

the great demand for gloves, and gamins of Paris find steady and profitable employment catching rats at the mouths of the great drains of the city to eke out the trade. Dogs, and even cats, contribute also, though supplying an inferior article of "kid."

The prospects of the India cotton crop of season 1897 are thus referred to in the Statistical Bureau memorandum, dated August 24th: "The area placed under cotton is everywhere greatly restricted, the rains having commenced generally too late for early sowings. The exhaustion of food stocks, too, and the high level of prices of food-grains, have induced cultivators to substitute such grains for cotton over wide areas. Re-sowings have been made wherever possible in the places where the early sowings of cotton failed, but the prospects up to date of report were not good in Madras, Bombay, and Berar. It seems probable, however, that the rain which has fallen since the date of the reports may have improved prospects. In the other cotton-growing provinces from which reports have been received—the Central Provinces, the North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab—prospects are good, excellent in the first-named, though the area is more or less below the average area."

Further consolidation in the cotton thread manufacture is on the tapis. With the accession of Messrs. Erwen & Roby, of Manchester, the success of the English Sewing Cotton Company is practically assured. The company named will embrace the following manufacturers: John Dewhurst & Sons, Limited, Skipton; Swanlove & Sons, Chesterfield; W. G. & J. Strutt, Belper; Sir Richard Arkwright & Co., Cromford; C. A. Richards, Bell Busk (sewing silks); Bagley & Wright, Oldham; Edward Ashworth & Sons, Bolton; Crawford Brothers, Beith (linen threads); J. & E. Waters & Co., William Waller & Co., and Marsland, Sons & Co., all of Manchester; J. T. Raworth, Leicester, and George Wigley & Co., Derby (sewing silks). Bagley & Wright, of Oldham, who are included in the amalgamation, purchased, eleven years ago, the business and trade marks of William Clapperton & Co., of Paisley, whose braids are well known in the Canadian market. The chairman of the directors of the new company will be Mr. Algernon Dewhurst, J.P., of Messrs. John Dewhurst & Sons, Skipton, while the trustees for the debenture-holders will be Messrs. J. P. Dewhurst, F. C. Arkwright, and G. H. Strutt. The amalgamation will be a distinctly strong one. It is understood, says the *Glasgow Citizen*, that Messrs. Coats and their allies are well aware of the steps being taken for the formation of the new company, and do not regard it with an unfriendly eye. Stability of price will, it is hoped, result from the amalgamation, which will practically include all cotton-thread firms outside of the Central Agency.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

According to reports from Seville, nothing definite can yet be said as to the outlook for the Spanish clove crop, as it is not yet time for an accurate estimate of the goods now in pickle.

Prof. Robertson is off to Grimsby again to get the fruit growers and shippers of the Niagara district of Ontario to take more pains in sorting and packing. Another lot reached Montreal in so overripe a condition that it was not fit to ship to Britain.

Advices by cable report a steady market for figs in Smyrna. Holders in England, according to advices, are declining to fill orders from continental buyers at the prices they have been accepting since the opening of the season owing to the prospect of an advance in the primary market.

Mails from Smyrna state that the market for Sultana raisins has recovered somewhat from the late decline, and is now tending upward, owing to the renewed demand and prospects of a smaller crop than was expected. The "North Cambrain," with 35,000 boxes, is expected to arrive in New York about October 20th.

Mr. W. G. Reid, Hamilton, on Oct. 1st, shipped 2,500 bushels of oats from that city for Trinidad. This is said to be the second shipment in three weeks, the first shipment having been sold to good advantage, and giving satisfaction. Mr. Reid is reported to have orders for 5,000 bushels more for the same market, to be packed in 1,000 bags of five bushels each.

Late advices, says the *New York Journal and Bulletin of Commerce*, state that there will be a good crop of Grenoble walnuts, and that it will be harvested somewhat earlier than usual. The first shipment from Havre will probably be made about the end of this month, arriving here about a week later. The first shipments of new crop Naples walnuts for New York are expected to be made some time this week from Sorrento.

There has been issued as a British blue book a report of the Royal Commission on the West India sugar industry. This report finds that

industry to be in danger of extinction owing to the bounty system and protective tariffs, and suggests relief by encouragement of the trade in fruit with New York. It is proposed that a grant of money from the Imperial treasury be made to encourage this trade, and, besides, the report recommends a loan of £120,000 for Barbadoes for the establishment of central factories, and it also suggests grants of £200,000 to build roads, etc., etc.

Here is a concrete illustration of the worth of cold storage for fruit to Britain. A lot of 267 barrels of apples was carried lately in cold storage to Glasgow. They are reported as having averaged 18 shillings per barrel. At the same a lot of 325 barrels of apples was shipped in the old way to Liverpool, without cold storage, and realized only 8 shillings per barrel. Both lots of apples were from the same stock of the 325 barrels of apples shipped in the old way. One hundred and twenty-four barrels were reported as wet and slightly wet, and 81 barrels were reported as slack. Thus out of the total shipment of 325 barrels without cold storage, 205 arrived in a damaged condition.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Oct. 7th, 1897, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Oct. 7.	Sept. 30.
Montreal	\$14,601,837	\$12,461,980
Toronto	9,052,107	7,347,757
Halifax	1,442,966	1,129,803
Winnipeg	3,116,663	2,649,307
Hamilton	818,060	566,070
St. John	627,216	515,097
	\$29,658,849	\$24,670,014

Aggregate balances this week, \$5,104,174; last week, \$3,785,990.

—A suit to determine the extent to which a stockbroker may advertise his business is brought into the Court of Common Pleas by Dick Brothers & Co., of Philadelphia.* The bill asks for a legal interpretation of one of the Stock Exchange by-laws, which says that no member shall have the right to advertise in anyway that he will buy or sell loans, bonds or stocks, as a class, whether listed or unlisted which are upon the Stock Exchange, without the authority of the governing committee. The penalty for violation is \$100 for a first offence and expulsion from the Exchange for a second. The charge against Dick Brothers & Co. is that they have issued a circular to the public. This the firm contends is not a violation of the by-law, as it is not an invitation to either buy or sell stock, but simply information, in knowing which their clients are interested. Now they ask the court to issue an injunction restraining the Stock Exchange from using the circular letter as evidence of a violation of its rules. A temporary injunction has been granted upon security of \$100.

—The assessable property in Hamilton is valued this year at \$26,971,410, and with the exemptions added the total value is \$31,050,630. The real estate assessment of the city shows an increase of \$315,268 over last year, which is a very slight difference, but the increase in assessable income was \$894,862. For example, assessment of the Canada Life was increased from \$34,000 to \$692,000, the Hamilton Provident and the Landed Banking and Loan Co., also had their assessments materially increased. The population is now 50,038, an increase of less than a thousand on the year.

—The business men of Carberry, Manitoba, have organized a body to be known as the Carberry Board of Trade. At the organization meeting held on the 24th Sept., Mr. J. B. Henderson took the chair. Sixteen members were enrolled and the election of officers resulted as follows: J. B. Henderson, president; G. B. Murphy, vice-president. J. M. Neilson was elected as secretary, J. D. Hunt having resigned owing to press of other business. The following council was elected: Messrs. Maloan, Harrison, W. M. Boyd, White, Stewart, Smale, Manville and May.

—While the speaking at the Laurier banquet was good, from the chairman onward, the grasp and fire of Dr. Parkin's address was the theme of every tongue. Mr. Gurney, who presided, dwelt earnestly upon Canada's desire for more people, and upon the need of an immigration policy framed upon business lines. When he said, further, that the shackles of debt should be removed from every honest bondman, applause indicated the sympathy of many.