

similar products, the manufacture of which has declined in England since unrestricted imports became the rule. Now that he has returned to the Premiership the business world is asking itself if there is any chance of such a policy being promoted. The chances, in our opinion, are decidedly against any present changes in the fiscal policy. The Drapers' Record has been discussing the question, and sees only two features in the situation which are unfavorable to free trade. One is that England in trying to frame commercial treaties has no advantages to offer the second party to a bargain. The other danger is the possible discontent of the artisan class at free imports of foreign manufactures. But these influences are not as yet powerful. No leading man of any party is an avowed champion of protection, though some may lean that way. Mr. Balfour is a strong bi-metallist, but when he got into office he said his views committed only himself, not the Government. Protection is not a live issue yet in Britain.

FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

In a short interview with Messrs. Brophy, Cains & Co., they expressed themselves as well pleased with their September business. A great many buyers had been in, several of whom expressed a wish to have the dry goods excursion four times a year instead of annually as at present, and mentioned as the most suitable time the first week in March, then about 20th May, just before the semi-annual stock-taking, again the first week in September and say 20th November, just before the annual stock-taking began. Others who were spoken to expressed themselves as being greatly pleased with the suggestion, and hoped the Montreal Dry Goods Association of the Board of Trade would see their way clear to carrying out the suggestion. It was thought that the railway companies would gladly consent to four excursions, as the extra freight they would receive would more than repay them for the difference in fares.

A CONFERENCE OF RETAILERS.

Last month a conference of country retail merchants in New South Wales was held in the city of Sydney. They found a meeting necessary to take united action for the removal of many grievances felt by the country merchants. Some of the injurious influences they have to work against are declared to be the issue of licenses to alien hawkers (apparently the same evil the Montreal retailers have been successfully fighting against), insolvency grievances, cheap excursions, the parcels post, and other conditions which The Sydney Storekeeper says have been steadily undermining the prosperity of the country merchants. The formation of a central association was strongly advocated which could make common cause with all the retailers in the country.

THE DEPARTMENTAL IDEA.

The goods in the modern warehouse are always as carefully classified into departments as circumstances will permit, and Caldecott, Burton & Spence have, by a recent change, still further recorded their adherence to this wise rule. The mantle cloths and muslins were taken from the fourth floor and placed on the second floor with the dress goods, thus making a complete piece goods floor of it. The smallwares, which formerly found a place on the second, were removed to the fourth, thus devoting it entirely to haberdashery and smallwares. Customers have noted and appreciated the change.

THE Board of Customs lately announced some decision which concern the dry goods trade. These include: Pin—What shall be classed as hat pins, hair pins, knitting pins or needles, stick pins and safety pins, common, 30 per cent.; hair pins, celluloid, etc., except metal pins, with plated or metal tops, 25 per cent.; hair pins, of celluloid, bone, ivory, horn or tortoise shell, 20 per cent.; hair pins, of rubber, 25 per cent.

Mr. K. Boissevain, of the Alaska Feather and Down Co., Montreal, has been appointed Consul-General of the Netherlands in Canada, succeeding Mr. B. Homer Dixon, Toronto, who has resigned. Mr. Boissevain is a native of Holland, having been born in Amsterdam. He settled in Canada several years ago, and though still a young man, has successfully promoted a thriving business. He has seen a good deal of Canada, having explored it as far as the Rockies on first coming out. The company of which he is a leading member does business all over the country, and he is favorably known to the dry goods trade of the Dominion. The honor which has just been conferred upon him will be generally recognized as well merited. THE REVIEW offers its congratulations to the new Consul-General.

The idea has occurred to some suspicious person that the exports under the head of "settlers' effects," which make a pretty large item even in the Canadian returns, are sometimes swelled by goods which emigrating merchants class under their household effects. Some such notion seems to prevail in United States circles, because the Washington officials are refusing to admit household stuff free unless the owner personally accompanies them or gives a bond as to their bona-fide character. THE REVIEW asked a leading Canadian official if there was any ground for the suspicion. "I don't believe it," he replied, "as far as exports from Canada are concerned. There is, no doubt, a tendency to unduly value the emigrant's effects. He puts a price on them that they would not bring in the market. In fact, the value is a sentimental one. That's why the item looks so large in the returns. But there is no fraud about it, and no goods are going out labelled "settlers' effects."

The Ohio Wool Growers' Association, in session at Columbus, O., adopted an appeal to Congress to return to protection of raw wool. The manufacturers, however, are adapting themselves to the new conditions created by free wool.

British Columbia advices say that late news from Japan announces the placing of a line of steamers on the route to the Pacific ports of Mexico by the Osako Cotton Spinning Co., to facilitate the carrying of raw cotton, Japan being determined to hold her own in the cotton industry.

Mr. Lee, of G. G. Gladman's, Parry Sound, was in Toronto the other day, and had an encouraging word to say of the results of window dressing. "I devote a good deal of care and time every week to the dressing of windows, and consider the efforts well spent. It draws custom, both local and the large tourist influx which Parry Sound gets every season. They find the place attractive, and sales are the result. Formerly, it was not the custom to make any window display in the stores at