

The prices for raw cotton, the advancing tendency of which was retarded a week or two ago, have regained what they lost, and the market is considerably stronger, due to news of a light movement in the South.

News from both Dundee and St. Petersburg reports an excited market for flax, and prices are still advancing. Continental factories have been buying largely, which no doubt is the cause of the present conditions.

American papers report more doing in several lines of highly finished fabrics in mercerized and allied effects in both plain watered and embossed varieties, and fair orders have been booked for the regular taffeta and satin finishes.

The Dry Goods Economist remarks upon the fact that people now-a-days are getting into the habit of wearing their gloves larger. Both men and women this year wear heavy gloves upon the same plan as they are wearing their shoes—no longer a squeeze and a pull, but a loose, easy fit that does not destroy the shape of the glove, that keeps the hand warmer and that insures much better wear of the article.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The export of cheese from Prince Edward Island during the past season amounted to about 65,000 boxes.

The retail merchants of Winnipeg recently met together to revive their old association, under the name of the Commercial Association of Winnipeg.

The "Royalist" arrived in Vancouver the other day from the Hawaii Islands with 4,000 tons of raw sugar, the largest amount, it is said, which has ever crossed the Pacific.

The lobster season in Nova Scotia this year has been, generally speaking, successful, the catch having been somewhat larger than that of last year and considerably more so than in 1898.

The Montreal Wholesale Grocers' Association have elected officers for the ensuing year as follows: President, Mr. S. J. Carter; vice-president, Albert Hebert; treasurer, Mr. D. L. Lockerby.

The London, Ont., Poultry and Pet Stock Association have elected the following officers: President, W. McNeil; vice-presidents, Newton Cosh and A. J. Morgan; secretary, Richard Cke; treasurer, John Saunders.

The catch of herrings off the coast of the province of New Brunswick during the present season has been about 163,000 barrels salt, valued at \$550,000; 20,000 pounds fresh, valued at \$200,000; 8,000,000 pounds smoked, valued at \$175,000.

The Montreal Bakers' Association held a meeting on Saturday last at which it was decided that all members who had steady situations should give one day a week for the benefit of those out of employment. The association claims that the city council should appoint a bread inspector to investigate into the sanitary condition of bakeries and to prevent bread from being sold below standard weight.

The Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association are protesting against the present regulations regarding the test for tuberculosis as applied to the importation of pure-bred animals. It is stated that if only a sufficient quantity of tuberculin be injected, the reaction said to indicate the disease would take place, no matter whether, it really existed or not; with the result that a double dose of the test, used possibly maliciously, might at any time be enough to cause condemnation of the animal.

The value of the cod fishery off Nova Scotia during the past season was not up to the average, the weather during its latter part having been very stormy. It amounted to about \$1,750,000. Herrings also were scarce, but the catch of mackerel was phenomenally large. Halibut was taken to the value of half a million dollars, and from hake about \$230,000 was realized. In all about 35,000 men are employed directly in the fishing industry in Nova Scotia alone, and over \$5,000,000 local capital is employed.

WINTER NAVIGATION.

Mr. John Kennedy, engineer for the Montreal Harbor Commissioners has prepared a report in which he makes a suggestion for the lengthening of the season for navigation up the St. Lawrence. "It is well known," he says, "that the Cap Rouge ice jam is the last point of construction to the clearing away of the ice above Quebec in the spring. The average date of the opening of navigation at Montreal by the river steamers which winter above Cap Rouge is for the last twenty-five years April 19, but the average date of the first arrivals from sea is retarded until April 30. An ice-breaking boat of the power of the Stanley could, by occasional work on the Cap Rouge obstruction at proper times, easily eliminate this delay. By additional work she could keep open all winter the channel up to the lower end of Lake St. Peter, and the same or a more powerful boat, by more constant work and the skill which would be gained by experience, would not only keep open the navigation channel through to Montreal, but would, by breaking up the ice at proper places and times, prevent the formation of heavy ice jams and thereby prevent the disastrous winter floods, of which they are the primary cause."

—During the month of November the deposits in the post-office savings banks of Canada amounted to \$894,433, on which interest to the amount of \$3,325 was allowed. This, with \$38,318,430 balance in the hands of the Minister of Finance, on the 31st of October, made a total of \$39,216,189. The withdrawals during the month were \$721,958, leaving a balance of \$38,494,230 to the credit of depositors on November 30.

—At a meeting last week of the Montreal Chambre de Commerce, a letter was read from Messrs. Nicholls & Notman, of Durban, Natal, calling attention to the fact that there was a good market in South Africa for Canadian lumber. The question was brought up of lowering the cost of Canadian patents, and of increasing the number of examiners, so as to expedite the work of issuing. Attention was drawn to the value of the French market for Canadian exporters.

—The deposits in the Dominion Government Savings Banks for November amounted to \$227,170, and the withdrawals to \$230,877. The balance in hand at the end of October was \$15,668,932. At the end of November the balance stood at \$15,865,225.

TORONTO STOCK TRANSACTIONS.

The holidays have militated against heavy business on the Stock Exchange this week, though it is picking up again now. One feature has been the rise in C. P. R. stocks. Following are the details: Bank of Ontario, 8 at 124; Commerce, 111 at 148; Imperial, 65 at 216-1/2; Dominion, 153 at 230-1/2; Hamilton, 2 at 189-1/2; Nova Scotia, 8 at 228; Western Assce., 80 at 108-115; Consumer's Gas, 55 at 213-5; C. P. R., 1,188 at 83-1/2-91-1/2; Toronto Electric Light, 11 at 131-1/2-3-1/2; General Electric, 552 at 186-1/2-191-1/2; Commercial Cable, 75 at 166-1/2-7; Bell Telephone, 25 at 172-1/2; Toronto Railway, 147 at 108-1/2-9-1/2; Twin City, 75 at 70; Cycle, 10 at 81-5; Nat. Trust, 10 at 130; C.P. & W.C., 337 at 107-1/2-8-1/2; Can. Land, 45 at 76; Carter Crume, 208 at 104-1/2-105; Crow's Nest, 645 at 236-9; War Eagle, 1,000 at 102-1/2-3; Republic, 1,700 at 63-4; Payne, 1,000 at 79; Golden Star, 5 5/10 at 2; and Dunlop, 3 at 100-1/2.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, December 27th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Dec. 27, 1900.	Dec. 30, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$12,691,769	\$16,380,810
Toronto	9,140,007	11,235,339
Winnipeg	1,984,809	2,540,573
Halifax	1,428,460	1,516,699
Hamilton	762,925	904,106
St. John	633,792	717,367
Vancouver	815,624	973,590
Victoria	536,371	532,815

\$27,993,757 \$34,801,299
 Aggregate balances, this week, \$3,716,014; last week, \$5,267,342