

C. Beckett, Hamilton; Quebec, Albert Hebert, Montreal; New Brunswick, A. H. F. Randolph, St. John; Nova Scotia, H. G. Bald, Halifax; Manitoba, Kenneth Mackenzie, Winnipeg; British Columbia, H. Todd, Victoria. J. Stanley Cook, Montreal, was re-elected secretary.



ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

Bank Clerk, City.—You are right in one case but wrong in the other. The average clearings at the Toronto Clearing House for the nine weeks ended with 2nd March were \$57,833,000 per week. In the corresponding period of 1904, the average was \$45,310,000, and in 1903 it was \$48,750,000 per week.



DRY GOODS ITEMS.

A shipment of silk from the "Empress of Japan," to the extent of ten cars, left Vancouver a week ago on its way east by way of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Of the consignment one car was for Winnipeg, the remaining nine being billed for the United States.

"Emporium, Limited," Montreal, capital stock \$200,000, is the name of a new company which has been granted a charter by the Ottawa Government, authorizing it to open stores and deal in general merchandise, to have a department for the teaching of cutting and designing all kinds of garments, to publish a technical journal connected with the business, and to carry on a mail order business. C. Duluth and J. Petittclerc, of Montreal, are interested.

There is little change in the Belfast linen market, but the volume of business is more than maintained, and prices keep steady. There is a moderate demand for flax at full rates. Advices indicate that Dutch and French sowing of flax this year is likely to show a marked decrease. Yarns continue in steady request, and, as manufacturers have hardly any stocks, spinners hold a strong position. Prices keep firm. Export trade continues good. Orders are steadily coming in from the United States. Cuban trade is improving, and the South American markets continue to order to a satisfactory extent. Canadian trade is fair. Australasian business keeps moderate, and there is an average turnover with the Continent.

There seems to be a feeling in the raw silk market that prices have gone about as low as can be expected, and as a consequence a slight increase in demand is noted. Stocks in manufacturers' hands are undoubtedly being depleted rapidly, owing to a favorable season, and if all the indications which are in evidence at the moment are fulfilled considerably more raw material will be needed before the season is over. One favorable factor in the situation, however, is that the stocks which were bought at slightly higher figures than may be obtained to-day have been readily absorbed, and the difference between to-day's purchases and the small amount still on hand will not be so appreciable on this account.

Walking costumes in Paris, especially those of the tailor type, are not considered complete without some description of waistcoat, and to a certain extent this remark is also applicable to all sorts of toilettes, even those of an extremely dressy order. It has become an assured fact, says a special correspondent of the New York Dry Goods Economist, that the waistcoat will play a most important part among dresses for the immediate future, and so extraordinarily varied is the present waistcoat, both in point of material and construction, that all tastes will be satisfied. The draped corsage has become such a general favorite that the same idea in arrangement now extends to the waistcoat as shown by the most recent creations. It is of the perfectly fitting type, reaching some couple of inches below the waistline, at which point it is allowed to open slightly and form short points.

Offerings at the London wool auction sales on the 8th inst. numbered 14,112 bales. Fine merinos and crossbreds sold readily, but all inferior qualities were slow and were frequently withdrawn. Cape of Good Hope sold briskly. Home and

Continental buyers operated freely, and Americans bought some choice New South Wales Geelong wrap wools and crossbreds at full rates. The following shows the sales in detail: New South Wales—3,000 bales; scoured, 9½d. to 1s. 10½d.; greasy, 4¾d. to 1s. 2d. Queensland—2,100 bales; scoured, 11d. to 1s. 10½d.; greasy, 6¾d. to 11½d. Victorian—1,800 bales; scoured, 1s. ½d. to 1s. 7d.; greasy, 4¾d. to 1s. 2d. South Australia—1,100 bales; scoured, 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 6½d.; greasy, 5½d. to 11d. West Australia—1,900 bales; scoured, 1s. 1½d.; greasy, 4½d. to 11d. New Zealand—2,600 bales; greasy, 6½d. to 1s. Cape of Good Hope and Natal—400 bales; scoured, 10½d. to 1s. 7½d.; greasy, 6½d. to 10d. Falkland Islands—1,000 bales; greasy, 5¾d. to 9½d.

There has been very little actual business passing in the Bradford wool market during the past week, said a letter to the last Drapers' Record to hand, either in wools or yarns, as the uncertainty in prices has caused all orders to be held over until a more settled basis of values could be arrived at. The market here has, in fact, followed almost exactly on the lines indicated above, and merino prices are firm. There can be no doubt that users of these classes in this district are much better employed than they have been for some time, and, as the increase in the production will barely keep pace with the increased consumption, there is every reason to expect the prices to be firm for many months to come. The improved consumption for merinos in this district seems to be principally on account of a better demand for fine plain cloths and coatings for the dress and costume trade, and for fine worsted Italian lining cloths.

Spring deliveries have formed the bulk of the business passing in the Glasgow wholesale warehouse trade, and, while these have been heavy, it is apparent that retailers are this year postponing the bigger proportion of their stock deliveries till March, as then the fashions will have become better known, and laying in of stock less risky. A spirit of hopefulness still rules, although it would be more to the point were travellers to send back larger orders. For dress goods it is yet early to say how business promises or what is likely to catch the popular fancy. Habit and Amazon cloths appear to be more than holding their own, but as city travellers' calls are restricted so long as the sales continue, a week must elapse ere any real trade basis can be found. Meantime, retailers confined their orders to the fulfilment of immediate wants. Manufacturers of shirtings, lappets, and dhooties are better placed for Indian business. The wholesale shirting houses are engaged with their designs and preparations of patterns for next year. Travellers will go out with these next month. With reference to linens, quite a large assortment is being taken up for export westward. It is to be hoped that these orders will lift the market out of the dull groove in which it has lain so long. Prices of raw material and yarns are helping the movement. A condition accompanying the orders, however, is that delivery is not to be hurried.



—The Quebec Board of Trade is forming a board of conciliation, before which all disputes between the employers of labor in the port of Quebec and the laborers may be brought and settled. Strikes, whether they prove either successes or failures so far as the men are concerned, necessarily entail great losses, not only to the participants, but to the localities in which they are waged; and this plan of forming an independent tribunal, composed of members of the Board of Trade and representatives of the labor unions, should do much toward bringing about better conditions.



—A few days ago there was a general strike of smelter employees in British Columbia, as a result of the defeat in the local Legislature of the eight-hour bill for employees in that industry. They wanted three shifts of eight hours each instead of two shifts of twelve hours each, as at present, or in other words, a straight increase in wages of 50 per cent. Seeing that the present state of the industry is not highly profitable, it is hardly to be wondered at that the smelter owners concerned refused absolutely to accede to the men's demands, and announced that they would sooner tie up the whole business. The strike came to a speedy end.