

A proposition is on foot among southern cotton yarn spinners to form a combination. At a meeting recently to consider the matter, representatives of 800,000 spindles were present.

A report from Glasgow says there is a slightly improved tone in the Ayrshire lace curtain trade, and manufacturers are meeting with more encouragement. The demand for curtain nets is good for both home and continental consumption. A few Canadian buyers are on the spot, and business with the Dominion continues healthy.

There has been little change in the Belfast linen market. A fair business is passing, but there is no great activity in any department, and, as this is usually a rather quiet time of year, it is not expected there will be much improvement for a little. Prices are fairly steady. Yarns are in quiet request, manufacturers being content to purchase only what is required at the moment. Stocks of the coarser numbers of towels are still extremely low. Line yarns are rather dull. Former rates are still current, but there has been no business to test them.

The New York Dry Goods Economist's correspondent says: The raw silk market in Lyons is not active, but conditions continue favorable. Attention is now being directed to the prospects for the new crop. The weather in France has been favorable to vegetation, and hatching has commenced in France, while in northern Italy everything is getting ready. The syndicate of rich landowners of Italy, which was formed to keep up prices of cocoons of the coming crop, is helping to obtain this end by keeping up prices of raw silk with timely purchases. Prices are unchanged and firm.

The annual meeting of the Colonial Bleaching and Printing Company was held in Montreal last Monday. The report showed an increase in the business over the previous year. Additions to the plant have been lately completed, which will enable increased work. The president said that a proposition would be shortly placed before the shareholders, regarding the question of a cotton mill in connection with the present converting plant. The former board of directors was re-elected, viz.: Messrs. H. S. Holt, C. R. Hosmer, Frank Paul, A. Racine, George F. Hartt, E. N. Heney and W. T. Whitehead. Mr. Holt is president and Mr. Racine vice-president.

—The recent dividend of the Union Bank of Canada has been declared at seven per cent. instead of six.

—Having purchased a lot in Toronto, corner Queen street and Spadina avenue, the Bank of Hamilton intends to erect thereon, this summer, a building for a branch of the bank.

—The large new buildings of the Cramp Ontario Steel Co., Collingwood, are to be roofed with corrugated sheets. The Metal Shingle and Siding Co., Preston, has secured the contract. This is only one of the large orders that have been closed by this company recently.

—Montreal Harbor Commissioners will to-morrow hold a special meeting to consider the Grand Trunk Railway's proposition regarding elevator and freight warehouse sites. The project is said to meet with the approval of Mr. Tarte as well as of the Harbor Commissioners. It is essentially the Conner's plan renewed, but with a railway company behind the proposition instead of a Buffalo syndicate.

—Further news from the Miramichi lumbering district of New Brunswick states that conditions there are not so discouraging as was at first believed. True, progress is very slow, and hundreds of men are idle owing to the want of water in the streams, but there is still considerable depth of snow which, with the first heavy fall of rain or with a little strong sunshine, will melt and put enough water in the streams to float the logs, which are all said to be in good position to move at the earliest opportunity. Mr. Gibson's drives on the Nashwaak and elsewhere are reported moving satisfactorily. His cut is estimated at 37,000,000 feet.

—At a meeting in Montreal yesterday the Dominion Iron & Steel Co. shareholders carried a resolution that the capital of 150,000 shares common stock and 50,000 shares preferred be increased by an addition of 50,000 shares of common. This will make the total capital \$25,000,000. Mr. Ross declares his opinion that the concern will be producing steel at a satisfactory profit before the close of this year.

—No fewer than five labor organizations in Toronto have called for strikes beginning on the 1st instant, owing to inability to come to satisfactory arrangements with the employers regarding wages. The trades affected are the wood, wire and metal lathers, the carriage and wagon workers, the wood-working machinists, the bricklayers, and the carpenters and joiners. However, in the case of some firms, satisfactory arrangements have been made and the men are at work as usual. The World of yesterday gives a list of 234 participants in strikes in progress in six trades; and of 1,080 affected by the strike begun yesterday in the lines mentioned above. Will anyone explain why a bricklayer should get 45 cents an hour—which is what they are asking—and a carpenter only 25 or 30 cents?

—Referring to our recent article on the legal control of trusts, a New York correspondent says: "Your extracts from Mr. Dill's address at Harvard University, and your comments thereupon are interesting. Considering Mr. Dill's wide reputation as an authority on corporation law some notice was due to his views on the subject upon which he spoke. In this country the subject is having a great deal of consideration and is causing much discussion. Uniformity of laws relating to corporations is very desirable, and if it can be obtained by a conference or desire on the part of the different states of the union to make their individual laws more nearly alike, it would seem as if national legislation in corporate matters was inevitable."

—A deputation representing the Ontario School of Artists, Canadian Institute, Public School Art League, Canadian Club, Engineers' Club, Architectural Eighteen Club, Ontario Association of Architects and Board of Trade and other Toronto organizations waited upon the Toronto Board of Control, to urge the necessity for inaugurating a properly conceived plan for improving and beautifying the city. They suggested the appropriation of \$1,000 to gain the services of an expert with this end in view. There is no doubt that Toronto has wonderful possibilities in the way of forming a beautiful and imposing city; and it is equally certain that these potentialities have been sadly neglected in the past, the chief trouble being that every year's delay means probably inferior results, and certainly extra expense when a course of action is at last decided upon. The proper time to begin the important work of beautifying the city, according to a pre-arranged plan, was years ago; but the immediate present is a much better opportunity for doing it than any time in the future can possibly be. We hope, therefore, to see something tangible come of these efforts.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures for Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, May 1, 1902, compared with those of the previous week.

CITIES	May 1, 1902.	April 24, 1902.
Montreal.....	\$20,691,054	\$24,552,366
Toronto	17,090,740	20,588,391
Winnipeg	3,188,437	3,135,370
Halifax ...	1,770,282	1,680,144
Hamilton	774,469	1,232,246
St. John	657,498	765,916
Vancouver	756,556	934,620
Victoria	375,973	605,984
Quebec	1,085,511	1,090,625
Ottawa	1,322,025	1,583,487

\$47,712,545 \$56,149,149

Aggregate balances, this week \$6,204,361; last week \$7,396,228.