

nothing, and during March 26 cwts., whereas during the same three months last year the figures were 4,780 cwts, 561 cwts. and 1,705 cwts. respectively. The reason of course, is an extraordinary one, as owing to drought in Northwestern Europe pasturage is deficient, and the hay crop will undoubtedly be light. Added to this is the fact that stocks of tinned butter are lower than they have been for years, owing largely to the war in South Africa. The Copenhagen Official Quotation has been for months past higher than any year since 1884.

Weddell & Co.'s report says: "Very little Canadian new season's butter has arrived yet owing to the lateness of the spring in that colony. Prices are quoted at 95s. c.i.f., for "Finest" quality. Yet another reason for the lighter exports of butter from Canada is the high price of cheese. Weddell's report quotes it at 53s. to 54s. for white, and 52s. to 53s. for colored. At these figures it pays better to make cheese than butter, and decreased exports of butter are offset by increased exports of cheese. Still there would appear to be great possibilities for Canadians and Canada in both trades.

DIRTY CHEESE.

A note of warning to Western cheese makers is sounded by R. M. Ballantyne of Stratford, who has just returned from his annual trip to England in connection with the cheese trade. In an interview with the Woodstock Express he says some things which our cheesemakers will do well to heed. Said that gentleman: "One feature of the trade struck me very forcibly, and that was the tremendous prejudice against cheese from the district west of Toronto. Many of the dealers said that they never wanted to see another cheese from this section, for the simple reason that they have lost money in handling it. The chippy or dry cheese and onion-flavored cheese have been so numerous that the name of the cheese coming from this district simply stinks in the nostrils."

Mr. Ballantyne attributes this failing described in the cheese to carelessness and dirtiness on the part of factory employees and farmers, and asserts that until these persons have learned the value of cleanliness they will never be able to furnish cheese satisfactory to English dealers. In regard to the cheese market he states that it is in good condition, with stocks the lightest dealers have had in years, and that prices are not expected to go as low as last year. There is also a demand for all kinds of Canadian produce, a warm feeling towards Canada having been engendered by the part this country has taken in the South African war. As an example he tells how an enterprising "Britisher," who had a sign out advertising American hams rubbed out the word "American" and substituted "Canadian" with the pleasing result of a boom in "Canadian" hams.

With a market of this friendly character open it would be hard indeed if the carelessness or laziness of a few factory men were allowed to prejudice the British dealers against any large part of the Canadian producers. Cheese boards and cheese buyers should, in their own interests, take measures to bring about a reform of the faults complained of.

DRY GOODS.

Business is active as a rule in the dry goods warehouses, and the tone of retailers encouraging. Sorting trade is very fair in amount, and the orders for fall very good. Indeed from present indications the aggregate will surpass that of last year, which was one of the biggest on record.

Prices of all textile fabrics are well maintained. The latest advices from manufacturing centres abroad are to the effect that there is no reasonable prospect of any drop in prices for at least three months. This applies primarily to linens, also to woolens, and is considered true of cottons. Thus in the wool market, for example, the scarcity of certain kinds of wool and the impossibility of increasing the world's supply until another crop is grown suggests the idea of continued high prices for woollen textile goods of high class. But it is not so easy to understand the continued high price of cotton textiles when we recall the extraordinary cotton crops of 1898 and 1899. By the table which we subjoin it will be seen that against an average crop in India, Egypt and America of 17,000,000 bales aver-

age in the years 1895, 1896 and 1897, the crops of 1898 and 1899 were much in excess of 20,000,000 of bales. These latter have been the largest for years, and therefore should be supposed to mark a lower price for the staple:

Cotton diagram, issued by Kessler & Co., of Bradford, Eng., shows the cotton crop of different years:

	1895 Bales	1896 Bales	1897 Bales	1898 Bales	1899 Bales
American	9,892,766	7,162,473	8,714,011	11,180,960	11,235,383
East Indian...	2,688,000	3,296,000	2,999,000	3,100,000	3,477,000
Egyptian	4,619,000	5,275,383	5,879,750	6,543,128	5,589,314
	17,199,766	15,733,856	17,592,761	20,824,088	20,301,697

Happily there is thus far no reason to apprehend any setback to the Ontario grain crop, which is everywhere of excellent promise. In Manitoba there has been much uneasiness because of the drouth of May and June, so much so, indeed, that not a few merchants in that province intended cancelling their orders or parts of orders to eastern houses. However, since the rains of the present week, in many parts of Manitoba the merchants have changed their tune and write hopefully and order confidently. On the whole the outlook for 1900 is, to use the words of a Toronto wholesale merchant, that "it will finish prosperously."

THE WINNIPEG CHAMBER OF MINES.

The Winnipeg Chamber of Mines, or to be exact, the Central Canada Chamber of Mines, has been attacked in a cablegram received in London by Reuter's Agency and emanating from Ottawa, so it is said. And on the strength of this the Pall Mall Gazette and other journals are alleged in a Globe special of 21st June to have indulged in adverse criticism. The real point of the attack was that the Chamber had asked a prominent London man to become patron or honorary director, offering to reserve him one hundred shares, presumably for the use of his name. But before he could reply prospectuses were distributed bearing his name, among others. The question is, was their use also unauthorized. The Chamber also sends out press extracts extolling the field exploited by the Chamber as the greatest in the world, but not giving one tittle of evidence in support of the assertion.

We have received from Winnipeg the reply of the Chamber of Mines to this onset. Mr. F. W. Stobart, the president, says such a statement as the first "is absurd; it would be equally absurd to speak of shares in the Board of Trade. There are no shares in the Chamber of Mines and the consent of the men who are patrons of the Chamber was secured before any statements bearing their names were published." We are further assured that the Chamber of Mines is not established for personal profit, but with the sole object of disseminating reliable information, statistical and otherwise, in order that the mineral resources of Canada may be better known and appreciated in Europe. There is therefore nothing in the bribery charge. It may be worth the while of the Chamber, however, to read over the last sentence of The Globe's cablegram, as quoted above; and to bear in mind that English people do not like the inflated style of writing that characterizes most of the Chamber's literature that we have seen. Canadians, especially Western Canadians, are used to large adjectives, and believe that their country deserves them. But it is well to observe moderation in communications to Old Country people.

THE LANCASHIRE'S NEW BUILDING.

By the exercise of taste and a little ingenuity the building Nos. 27 and 29 Wellington street east, which ran through to Front street, has been rebuilt and greatly improved. There are five stories in the new building, which has entrances on both Front and Wellington, and no expense has been spared in making the building first-class and up-to-date, with marble steps and entry floor, prismatic glass, elevators, lavatories and first-class heating and ventilation. The company's own office, on the main floor, besides being handsome is roomy and com-