

unable to collect. It is needful that people be warned against fraudulent schemers who operate in this way. Commonly enough such men profess new methods of business, great advantages of connection, in order to impress those whom they approach. They often offer, too, better prices than are current; and *this* is what catches the unwary. But tall talk about methods and connections and increased prices on an invoice don't amount to a hill of beans when the buyer does not pay, and probably never intended to pay. Apple growers or any other kind of growers should be on their guard against such schemers. Rather stick to the man you have always dealt with than be swindled by a "slick" new broom.

NUTS AND DRIED FRUITS.

Never probably were the prices of dried fruits, generally speaking, higher than they are at the present time. For this state of things there are many reasons—bad weather, peronosporos, blight, drought and so on, combined with a good demand owing to prosperous business conditions throughout the world.

Malaga raisins ex "Bellona" are just arriving here. The market has been practically bare for some time, so there should be a first-rate demand. Prices are liable to be higher, than during past years, if only in sympathy with other dried fruits.

Valencia raisins are very active. They are at present selling in the city at 8½ to 9c. for F.O.S., 9¼ to 9½c. for selected, and 10 to 10¼c. for fancy finest selected.

The new crop of California prunes is making itself felt in the market. They are selling freely at fair prices.

There will probably be a scarcity in Portugal, a primary market, of Comadre figs. In consequence of this, prices of these goods, in taps, have already advanced ¼c. Elemé figs have already been affected by the near approach of the holidays, and are selling very freely. Currants at present quotations are not in very great demand, though no doubt, as Christmas approaches, people will begin to think it impossible to do without them. Stocks in retailers' hands were generally purchased before the recent series of advances.

So far as high prices and general scarcity are concerned, nuts would appear to be in about the same position as dried fruits. The price of almonds in foreign markets is well sustained at the recent advances. Similar remarks apply to walnuts which, especially the French article, remain very firm. Filberts, and practically all other nuts, are also high priced.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, November 15th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Nov. 15, 1900.	Nov. 8, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$17,304,571	\$16,276,424
Toronto	10,785,635	12,485,490
Winnipeg	2,501,601	2,741,778
Halifax	1,501,741	1,662,148
Hamilton	847,858	814,019
St. John	773,449	778,951
Vancouver	1,053,668	1,011,029
Victoria	721,190	828,188

Aggregate balances, this week, \$55,980,000; last week, \$55,886,661

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

American manufacturers of upholsteries and lace curtains have about completed their samples for next spring, and the line is said to be both varied and attractive. The curtain importers will have their new exhibits ready within the next few weeks.

The present is not a bad time for retailers to be looking about them for job lines of goods, for it is in November and December that wholesale merchants are most anxious to reduce their stocks before taking account of stock at the New Year. From Montreal we hear that some considerable trans-

actions, several of them of the nature of jobs, have taken place in the last few days, because of the presence in that city of retail dry goods buyers from the larger towns and smaller cities.

The popularity of velvets has given an impetus to the sale of high-class velveteens for dress purposes, especially in the wide widths. Houses carrying these fine grades note a demand for all colorings from black to the pastel shades. Manufacturers of velveteen have supplied an admirable novelty in the way of a metallic velvet. The metal effect comprises dots, fine work, and unobtrusive geometrical designs.—Dry Good Economist.

There is a new fabric employed by all the best houses in Europe, which is said to be extremely rich in appearance and makes up very effectively. It has a body of colored cloth with a rich all-over design standing out in relief, thus having the appearance of being appliqué. It is particularly adaptable for long garments of the Empire style, as the design is generally large. The ground is generally tan, hussard, red, blue or white.

Preference is still given to silk as a skirt lining. Glace taffetas and thin broche silks are most used. Tints of pink and cream are most frequently seen; in fact, it is considered more stylish to line dresses with light shades than in black or self-color. Mixtures of silk and cotton are also employed, but they interfere with the proper hang of the skirt, and are, therefore, not as desirable as silk.

Dressy afternoon costumes, either woolen or silk, are often made now with a deep flounce of alternate panels of Irish point, in shades of yellow and ochre, and velvet of the same color as the dress.—Buyers' and Dry Goods' Chronicle.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A steady tone prevails in the English bacon market, owing to limited supplies. Canadian Wiltshire sides are worth 54s. to 56s. in Liverpool, while hams in London are quoted at 50s. to 54s., and at 53s. to 56s. in the former city.

Liverpool prices for Canadian eggs, as quoted by the Anglo-Canadian Produce Co., are 7s. to 8s. per long hundred, or, for preserved, 7s. 3d. to 7s. 9d.

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce of Japan expects a rice crop this year of 44,500,000 koku (a koku equals 4.9 bushels), or 5,500,000 above the average and 4,800,000 above last year's crop. In fact this year's crop will exceed any within twelve years except that of the year 1898, when the crop was 47,387,666 koku. The difference between this and last year's crop in money value will be about 50,000,000 yen, or about \$25,000,000.

One hundred thousand pounds of snails are sold daily in the Paris markets to be eaten by dwellers in that city.

London advices state that a lively demand exists for Irish potatoes, the price being from 65s. to 80s. per long ton for Beauty of Hebron. The "Lake Superior" last week carried a fair-sized cargo of this article from Montreal.

—Among the companies recently incorporated under Quebec provincial laws is La Compagnie de Pulpe de Peribonka; capital stock, \$30,000; they will acquire water power, timber limits and lands for the erection of mills and dam necessary for the manufacture of wood pulp, also to produce electricity in Lake St. John district; also to acquire steamboats for the conveyance of produce, and to carry on a general trading business. Among those interested are T. du Tremblay, of Roberval, and A. E. Vallerand, Quebec.

—It is the opinion of Lord Strathcona, who probably is well informed in the matter, that the Canadian-Australian cable will be ready in two years. He described it as a living issue. It is a vast enterprise, involving the expenditure of about £2,000,000, and will come about in good time. There are five Governments interested besides this immense amount of capital, so if things seem to go a little slowly we must remember these things. Statesmen in England are very much in favor of it. He reminds us that one element to be considered is the increase in the price of material used in cable construction. The rubber for instance, has become much dearer.