

general consensus of opinion was that some measures should be adopted to break the existing monopoly, which certain large establishments in the city possessed, as it was an injustice to the smaller retailers. A committee of ten persons, merchants and property-owners, were appointed to consider the whole question.

We learn further, with respect to an item appearing in this column about Christmas time, that the two Brandon firms, J. R. Strome and Whyte Brothers, are to amalgamate on February 1st, under the name of The Strome & Whyte Company, Limited. We are told that the firm intends to do a strictly cash business in its departmental store, not even to allow any goods to leave the premises on approbation without being paid for, and if not suitable money will be refunded. It is added that different lines of goods, in addition to dry goods, have been bought for the concern—boots and shoes, groceries, crockery and glassware. The ground floor of the store to be occupied will have a frontage of 80 ft. by 90 ft. in depth, occupying also a flat above the store of 50 ft. by 90 ft.

ABOUT GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The Liverpool rice market is quiet at prices favoring buyers.

The lakes of British Columbia are being stocked with whitefish from the hatchery at Selkirk, Man.

The Fishermen's Co-operative Society formed in New Westminster, B.C., is erecting a cannery near Annieville.

• The merchants of Drayton, Ont., have informed their customers that they will close their stores sharp at eight o'clock on Saturday evenings.

English tea markets, by late mail advices, show no special activity, prices of Indian and Ceylon ruling on the basis established before Christmas.

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange is compiling a complete list of the elevators, grain warehouses, and flour and oatmeal mills of Port Arthur and the West.

Mr. S. Allen has decided to rebuild at Norwich, Ont., the vinegar works which were recently destroyed by fire. He receives an exemption from taxes for ten years.

G. K. Wetmore's sardine factory at Lord's Cove, Charlotte county, N.B., has closed after a successful season. Mr. Wetmore finds no difficulty in securing a market for his goods.

The first annual statement of the Renfrew Creamery Co. shows that 4,180,350 pounds of milk was received during the year, and 163,299 pounds of butter manufactured, valued at \$81,679.53.

Incorporation by letters patent is being sought by the "Selkirk Transportation and Cold Storage Company," with a capital of \$50,000. The company purpose to deal in fish caught in Lake Winnipeg.

Mr. Davin gives notice of a resolution favoring a bonus on butter exported to Great Britain. He is also urging a bonus of \$20,000 to aid in establishing creameries and cheese factories in the North-West.

A change has been made in the business of Duncanson & Smith, grocers, Amherstburg, Wm. Smith having bought out the interest of his partner, Joseph Duncanson. The firm name, however, will be continued.

The Indian reserves of the North-West Territories are being supplied with bacon this year by Canadian dealers. This is the first year, says the Edmonton *Bulletin*, that these contracts have not been filled with rattlesnake bacon from Chicago.

A strong flouring-mill concern, to be known as the Consolidated Milling Company, has been formed in Peterborough, acquiring the Otonabee mills, formerly operated by Messrs. Davidson, Munro & Co., and the Peterborough mills, formerly operated by Messrs. Meldrum, Davidson & Co. The new company is said to be exceptionally strong, though it includes none of the members of the old firms, except Mr. Munro.

The movement of raw sugars (in tons) at the four ports of the United Kingdom during the fifty-two weeks ended December 28th, 1895, was as follows:

	Imports.	Consumption.	Stocks, Dec. 28.
London	212,050	210,150	24,700
Liverpool	340,720	305,430	62,040
Clyde	188,770	176,270	22,510
Bristol	66,630	67,210	900
Totals	808,170	759,060	110,150

The annual meeting of the Butter and Cheese Association of Montreal was held a week ago. Mr. Wm. Nivin, president, occupied the chair. The president's report of the business transacted during the year was adopted and ordered to be printed in the annual report of the council of the Board of Trade. The election of officers for the ensuing

year resulted as follows: President, Mr. A. W. Grant; vice-president, Mr. J. A. Vaillancourt; treasurer, Mr. Frank Duckett; executive committee, Messrs. P. W. McLagan, J. J. Kirkpatrick, A. C. Wieland, and D. S. Hislop; arbitration committee, Messrs. John McKergow, W. T. Ware, A. Hodgson, George Hodge, and Chas. Langlois. A transportation committee of eleven members was also elected.

METALS AND HARDWARE.

An oil tank for the Eastern Oil Co. has just been completed in Moncton, N.B., having a capacity of 3,000 barrels.

The mines at Joggins, N.S., are idle as the result of a dispute between the management and miners, which led to a strike.

R. G. Plaw, who lately bought out A. J. Butler, hardware merchant, at Arnprior, has sold out to S. Douglas, of Kippewa.

According to the Dundas *Banner*, an agent of a bicycle firm has been interviewing business men of that town about starting a bicycle factory in the stove foundry. The fate of the stove foundry, however will deter most Dundas people from taking stock in a new venture.

The shipments of pig iron from the Cleveland district of England for 1895 reached the highest point in the history of the trade. The sea deliveries had never before attained 1,000,000 tons in the year, although in 1894 there was a close approximation to that amount with the delivery of 996,688 tons. The delivery for 1895 was 1,047,400 tons—about 51,000 tons in excess of the previous year.

With the object of providing new markets for tinplates the Welsh makers, who are suffering through American competition, propose to form a company with a suggested capital of £20,000 to employ agents in India, China and the colonies to promote the consumption of tinplates for packing and domestic purposes; and also to supplement this by sending out experts and machinery to illustrate economical methods of converting tinplates to various uses.

James Watson & Co., Glasgow, under date of Jan. 10th, report: "On Monday last, the warrant market was firmer, Scotch realizing 45s. 3d. cash. With alarming political news, and the publication of the annual stock returns showing a greater increase than some looked for, the price fell on Wednesday to 44s. 9½d. Since then a sharp recovery has taken place to 45s. 6½d. per ton. A large turn-over of iron was reported. Cleveland and Hematite are in rather better demand, but the continuance of the engineers' strike here has an unfavorable effect.

The hardware merchants of St. John, N.B., have long been noted for their hospitality and the goodwill they bear toward one another. On the evening of the 16th inst. the first annual dinner of the St. John Iron and Hardware Association was held at the Hotel Aberdeen. W. H. Thorne presided, having on his right Mayor Robertson and on his left E. B. Ketchum, while in the vice-chair was Thomas McAvity, with Joseph Henderson, of Halifax, on his right, and H. F. Moulden, of Guelph, on his left. The following gentlemen were present: W. H. Thorne, A. T. Thorne, T. C. Lee, Thos. Bell, George McDonald, E. B. Ketchum, Thomas McAvity, J. H. McAvity, F. E. Cowie, E. Perkins, R. B. Emerson, Wm. Jarvis, W. S. Fisher, George Weldon, H. C. Coates, D. W. Baskin, H. F. Moulden (Guelph, Ont.), Wm. Kerr, M. E. Agar, Robert Connor, John Keefe, George Ketchum, J. P. Macintyre, W. L. Hamm, L. Nase, W. O. Purdy, T. B. Robinson, J. C. Robertson, A. M. Rowan, John J. Barry, H. A. Drury, J. Henderson (Halifax), and Mayor Robertson. The after-dinner speeches were of unusual excellence, and contributed not a little to the success of the banquet. It is safe to predict another dinner in January, 1897, which will, if possible, eclipse this initial success.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

BANKER, St. John.—The pamphlets quoted from, are published by the Gold Standard Defence Association, at 11 and 12 Clement Lane, E.C., London, England. There is an American body, with somewhat similar aims, entitled the Sound Currency Committee of the Reform Club, whose publication office is No. 52 William street, New York. These gentlemen's publications, usually pamphlets at 5 or 10 cents each (\$1 per year), are valuable. The latest, entitled "Our Financial Disease," is composed of extracts from the President's message of last month. The previous one contained "U. S. Currency Statistics."

R. C., Guelph.—The headquarters of the Factory Insurance Association are in Boston, and Mr. Edward Atkinson, of that city, is recognized as its prime mover. It has been in existence for years, and was formed to take fire risks on mills and factories in the New England States. We do not remember the exact number of companies in the association, but there are forty or fifty fire mutuals in Massachusetts, and the majority of these are understood to belong to it.