

A petition containing 17,000 names has been prepared, largely through the efforts of Mr. Dixon, treasurer of the Montreal Grocers' Association, asking the Dominion Government to appoint a chief fruit inspector for Canada, with half a dozen assistants.

Mr. W. Boulter, the well-known canning man, has just returned from a business tour of Western Canada. He disposed of a lot of canned goods in the Kootenay, that he never sold in British Columbia before, and he believes that Eastern Canada will yet do a tremendous business with the mining districts in the coast province.

The first cargo of molasses to be sent across the Atlantic ocean in bulk from the United States, was taken out from the port of Philadelphia by the British tank steamer "Petriana," chartered by parties in New York to carry about 600,000 gallons of syrup molasses purchased from the sugar trust and destined for London. The cost of cooperage, etc., will be saved, as it will be necessary only to pump the liquid into the vessel's tanks.

The Saskatchewan Herald does not like the new tobacco excise laws, and proceeds to say so in this fashion: "The miserable, squeezed-out Grit 25-cent plugs of tobacco have made their appearance in town. They don't look like tobacco, and even the Indians won't have them. Mr. Laurier promised to lighten the burdens of the dwellers in the West, and in this case he has kept his word; he has taken one-fifth off the weight of the tobacco they will have to carry when they buy a 25-cent plug."

The following circumstantial story is from the Portland Oregonian: "Just what medical qualities apple leaves possess, no one here appears to have any knowledge; but they evidently have such qualities, as Thomas Turner, a druggist of Tuler, Cal., has been in Ashland, and wants to purchase two tons of such leaves. He specifies that the leaves must be free from scale and in good condition (sprayed leaves are all right,) and he offers to pay 2½c. per lb. for them, and to furnish the sacks. He says he wants them for medical purposes."

An average crop of potatoes is reported in Prince Edward Island, and the quality is unusually good. The tubers will go in large quantities to the United States, in spite of 25 cents per bushel duty. Prices in Boston are opening there fairly well, and the Patriot hears of some parcels of whites which realized \$2.50 per barrel. Many vessels have been chartered to load at the various island ports for Boston. "White- and Hebrons are worth in Charlottetown 26 cents per bushel, and McIntyres about 20 cents. This, or a little over, will be the ruling price here this season. There is some enquiry for our potatoes in the West Indies."

Describing the marked contrast between the Louisiana rice crop as it promised earlier and as it looks now, the Price Current says: "All interested in rice were happy over the first information as to acreage and the general outlook. Later unsatisfactory rumors were circulated which crystallized into uncomfortable facts. Drought had materially depleted the yield and affected the quality [and later a storm did the business up]. Many fields did not produce sufficient to warrant the expense of harvesting. Reliable data forced the gloomy conviction that in lieu of the enormous crop predicted, not over 850,000 sacks could be counted on, being 150,000 sacks below an average crop."

Here are two illustrations of value to store clerks. The moral may be drawn without any explanation from us. A clerk in one of the branch stores of Lipton, the English grocer and provision dealer, was on one occasion so persuasive and convincing in his praise of a certain specimen of poultry, that he succeeded in selling the article to his employer, who ordered it sent to his residence. The clerk's astonishment when he found that his supposed customer was no other than Mr. Lipton himself, quickly changed to satisfied delight, upon receiving an increase of salary. Another instance, not quite so pleasant to the clerk, contains an important lesson. A few words of quiet instruction given by Mr. Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, as he walked through his store, met with the following reply: "Mr. Wanamaker, it is impossible to keep this department in the order that you wish." Mr. Wanamaker smiled and said nothing, but the following day a more efficient clerk held the place.

THE CHEESE MARKETS.

In the past week we have received reports of 19 board meetings, at which 64,190 boxes of cheese were offered, as compared with 40,411 boxes offered at 14 meetings the previous week. There is a deadlock between buyers and sellers, as evidenced by the absence of transactions. Quotations were a shade lower than those of a week ago, and merchants appear to be holding off from the market while on its present basis. Predictions are made that the strikes in the British industrial centres must have a depressing effect upon the cheese trade. For the week ending October 16th exports from Montreal, according to the compilation of Messrs. Cunningham and Lemessurier, amounted to 102,762 boxes, as against 104,979 boxes the similar week a year ago.

The shipments to date are 1,659,070 boxes, as compared with 1,389,013 boxes to date last year.

Boards.	Date of meeting.	No. of factories.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price. Cts.	Date of next meeting
Kingston	Oct. 14	..	3,500	....	8½	.....
Brockville	" 14	..	3,516	....	8½-9	Oct. 21
Lindsay	" 14	..	1,885	1,114	9 1/8	Oct. 29
Tweed	" 14	..	2,600	....	9 1/8	.....
Chesterville	" 14	..	1,040	....	9 1/8	.....
Listowel	" 14	33	16,678	....	.....	.....
Perth	" 15	..	800	....	8½-9	.....
Selburne	" 15	14	4,000	....	8½	Oct. 29
London	" 16	28	7,890	170	8½-8½	.....
Iroquois	" 16	..	2,100	....	9	.....
Belleville	" 19	24	2,940	....	8½	Oct. 26
Campbellford	" 19	..	1,555	....	8½	.....
Madoc	" 19	..	925	....	8½	.....
Ingersoll	" 19	..	3,089	....	8½	.....
Napanee	" 20	..	500	....	8½	.....
Pictou	" 20	5	500	....	..	.....
Tweed	" 20	12	4,200	....	8-9	.....
Woodstock	" 20	19	5,947	350	8½	.....
Stirling	" 20	..	525	....	8½-8½	.....

WITH THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

A number of King street tailors have added departments for making women's "tailor-made" garments, and report the new ventures as bringing them more money than the older established business.

The Paris correspondent of the Dry Goods Economist writes:—Cloths are the most popular materials for the season upon which we are entering. They hold the first place in the selections of woollen goods laid in by the store, and the majority of the made-up costumes and outer garments are built up of cloths, such as vicuna, drap d'ete, moscovietta, amazon and drap cuir.

The consumption of flax is no more than it was forty years ago, the weight being shown as follows:—

Year.	Native.	Imported.	Total.
1850.....	21,000	89,000	110,000
1895.....	12,000	100,000	112,000

Mr. Louis Simpson, manager of the Montreal Cotton Mills at Valleyfield, has applied to the town on behalf of the company, agreeing to construct an addition to its factory at a cost of \$100,000 if a further exemption from taxation of 21 years is granted. He maintains in support of his request that the company's mills at Valleyfield have turned out during the past nine months one million more yards than during the corresponding period of 1896.

There are not at present many representatives of the Canadian wholesale houses in England, but the few who are there predict a good trade in this country, and are carefully selecting goods in anticipation of a brisk trade. The Drapery World of Oct. 9th notes the following recent arrivals: Mr. G. Rowat (Rowat, McMahon & Grainger), London, Ontario; Mr. R. Taylor Reid (Taylor & Bayne), Toronto; Mr. H. Macartney (Gault Bros. & Co.), Montreal; Mr. E. Giguere (McCall, Shehyn & Co.), Quebec.

According to Mulhall's "Industries and Wealth of Nations," the British output in 1895 was not quite 400 million yards, of which 900 millions were exported; the value of output was about £18,000,000. Apart from competition, it is clear that the linen trade generally is declining, especially as regards home consumption, which averaged eight yards per inhabitant in 1840, and is now less than five yards. It is said that 60 per cent. of linen operatives die of lung disease, their span of life after entering the factory averaging only seventeen years.

The production of linen in the United Kingdom has been approximately as follows:—

Period	England.	Scotland.	Ireland.	Total.
1791-1800.....	13	22	42	77
1821-30.....	24	60	90	174
1861-70.....	54	140	204	398
1891-93.....	42	130	172	344

A gentleman connected with Messrs. Coats, on being interviewed by a British drapery paper as to the combination of English thread manufacturing concerns, expressed the opinion that the new concern would not go in for a cutting of prices but rather direct itself to putting what is called the cop trade on a sounder basis in regard to charges. The combination would be able to effect a saving in various ways, and in view of the experiences of recent years in the thread trade, the directors would not enter upon a war of prices with the great Coats.