

## COMMERCIAL.

The more cheerful feeling in wholesale circles reported by us last week has been still further emphasized by continued improved crop prospects. The hay, cereal, fruit and root products are now looking exceedingly well, and danger from frost being well passed, a bountiful harvest is looked forward to with much confidence. Advices from reliable parties in every section of the Dominion convey the same idea, that 1891 will be a remarkable one as regards the agricultural yield. As agriculture is the root and basis of general business, it naturally follows that when the growers are successful in their labors all branches of trade receive an impetus that benefits the entire community. A favorable feature of the present position of trade is that supplies throughout the country are admitted to be in small compass. A number of failures in Quebec and Ontario in leather and dry goods are the only unfavorable features of the situation so far as Canada is concerned.

Payments have markedly improved, and some of our leading houses report that 70 to 75 per cent. of their paper maturing so far this month has been met in cash by their customers. Other houses report an improvement in remittances, but it should be borne in mind that the amount of paper falling due in July is always considerably less than that in April and October.

At the banks money is plentiful and easy to borrow, providing the collaterals are of the right kind. If they, however, are not first class it will be found that money is very difficult to borrow. During the week country remittances have been fair, but city collections are reported to be rather poor.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL REVIEW OF HENRY CLEWS & CO.—NEW YORK, JULY 11, 1891.**—“Affairs at the Stock Exchange are still dull, investment transactions being limited, and speculative operations confined to manoeuvres for the advantage of transient slight fluctuations in prices. The hesitancy is not due to anything unsatisfactory in the conditions intrinsically affecting the current value of securities; on the contrary, these conditions seem to be regarded as warranting a better range of prices than now exists, providing all other influences were equally satisfactory.

The real cause of the postponement of operations lies in a beclouded condition of the foreign situation and in the uncertainty as to what may be its outcome within the remaining half of the year. The position of affairs at the European financial centres, though at the moment more settled than it has been, is still far from being a hopeful one. It might be reasonably expected that the derangements growing out of the disasters of last Fall had now been so far adjusted as to involve no further danger, were it not that new difficulties have to be faced between now and December. The Argentine danger has been reopened by the Congress of that Republic suspending for three months the laws relating to the collection of debts; which, though it may not vitally affect the Argentine banks, is calculated to put a severe strain upon commercial and financial houses which have already been seriously weakened, and whose credit is suffering from their large guarantees to Argentine undertakings.

It turns out also that the balance of Russia's claims upon foreign banks and bankers is much larger than has been supposed. During June, about \$12,000,000 of gold was sent to St. Petersburg; and it is understood that \$15,000,000 more will have to be withdrawn from the Bank of England for Russia in July and August. Beyond this drain, gold is expected to be drawn from London in considerable amounts to Germany and Holland; and the “stay law” adopted by the Argentine Congress is likely to cause an outflow of gold to that country. The \$140,000,000 of gold which is now doing such important service in buttressing confidence in London and indirectly also at the Continental centres is therefore destined to drafts which will, at a later stage, withdraw that much needed support, and place the gold beyond the reach of the wants that will press heavily upon the heels of deficient harvests.

This very important crop question is now assuming measurable dimensions. An eminent English authority on grain statistics, while anticipating an almost average British crop of wheat, estimates the deficiency in France at 130 million bushels, and some French calculators place the deficit as high as 175 millions. The total European deficiency to be supplied from external sources the English estimator places at 380 millions of bushels of wheat; or, if we were to accept the figures of the French statistician for France, the total European deficit would be about 430 million bushels. Seemingly, therefore, it may be assumed that Europe will have to import about 400,000,000 bushels of wheat. Such a demand implies a higher price for that cereal than has prevailed during late years; and were the price estimated at the confessedly low figure of \$1 a bushel, it would follow that Europe will have to pay \$400,000,000 to other parts of the world for this cereal; which is an amount almost without precedent. Our own crop is variously estimated at between 500 and 550 million bushels; and as prospects now stand, 550 millions is perhaps a fair estimate. Estimating our domestic requirements for various purposes at 360,000,000 bushels, we would have at this rate a surplus of 190,000,000 bushels for export, assuming the home stock to remain at its present quantity, whatever that may be. According to these estimates, we are in a position to furnish to Europe close upon—or possibly fully—one-half its total required imports of wheat. This means that this one item of our exports will amount to something near \$200,000,000. To the United States this is a very exhilarating prospect, but to Europe it is a very gloomy one. Even were the European nations in a prosperous condition, such an extraordinary necessity to buy bread from foreign countries would be appalling; but, coming after an enfeebling financial crisis on the heels of a large drain of gold into Russia, and at a time when industry is contracting and foreign trade is languishing, what may be the possible result of these short harvests to Europe? It is useless to predict; and it is imperative to wait for consequences. The present attitude of expectancy assumed by Wall Street is the only safe and wise one under

such circumstances. It is not likely that we shall be permitted to reap this advantage of a great crop without some sort of drawback, and it is wise to wait and see in what form that drawback is likely to come. Europe will find it impossible to pay us for our wheat without making some sacrifice. She will offer her products to us at low prices, or consign them for sale at what they will bring; if we accept them freely our wheat will be so far paid for in goods instead of gold; if we buy only our usual quantity of imports, then Europe will be compelled to pay us largely in our securities held there; and in that case the settlement will not be conducive to buoyancy in the New York stock market. For these reasons we advise moderate expectations, at least until the future of Europe becomes plainer.”

**Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—**

	Week ending		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date			
	July 10.	Prev. week.	1890	1889	1891	1890	1889	1888
United States.....	228	218	134	218	152	6403	5702	6255
Canada.....	33	42	32	16	57	1014	905	909

**DRY GOODS.**—Since the weather became fine quite an impetus has been given to the wholesale dry goods trade, and orders from travellers show a decided improvement both for immediate and future deliveries. Prices remain firm and it is very satisfactory to note that the market is not suffering from having large lots of bankrupt stuff thrown upon it at sacrifice prices, as has been the case at this season for several years past. This is, of course, a dull season in retail dry goods, and business in that special department runs rather quiet on the whole. Remittances show some improvement and just now the general feeling in the trade seems to be that there is going to be an excellent fall business—which all are most ardently hoping for.

**IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.**—Very little has been doing in pig iron, except that we hear that several sales of Nova Scotia pig have been recently made for account of Montreal and other points further west on private terms, but it is safe to say the price was very low. There is nothing new to report in other lines of iron or metals. Shelf hardware is moving very quietly. In fact there is no trace of real activity in that line.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—The flour market remains unchanged, but there is a fair business doing at quotations, the movement being both on country and local account. Meal is stationary with only a very quiet business doing. In England wheat has been firmer, but nothing is doing in corn. The weather there has been generally fine, but numerous short local thunderstorms have occurred, which have had a tendency to injure the growing crops.

**PROVISIONS.**—The local provision market continues quiet and featureless. The fact is that the majority of people here do not care for much meat in warm weather, and this renders the meat markets dull. The Liverpool and Chicago markets were quiet, with quotations nominally unchanged, but prices are really weaker.

**BUTTER.**—There is nothing new to say about butter. Nova Scotia farmers pack it fresh, and in small packages it is worth 17c. to 18c., and in large 15c. to 17c., of course, as to quality, flavor, etc. Very choice Canadian is rated at 17c. to 18c., but it must be gilt-edged to fetch that figure. Our London advice is as follows:—“Supplies of butter are plentiful, and the market continues flat at slightly reduced rates. Danish, although sharing in the general dullness, maintains its previous value, and the official quotation is unaltered. Brittany and Normandy, though in shorter supply, are down, and Irish is also lower, holders being anxious to get rid of stocks as soon as possible in this melting weather, while buyers are anything but desirous of overloading themselves.”

**CHEESE.**—This article is very quiet here, and best Canadian is quoted at 10c. to 10½c., while 10½c. to 11c. is asked for Nova Scotian. There is a barely fair but not an active movement in cheese. A London correspondent writes:—“Cheese has been an inactive trade for both home and foreign, and quotations are much as they were, reports of low stocks in first hands tending to keep prices from going down another peg, while the old Canadian cheese here is necessarily getting smaller and smaller in amount, the price being from 55s. to 58s., some good September makes offering at 56s., both pale and colored. The new makes have been once *en evidence*, and buyers have been plentiful at from 44s. to 50s., some finest new Canadian being held for 52s.” Later cables quote 46s. 6d. to 46s., or nearly two shillings less than last year at this season.

**EGGS.**—“Hen fruit” are very firm at about 13c. per dozen, and the probabilities favor an advance as hay-making progresses. Eggs are unaltered in London. They might have been lower, but imports have been on a limited scale, and prices stand at from 4s. 6d. for Russians, up to 8s. 6d. for French extras. Trade is quiet for Canadians in consequence of other descriptions being in weak demand; but at Liverpool old rates stand, and in Glasgow they have been selling up to 7s. to 7s. 3d. per long hundred, which should be considered satisfactory, as Irish are there quoted only up to 7s. 8d.

**APPLES.**—Considerable interest is already being taken by fruit dealers regarding the prospects of the apple yield in Canada, but it is too early yet to predict results with any degree of certainty. However, we have received information from the Annapolis Valley, the great apple-producing section of Nova Scotia, which speaks of a large hang of fruit and the probability of an excellent crop being gathered. Reports have also come in from the Niagara Peninsula, the noted apple section of Western Canada, which state that the yield there is light; but when we remember that last year it was said there was no crop in this section, and after all from 80,000 to 100,000 bbls. came out of it, and as a “light crop” is certainly an improvement on “no crop,” a considerable quantity may safely be depended upon from the Niagara districts. Between St. Catharines and Hamilton along the lake shore, the orchards show a good sprinkling of fruit, and the same is reported between Hamilton and Toronto. East of Toronto the prospects are also good with the exceptions of a few orchards here and there, and from all we can gather the apple crop in Canada will on the whole be good, providing of course