however, confines its business to our own country. It is fitting, since it has been resolved to compete for life business away from home, that Canada should be represented by its largest and most prominent companies. And what is of still more importance is that our reputation abroad is in the hands of associations which are as noticeable for sound underwriting and honorable dealing as for ample financial responsibility.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SHINGLES.

A heavy over-production during the past two years, along with price-cutting and its attendant dangerous results, has led the British Columbia shingle manufacturers to consider the wisdom of taking counsel together. As an outcome of several meetings held during the past winter, these manufacturers have formed an association having for its objects, as their articles of agreement set out, "the advancing of the commercial, mercantile and manufacturing interests of the makers and handlers of British Columbia cedar shingles, to establish and maintain a uniformity of grades and a greater excellence in manufacture, to secure a uniform and profitable shingle market, to provide for the production of a supply equal to demand, to acquire and disseminate useful business information, to remove undesirable representatives, to inculcate just and equitable principles of trade," and in fact, as far as we can gather, it is intended to so assist, inform, and protect each other, that the business may be made, as it should be, but does not appear to be now, a regular and satisfactory one. From a hasty reading one might easily infer that the words "advancing of interests" in the agreement referred to advancing of price. But there is no word of this anywhere in the document, and we have already had word from a Coast correspondent that this business, and in fact the lumber business generally in British Columbia, was being done at rates of profit entirely inadequate to the capital employed, the expensive plants organized, and the risks run. It is to be borne in mind, and we wonder much that the B. C. lumbermen and shingle men appear to forget it, that in the Pacific province wages and cost of living are fully one-half greater than in Ontario. This of itself, unless allowed for, must tell sadly against profit making. Then it is necessary to have very large plants, including extensive modern dry kilns, to carry on business in that "big tree" region, so that on the whole the B. C. shingle maker earns his small profits with difficulty. It is to be hoped that through a mutual understanding our friends in the Far West may unite upon and stick to some better policy than that of underselling each other.

THE BLANKET MAKERS.

"Yes, we are troubled with tariff problems," said a blanket manufacturer the other day in response to a question about Mr. Foster's proposed changes. "But the tariff is not our only nor yet our greatest difficulty. The blanket-making trade is being demoralized by the excessive competition of the Canadian manufacturers themselves. The English makers of blankets, with their low-priced and inferior goods, are making great efforts to do business in Canada. But for a man with the single idea of having a large output, give me the Canadian manufacturer of blankets. If a merchant wishes to place an order he asks for an estimated price from A. The price given he takes it to B, another blanket-maker, and asks him if he cannot 'go one better.' If he succeeds here, C is at once besought for still lower prices, and so on, until in many cases the order is finally taken at prices which, if not actually below the cost of production, are dangerously near it. The blame, however, so far, rests with the manufacturers alone, and if merchants were not often guilty of cancelling their orders, we might excuse them for their strenuous efforts to obtain cheap goods. However, as soon as the manufacturers learn to respect orders given to other mills, this practice will for the most part cease."

FOR DRY GOODS MERCHANTS.

The English ribbon trade is disturbed by a strike at Coventry.

Peterborough dry goods merchants have again this year, in accordance with past customs, inaugurated an early closing movement among themselves. Beginning on April 9th, they will close their places of business each evening at six o'clock, except on Saturdays and nights before public holidays.

The growing tendency toward smooth, lustrous surfaces, says the *Dry Goods Economist*, has induced Paris *modistes* to take up mohair and alpaca once more. These materials will be used for elaborate visiting costumes, as well as for the plainer travelling, outing and boating gowns. The colors are black, white, gray, brown, tan and blue. The ability of these fabrics to shed dust, dirt and water is well known.

Evening gloves in light shades of beaver, fawn, biscuit and cream are selling in London. For street wear four-button glaces in tan, beaver and brown colorings are in vogue, and have their embroidery, buttons and welts in black or the same color in lighter or deeper shades.

The British Columbia Jute and Cordage Co., Vancouver, B.C., whose works were recently destroyed by fire, have started up again with new buildings and new machinery.

The Kingston Knitting Mill presents a very busy scene at present. The full staff of workmen and girls are employed and the output of goods is increasing every day. Mr. Brick, late of the mill, but who was transferred to the electrical works in Peterboro' for a few years, has returned and is now superintending the manufacture of the new machine for making men's socks, for which Mr. Hewton is now selling the right in England. Mr. Brick has constructed machines in the institution that comprise no less than 4,500 pieces independent of the screws. The manager has not yet returned from the old country.—*Kingston Whig.*

It is rumored that the Globe Woolen Company, Montreal, propose to make reductions in wages.

Repairs and additions are being made to the machinery of the Montreal Woolen Mills Co. A number of gutta percha belts are being added.

In Campbellford, Ont., the Trent Valley Woolen Mills, which closed down for repairs, have now resumed work.

The mill of the Cornwall Manufacturing Co. closed down on Monday in order that repairs might be made. The mill is expected to open again within ten days time.

English advices of March 30th, say: Canadian orders generally are fair, although rumors as to a projected alteration in the tariff have a disturbing effect. The sewing cotton trade is brisk. There is more doing in carpets, and the print trade continues in a satisfactory condition, foreign orders being large. In linens business is small. The home trade is not bad, but Australian and American orders leave considerable room for improvement.

We are informed that the Messrs. Horn Bros., proprietors of the Lindsay, Ont., Woolen Mills, have recently received a very large wholesale order, which, with their custom trade, will keep them busy throughout the season.

The exports of textile machinery from Great Britain continue in good proportions, especially to continental countries. In February, 1894, $105,000 worth of textile machinery was shipped to the United States, against $242,500 worth in February, 1893, and the shipments for the quarter ending with February, 1894, was $220,000, against $510,000 for the corresponding quarter a year ago.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A London, Eng., cable of the 9th inst. says: The cutting of the Canadian mammoth cheese was celebrated by a luncheon to-day at Jubal Webb's stores. Sir Charles Tupper, Hiram Black, and others, spoke.

The wholesale tea traders of London, Eng., have requested Sir Charles Tupper, the Canadian High Commissioner, to receive a deputation to protest against the projected ten per cent. duty on tea, imported into Canada from bond in London.

The towns who do not expect a canning factory will please stand up and be counted.—*Windsor Record.*

Quong Hing Company is the firm name under which a number of Celestials in Montreal have registered as grocers. There are sixteen members in the firm.

Messrs. Webbe & Hutchinson, London, are contemplating the erection of a new pork factory.

"Mister," said the small boy to the grocer, "mother told me to ask you if there's any such thing as a sugar trust." "Why, of course there is." "W-well, mother wants to get trusted for two pounds."—*Washington Star.*

During the past few days there has been a veritable boom in prunes. In three days of this week over sixty cars were disposed of. This has taken all the stock of four sizes on hand, and those goods which no one would look at a month ago are now cleaned up. The price was 4¾c. The total stock of prunes left is made up of extreme sizes, at both ends.—*California Grocer.*

Our Montreal correspondent writes in strong terms about the large proportion of inferior teas and tea dust with which that market is flooded. He says: "Much of the business being done is in 'the cheap and nasty' lines of rejected goods which have been chased out of New York and recently brought here." Sales of gunpowder teas, his market report tells us, have been reported at 9c. per pound, and that tea dust has been sold as low as 2½c. the pound. "It is hoped that the Government will shortly legislate against the importation of this class of goods, which an experienced tea man declares can only be described as filth."

We are indebted to the *New England Grocer* for the following, which is certainly one of the most unique announcements of the kind ever made by a retiring merchant: