

from the Bay inland by Mr. McMurdo, an American citizen, who had a lot of British capitalists in with him, and who resisted the seizure. About 1892 or 1893 a tribunal of Swiss gentlemen was appointed to decide between the claimants. Extensions of time have been repeatedly given by the tribunal, but no award is yet made. Mr. McMurdo is dead but his widow is prosecuting his claim. It must have been before this that the President of the French Republic, Marshal MacMahon, in a reference to him of the counter claims of Britain and Portugal for the possession of Delagoa Bay decided in favor of the latter. But he stipulated that if ever Portugal found it needful to sell or cede Delagoa Bay the British Government should have first chance at it. This proviso very likely has prevented the Boers getting hold of the Bay.—Ed. M. T.]

#### IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

When he was in America last autumn, says The Drapers' Record, Mr. Maddocks enquired there whether there had been any falling off in the sale of piece dress goods, and he was told that the falling off in this department had been very remarkable. A great trade is done in skirts of piece dress goods, and in what are called there "waists," or, as they are called in England, blouses. The quantity of Bradford stuff required for a dress is now much less than it used to be, as the bodice is made of silk or cotton. It is, therefore, rather difficult to keep up the sale of dress goods to the full extent. Of course, there is no new phenomenon, for the rise in popularity of one material generally means a decrease in the demand for some other.

Beautiful to look at and comfortable to wear silk unquestionably is; it may now, says a contemporary, prove to be beneficent to health in a special sense. It has long been known that silk is an "electric"—that is to say, it becomes easily charged with electricity when subjected to friction, which amounts to saying that it is a bad conductor of electricity. According to "Engineering," it is "because of this electric property that, when the shopkeeper unfolds his piece of silk, the folds stick together." The slightest elevation of temperature (the mere heat of the body) in dry weather is very favorable to the manifestation of these phenomena. The electricity contained in silk and wool thus ensures constancy of temperature in the bodies they cover; for when an "electric" tissue, such as silk or wool, is heated, it at once tends to cool, and vice versa, when cooled its tendency is to grow warm. We have in this way an automatically regulated mechanism tending to produce cold in case of heat and heat in case of cold.

#### FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The Bay Verte Fish Packing Co., of N.B., have still 10,000 boxes of last year's fish in their smoke houses. The company is composed of residents of Grand Manan.

The tobacco imports of the Americans in 1899 were valued at \$11,654,893, nearly \$9,000,000 worth being from Cuba and over \$3,500,000 from Holland, being Sumatra leaf.

The Kerr Evaporating Co., whose manufactory is in Caning, N.S., is working night and day on Imperial Government orders. They shipped some four tons in one lot one day last week.

Harriston Pork Packing Company shipped its first consignment of bacon to Liverpool last week. It was a two-car lot, said to be of high grade. The company is killing about 500 hogs per day.

In January 3,342 packages of live lobsters, valued at \$31,858, were shipped from Yarmouth, N.B., to Boston, compared with 3,079 packages, valued at \$44,505, in January, 1899. An increased sale, but at a decreased price.

French wines to the value of millions every year are purchased by the luxurious Yankees. They bought \$4,622,000 worth last year. But their purchases of German wines were only \$1,171,717, which is much less than one would expect.

The lobster fishermen along the north shore of Prince county, P.E.I., are preparing for next season's work. Owing to heavy losses sustained in last summer's gales, fewer people will be engaged in the business during the coming year.

A number of the prominent merchants and business men of St. Thomas met last Friday to discuss the establishment in that place of a canning factory for fruit and vegetables. Mr. J. H. Still was made chairman and Mr. W. H. Murch secretary of the meeting. These gentlemen, together with a committee of five chosen to investigate cost of buildings, plant, etc., will report at a later meeting.

Many American households stick to the use of China tea, for more than \$5,000,000 worth of it was bought by that country last year. They also use great quantities of Japan tea. But they do not, like the Canadians, take so kindly to India tea, as yet. Last year the total purchases of tea by the United States were almost \$11,000,000, nearly half of which was from China, a little less from Japan, and only a half a million dollars' worth from the East Indies.

The imports of raw sugar into the United States were of the value of \$107,137,796 in 1899. The countries it came from were:

East Indies .....	\$30,636,469
Hawaii .....	21,717,480
Cuba .....	17,746,966
Germany .....	10,700,153
British West Indies .....	5,825,818
Other West Indies .....	6,755,100
South America .....	6,231,062
Africa .....	3,782,902
Austria-Hungary .....	2,030,032

—A very significant, but at the same time a very unwelcome statement, was made on Tuesday last by the Mayor of Montreal at the Board of Harbor Commissioners. When the question came up of the appointment of Hon. James McShane to the position of harbor master of the city, several of the commissioners strongly opposed the appointment, notably, Mr. Andrew Allan, representing the shipping interest; Mr. James Crathern, representative of the Board of Trade; Mr. John Torrance, representative of the Corn Exchange, and Mr. Contant, representative of the Chamber de Commerce. These four gentlemen, who were appointed by the commercial bodies of the city, voted nay, but Mayor Prefontaine explained that this was really a political appointment, and the motion was adopted by five votes to four. Here, then, is a plain illustration of the vicious principle that when a political hack is to be rewarded it does not matter that English mercantile bodies protest, that the French Chambre protests, that the very persons with whom the appointee must come most into contact protest, the appointment is forced through. To the victors belong the spoils, is clearly the view taken, and this position is one of the spoils.

—Business men of the British Columbia towns of Silvertown, New Denver, Kaslo and Sandon met some days ago at Sandon for the purpose of trying to adjust the labor troubles caused by the eight-hour mining law. Committees appointed interviewed the mine owners and Miners' Union, and finally advised the miners to go to work at \$3.25 per day, and declared that the mines were open to them at that figure.

—Meetings of companies will be found on pages 1127 and 1128 of the present issue as well as on page 1118, etc.

#### CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Feb. 23rd, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Feb. 22, 1900.	Feb. 15, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$13,629,880	\$13,716,977
Toronto.....	9,866,639	9,477,580
Winnipeg .....	1,733,543	1,582,311
Halifax .....	1,282,746	1,366,303
Hamilton .....	749,174	705,087
St. John .....	578,804	590,462
Vancouver .....	725,369	703,446
Victoria .....	546,964	591,238

\$29,112,619      \$28,732,404

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,068,953; last week, \$4,159,591