

Salvation Army Life Office.—We do not suppose that our warnings will have the least effect. All the same, we must put on record our profound disbelief in the future of the Salvation Army, as regards its life assurance business. Faith may move mountains, but it will not pay annuities. But what will happen undoubtedly with regard to this association is, that the misguided annuitants will consider that they are doing a religious duty by putting up with their loss, and that is about where it will end.—London Review.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Farmers in the Eastern Townships are said to be holding their hay, and predict high prices in 1899.

Canso, Nova Scotia, is shipping large quantities of frozen fish to the United States by rail. Good prices are obtained.

Spain is said to be going into the raising of tobacco on a large scale at home, now that she has lost all of her tobacco producing colonies.

Canned goods are firm, with certain kinds scarce in some markets. A sale of a 400-case lot of old corn at 87½ cents is reported by our Montreal correspondent.

In Montreal there have been some considerable transactions in teas since our last. One sale of 800 packages gunpowders is reported at 11 cents per lb., and several sales of from 150 to 250 packages good medium Japans at from 18 to 19c. per lb.

The Metropolitan Tobacco Co. of New York, and the Penn Tobacco Co. of Philadelphia, combinations of jobbers designed to purchase to greater advantage and to reduce working expenses in the distribution of manufactured tobaccos, are confronted by counter combinations of those not coinciding with their views.

The official returns of the salt exports and coastwise shipments from the salt-producing centres of the United Kingdom show a reduction of 1,523 tons as compared with 1897. The exports alone reached 669,131 tons, as against 655,702; while the coastwise shipments were but 317,797 tons, against 332,639.

In contradicting the reported amalgamation of chewing gum manufacturers in the United States, one of the most prominent of them said to a representative of The Chicago Wholesale Grocer: "The market for gum chicle is now 32 cents, duty paid, but within the last two years it has been as high as \$1.10. This product, which forms the ingredient of all chewing gum, is grown in Central and South America and gathered by the natives.

Willet & Gray say of the Cuban crop: "The latest and best information received shows that the crop is late and some difficulties have been encountered, which are, generally, overcome. The prospects are not quite as brilliant as they were a few weeks ago, but we await further developments before making any change in our estimate of 450,000 tons for this season's sugar crop. By this figure we mean total production of the island, which, allowing 50,000 tons for local consumption, will leave 400,000 tons for export."

The Victoria News-Advertiser is responsible for the following: Mr. H. W. Whittaker, manager of the Sechelt Trading Company, is reported to have discovered some new and extensive oyster beds near Sechelt. The oysters are stated to be of excellent quality and in large quantities. Being adjacent to Vancouver the beds should provide a new delicacy for the local market as well as the development of an important industry. Two years ago, Professor Prince planted a lot of Eastern oysters in the Gulf, but Mr. Whittaker does not believe that the ones just found have anything to do with the beds that were planted at that time.

A Halifax report of February 3rd states: Up to last week, when the steamer "St. John City" sailed, the shipment of apples from the port of Halifax for the London market amounted to 164,500 barrels. It is estimated that there are still 85,000 barrels to go forward. Apples have netted to shippers in the Annapolis valley from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per barrel. Taking the net profit at the lower figure, it means that the horticultur-

ists there have received this season \$410,000 or more. If the prices keep up, as they doubtless will, they will get \$212,000 for the balance of their crop, a total of \$622,000 for the season. The first Nova Scotia apples sent across the ocean for exhibition purposes, was in 1862. Later they were exported in I. H. Mathers' deal vessels. Then sailing vessels were loaded for London direct. After this the Anchor Line boats, running fortnightly between Boston and London, took over apples, freights being about \$1.25 per barrel. To-day the freight is 90 cents. A part of last year it was also 90 cents, but dropped to 80.

An acknowledgment of the superiority of Canadian bacon comes from Mr. Lathrop, a United States consul in Great Britain. He states that, "in 1897 the United Kingdom imported five million hundredweights of bacon, one million of which came from Denmark, and three and a half million from the United States. But ours was sold for from four to six dollars per hundredweight less than the Canadian and Danish bacon." Mr. Lathrop does not think it would pay farmers or packers in the great corn belt to cater for the export trade, but says, "why it will not pay in Wisconsin or Minnesota or New York or New England for farmers to so cater. I cannot understand. Canada ships but a small amount of bacon to England, but gets \$15 for it, while we get \$8 or \$9. The Canadian packer pays more per pound for a pig under 160 pounds than for one above that; the pigs are fed almost entirely on peas, even a small amount of corn being objected to, and Canadian packers are said to regret that corn was placed on the free list, as the temptation to feed corn is now very strong." The cutting is a matter that influences the trade. Mr. Lathrop says he knows a Canadian house now doing a large business in England, which had to import an English expert to show how to cut a "Wiltshire singed side."

FOR DRY GOODS DEALERS.

The visible supply of broom corn in the United States is said to be between 10,000 and 11,000 tons short of last year's stocks. In view of this prices have been put up.

The advance in the price of cotton fabrics may receive a further stimulus in addition to that afforded by higher values for cotton and an expanded demand. The Fall River and New Bedford mill operatives are beginning to agitate for higher wages—say, a restoration to the scale in force prior to the cut of 10 per cent. last year. This movement, with its accompanying possibilities of strikes or lockouts, may prove quite a powerful market factor.—Dry Goods Economist.

A wealthy engineer had a fine place in the country, where he carried out many pet constructive projects. He was visited there by an old friend, who had so much difficulty in pushing open the front gate that he spoke about it. "You ought to see to that gate," said he. "A man of your genius should not have a gate that is so hard to open." "You don't understand," responded the engineer. "That gate communicates with the water-tank on the roof, and every person who comes through it pumps up four gallons of water."—Equitable Record.

—A branch of the Traders' Bank of Canada is to be opened this week at Sturgeon Falls, Ont.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Feb. 16th, 1899, compared with those of the previous week

CLEARINGS.	Feb. 16th, 1899.	Feb. 9th, 1899.
Montreal.....	\$12,334,932	\$13,672,678
Toronto	9,599,460	9,911,631
Winnipeg	1,370,940	1,749,595
Halifax	1,151,346	1,218,013
Hamilton	635,819	764,620
St. John	555,123	591,012
	\$25,647,620	\$27,907,549

Aggregate balances, this week, \$3,439,435; last week \$3,696,666.