

The Department classes the imports of iron and steel and manufactures as follows:—Band, hoop, sheet and plate, \$102,205; bar iron and railway bars, \$21,330; cutlery, hardware, tools and implements, \$144,057; machines, machinery, and engines, \$199,928; pig iron and scraps \$42,397; stoves and castings, \$12,099; tubing, \$46,356; other iron and steel goods, \$182,850. Of bituminous coal our imports were valued at \$174,800, and anthracite coal, \$664,452. We imported tea to the value of \$369,588; sugar, \$1,144,131, and tobacco leaf, \$171,964.

The revenue from these importations for August, 1895, was \$1,813,789, and for August, 1896 it was \$1,828,305. The Government statistics as to exports are not very satisfactory, as they show a falling off in trade of \$395,741, as the following table of exports goes to show:—

	August, 1895.	August, 1896.
Minerals.....	\$ 618,505	\$ 848,612
Fisheries	972,617	735,143
Forest	3,682,835	3,928,022
Animals	5,393,520	4,231,319
Agricultural	793,465	1,379,404
Manufactures	752,719	842,142
Miscellaneous	170,524	23,802
Total	\$12,384,185	\$11,988,444
Coin	51,173	1,161,015

CREDIT AND CASH.

The department store has succeeded in part through the advantages of the cash system. Purchases upon an enormous scale have been made possible through a ready command of money. Goods have been sold at manufacturer's prices by the department store, but not without profit, since the merchant has received the usual trade discounts for cash. In this way the department store has been able to maintain its reputation for "bargains," and unless the ordinary merchant can place a greater part of his business on the cash basis this reputation must increase rather than diminish. It is idle to attempt to persuade people not to trade with these stores upon the grounds of public policy, for unfortunately where monetary interests are concerned such arguments carry little weight. They must be fought with their own weapons, and of these one of the most powerful is the cash system.

Probably no class of merchants have been more lax in matters of credit than the merchant tailors. Competition has driven them to take great risks, and consequently they have suffered severe losses. Ready-made clothing, as a rule, is sold for cash, and with improvement in cloths, styles and workmanship, has proved a most formidable rival to the handiwork of the tailor. Occasionally a beneficial understanding is arrived at in the trade in regard to this matter. Four tailors of Petrolia have recently advertised the following agreement:—

We, the undersigned merchant tailors of Petrolia, have decided to do a strictly cash business on and after this date. Owing to the close prices at which ordered clothing is made at the present time, it is impossible any longer to carry on the credit system, and in justice to those who always pay cash we have decided to adopt the cash system rather than charge a higher price.

It is probably impossible to expect the cash system to universally prevail. There are instances in which monthly payments are more convenient to the customer and involve the merchant in comparatively little risk. Local consideration must be taken into account. But beyond a doubt the financial and industrial conditions of this country would be greatly improved if more business were done by cash methods.

HOLDING BACK BUTTER.

During the week transactions in butter have been of a very limited nature. The demand is not strong, and it is rather difficult to sales at remunerative prices. Offerings from the country continue to be liberal, and in view of the small outlet there is little encouragement in the trade to merchants. Some time ago it was thought that stocks of summer-made dairy butter were well cleaned up, and that the fall trade would commence with light stocks and a healthy market. But, unfortunately, recent developments are giving unmistakable indications that there remains in the country large quantities of dairy butter. Until the make of the summer months is marketed and has passed into consumption, it is impossible to look for a steady, healthy trade. Offerings are now taking the form of large rolls, and with a continuation of favorable weather it is natural to expect that tub butter will be neglected. We quote: Dairy pound prints, 14 to 15 cents; tubs, 12 to 14 cents; large rolls, 13 to 14½ cents; bakers', 7 to 9 cents per pound.

In sympathy with dairy butter there has been a weaker feeling in creamery. Receipts have been large, the export demand having been weak; the local consumption has not been sufficient to exhaust all the supplies coming forward. It is understood that considerable quantities

of creamery are still held in cold storage on local points, and the three large receiving centres, Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg. From present indications it appears that there will be a large increase in the number of winter creameries in operation this year. And if for no other reason than the likelihood of increased productions, it is well that all stocks of summer-made creamery should be marketed at once. Local dealers quote: Creamery tubs, 17 to 18 cents; pound prints, 18 to 20 cents per pound.

THE EGG MARKET.

Last week and during the early part of the week now in review the egg market was very much depressed. Receipts were excessive and considerably larger than the requirements of trade. These large offerings were occasioned by a lull in the export trade and the good condition of the local market. But, as is often the case, shippers failed to gauge the local demand and this market became surfeited with eggs. However, a large part of the stocks held here have gone either into consumption or have been sent to other markets. The situation in consequence has shown considerable improvement the past few days. Shippers are again turning to the export trade and stocks have been diverted from Canadian markets to Great Britain, notwithstanding late advices indicating that English markets are weak and prices have recently declined 6d. per 100 doz. No. 1 quality eggs are quoted at 12½ to 13 cents per doz. here. There continues to be received from the exporters a large quantity of "culls," and it is found very difficult to sell these at any price.

MARKETING HOGS.

The weather the past few days has been very favorable for killing, and in view of the light stocks of cured meat now on hand, it is very likely that in a short time deliveries of dressed hogs will be large. The farmers and stock men should remember that there is little demand for large fat hogs. The best selling hogs when dressed weigh from 110 to 150 pounds. Messrs. D. Gunn Bros. & Co., Toronto, have printed some useful information in regard to killing hogs, a part of which we reproduce:—

"During this season of the year, it is well to select, if possible, a cool day for slaughtering. The hogs should be starved at least twelve hours before killing. A great many farmers are experienced butchers, and the number of shoulder-stuck hogs is very much less now than some years ago; however, we strongly advise that none but experienced hands should be allowed to stick hogs. After the carcass has been hung up, the bone between the hind legs, and also the breast bone, should be cut through, so as to allow the removing of all the entrails, along with the gullet. This being done, the carcass should be well showered with cold water, and allowed to hang up twelve to twenty-four hours, according to the state of the weather; if very warm, then more cold water should be used, and a longer time allowed to hang. If the hogs are very fat, they should be split open through the back-bone, to allow the animal heat to escape; and if this be not attended to, you will probably have tainted meat. These openings do not, in any way, interfere with the price in selling, as all hogs have to be divided in the middle when being prepared for curing. Under no conditions should a hog be cut down from the place where it is hung up to cool until all the animal heat has left the body, even should it take thirty-six to forty-eight hours to do this. If the above instructions are carried out, the result will, in every case, be satisfactory, and the highest market price will be obtained for hogs so prepared."

THE JAMAICA ORANGE CROP.

There is every indication that this year Jamaica can sell all the oranges it can produce; but, unfortunately, the crop threatens to be decidedly short of last year's output, and late conditions are tending to still further decrease the yield. Inquiries made at different parts of the island resulted in a number of estimates, some claiming that the crop would be well up to that of last year, but the greater part thought the crop would be short, and none looked for a greater output. As to quality it will probably average below that of last year; though large shipments of choice, carefully selected fruit will be shipped. After looking over all the estimates sent in, the crop of oranges seems likely to be about one-third less than last year, and prices may rule high all through the season. Shortage is more in the lowlands, where droughts have been prevalent. The mountains are always seasonable and a good crop of the fine quality of fruit will be gathered.

Poachers have been at work among the oyster beds on the Atlantic coast, before the season opened. A vessel has been captured and taken to St. John. She had on board some forty barrels of oysters which had evidently all been taken illegally, and these were confiscated.