

double up the price,, making it something like 40 cents for the next season, and in that way they expect to get their shares of the good things that they claim are going in connection with the formation of the combine that will control the industry on the river.—Victoria Times.

John P. Brennan, of Alberton, P.E.I., shipped 132 cases of canned meat last week for Liverpool.

The tone of the coffee market of New York on Tuesday and Wednesday was steady, and the movement light by reason of the approaching holidays, until after which buyers appear holding off. There is about the same quantity of Brazilian in store in the States as last year at same date, but much less afloat from Rio, Santos, Victoria and Bahia.

Values are well held in teas in the American market, particularly in black; Chicago and other inland cities are not heavily stocked. In New York this week, jobbing transactions are limited.

The steamer "Newfield," which arrived at Halifax, Monday, from Sable Island via Louisburg, brought the cranberry crop for the season, 150 barrels against 300 barrels last year.

In New York on Wednesday the raw sugar market was unchanged and slow; with refined quiet and easier. Rice firm in New Orleans and in Japan, very quiet but firm in New York. Spices were steady and most kinds held firm on the strength of statistical position.

A letter from London states that the demand for Persian dates has been unprecedented, and that it looks as though the market would be as closely cleaned up as it was at the end of the last season. Everything the writer says is now in second hands, and strong ones at that.

The Acadia canning factory at Kingston, N.S., put up and shipped 1,000 barrels of apples this season.

A leading West India flour shipper in the States says that the tendency in that trade is to take more spring patents and less blended, and that 90 per cent. of the former and only 10 per cent. of the latter are now the proportions of their shipments of the two grades to those markets. This is largely due to the closeness in price between winters and springs, which makes blended relatively higher than spring.

New crop molasses is firm and higher in New Orleans. Syrups are unchanged in New York.

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

Initialled handkerchiefs are a great fad this season, hundreds of thousands of them being sold.

The Corticelli Silk Company will open a branch warehouse in Vancouver in a few days. Premises have been taken in the Brinsmead Block.

In the American cotton manufacture there is, says The N.Y. Bulletin of Commerce on Wednesday, "a pronounced scarcity of ready supplies in most directions."

Great is the shirt-waist—especially the silk shirt-waist. There are said to have been enough shirt-waists factory-made during 1899 than would give two apiece to every girl and five apiece to every woman in the United States.

The knit goods and silk trades of the United States are busy guessing as to what concessions it is planned to offer France under the new reciprocity treaty. The concession of 20 per cent. upon cotton hosiery and underwear will be most apparent on balbriggan underwear.

The Bradford woolens market had a strong tone on December 11th, and 12th. While highest prices were not willingly paid for merinoes and crossbred wools; holders showed no weakness. There was an increased demand for most classes of English wools, except lustres. In yarn the activity continues, rates being maintained.

Almost all the silkworms in China are diseased, and the effect on the silk-producing capacity of the worm is very marked. Formerly one picul of silk was obtained from three piculs of cocoons; but last year five piculs of cocoons, on the average, yielded only one picul of silk, and this year six and a half piculs of cocoons have been consumed in producing the same result. Owing to bad and short crops the cocoons have been dear as well as poor.

From a Japanese source comes the following estimate: "It was expected that the total quantity of raw silk to be brought to the market of Yokohama from various localities this year would be about 110,000 bales, of which about 80,000 are reported to have arrived since the opening of the season, with about 70,000 bales sold and 10,000 sent back to certain localities to meet the demands of weavers."

The National Flax, Hemp and Ramie Association of the United States was in session last Friday at Fargo, North Dakota, with a large attendance. North Dakota raised over a third of the flax crop of the country this year. This was partly due to the establishment of fiber mills in the Red River Valley, which furnish a market for the straw which has hitherto been burned. It now, after being worked up into fiber, goes to Niagara Falls, where it is made into manila paper. The development of flax culture in Minnesota and North Dakota has been very great.

Now that the times are better, and people can afford to dress better, many are looking for suggestions as to what sort of clothing men should wear who have the taste to dress properly. One of our advertisers, a merchant tailor, gives the following hints on this subject: "For afternoon wear the coat is always either black or very dark; for morning wear it may be black or of any dark shade, but is generally gray. For either purpose the vest may be of a modest fancy vesting, or of the same material as the coat. The trousers are generally of a fancy medium light-colored material, but for the morning suit the material may be the same as for the coat. The afternoon suit may, therefore, be worn in the morning, but the gray suit is not suitable for the afternoon."

An English trade journal says that it had received a sample of flannelettes from a correspondent, who thought the cloth had a suspicious feel and wished to know whether it contained any deleterious matter prejudicial to health. The sample was tested, and was found to be loaded with chloride of zinc. If such material were worn next to the skin without washing the consequences would probably be serious. The effect of this adulteration was shown by the report on the Birmingham case which courted so much attention. Some weeks since over sixty men employed in cleaning away snow in the streets were invalided, in consequence of skin irritation produced by chloride of zinc washed out from their overcoats and overalls. What effect flannelette treated with the same chemical would have upon the delicate skin of women and children may easily be imagined.

—Dividend at the rate of five per cent. per annum has just been declared upon the paid-up capital of the Toronto Mortgage Company. This is the name of the company formed by the amalgamation of the Building and Loan and Union Loan and Savings companies.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRIES.

G. H., Montreal.—Your question is a large one; but we presume one reason why Canadians "prefer" to buy such chemicals abroad is that they are not made here. It is quite true that there is a field in Canada for the manufacture of various chemicals.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Dec. 21st, 1899, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Dec. 21, 1899.	Dec. 14, 1899.
Montreal.....	\$16,518,094	\$16,299,852
Toronto.....	11,090,615	11,307,834
Winnipeg.....	3,131,381	2,953,558
Halifax.....	1,487,076	1,461,602
Hamilton.....	930,914	858,440
St. John.....	709,103	606,796
Vancouver.....	854,284	867,088
Victoria.....	485,340	

\$35,206,807 \$

Aggregate balances, this week, \$5,107,025; last week, \$.....