along with parts of Derbyshire and Yorkshire are entering into the general prosperity of the trade.

**MANCHESTER.**—The movement in the home dry goods trade this week continues steady. . . . The woollen branches continue to be affected by the substantial rise in raw material, which is greatly increasing the cost of production to clothiers. Black mohairs are spoken of as likely to meet with a good deal of support during spring for dress purposes, partly because of the advance in silks, for which it is believed they may be largely employed as a substitute. Goods made from merino wool must become much dearer, as from all quarters the reports as to the scarcity of the material are confirmed. The New South Wales

flocks are not only smaller in number, but the fleeces are comparatively light. . . . The position of cotton has considerably affected the cost of production in the large and growing shirt manufacturing industry, which has reached important dimensions in 'Derry and in various parts of Great Britain. Although linen does not form an important item now in the shirt manufacture, it is much dearer, so that the shirt houses are caught at both ends. There has been a considerable falling off in the ready-made clothing business with South Africa, but as a set-off there has been more activity in quarters catering for the supply of cloth for army purposes, such as khaki. This is a material likely to be used extensively by the public in a modified form, as it has received a splendid advertisement from the frequent references made to it since the commencement of the war.

. . . There is, on the whole, a heavier movement on United States account, and the dry goods trade so far this year compares favorably with that of 1898. Shipments to some of the Central American States are, however, rather unsatisfactory, and disquieting rumors are current concerning one important market.

**NOTTINGHAM LACE AND HOSIERY.**—There are few or no changes to report in connection with our chief local trades this week (November 20th). The plain departments continue busy, and all machinery manufacturing nets and tulle is well employed. Rates continue very firm. In the millinery lace departments some improvement is to be noted. Valenciennes, torchons, Maltese, Irish guipures and Brabant's are all selling steadily. Some good orders have been placed for heavy crochet and warp laces. The silk lace departments are depressed, but a fair business is doing in veilings. Curtains and window blinds are in good demand, and prospects are cheerful, though competition is very keen. The hosiery sections are, on the whole, busy. Merino, cashmere and natural wool goods of all kinds sell freely, but the cotton departments are quiet. Little alteration in yarns. Brown nets in good demand, and rates firm.

### FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Simcoe is to have a pork factory.

Carvell Bros., of Charlottetown, P.E.I., have this autumn loaded 113,400 bushels of oats and 7,900 bushels of potatoes for Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and Newfoundland ports.

A Paris cablegram of Saturday says that negotiations are being opened with the view of allowing Brazil a reduction of about ten francs on the tax on coffee, on condition that French products shall be given the most-favored-nation treatment. Should the negotiations fail, the maximum tariff is to be applied to Brazilian coffee.

From a paper upon the development of the Ceylon tea trade, read the other day in London by Mr. John Ferguson, of Colombo, before a meeting of the Colonial Institute, we learn that the export of tea there began with 23 lbs. in 1873; in 1879 it was 100,000 lbs.; in 1889, 34,000,000 lbs., and in 1899 will probably be 125,000,000 lbs. About 380,000 acres are now cultivated in Ceylon, and the fixing of the value of the rupee at 1s. 4d. was really a blessing in disguise, as it discouraged planters from over-production.

In Minnesota there are published periodically bulletins of results of analyses of articles of food, with the manufacturers' names. The plan is commendable, in the opinion of an American journal, as the publicity affords the retailers protection by making them acquainted with the adulterated goods as well as the pure brands, and at the same time arouses the manufacturers to the necessity of protecting their reputation in future. "It is a better plan than desultory prosecutions which make the retailer a target."

The Canadian Inland Revenue Department has noticed the frequency with which illness, attributed to the use of canned goods is mentioned in the daily papers. And as the use of these foods is on the increase it proposes to ascertain the facts so as to safeguard the health of consumers. To this end it has issued a circular to all medical practitioners in Canada asking if any cases, and what cases, of illness have occurred from this cause; whether these pointed to metallic or ptomaine poisoning; whether imperfect sealing of tins had to do with the illness; and what suggestions they can give as to improving tinned food stuffs.