

soft that it falls easily into any desired drapery. Pekin stripes are coming in again, and the colored striped moire has not declined in favor, neither have two-toned broches, nor broche evening silks. Damas lame is an oriental looking tinsel mixture used for trimming the front of dresses and for making collars and cuffs. Indeed the demand for all lines of fashionable silks is said to be largely in advance of former seasons. Owing to the increase in the price of the raw material in Europe, there is no uncertain indication that silks will be much dearer, and advances have already taken place in all the staple lines.

This brings us to the ground floor, from whence in due time will issue the little statement of the bookkeeper setting forth in hard cash what the pretty milliner may have committed herself to in her visit to the bewildering regions up-stairs. As she steps out of the elevator, conscious of having tried hard to do her duty by her customers, she naturally prays that they will do the same by her.

DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW.

DALRYMPLE V. SCOTT.—A letter was written offering to sell a quantity of flour on certain terms therein set out, and to it the answer was sent by telegram, "Letter received, offer accepted, writing." No letter was written. The Court of Appeal for Ontario held that these two documents created a complete contract.

CUMMING V. LANDED BANKING AND LOAN CO.—One executor may, without the concurrence of his co-executor, validly sell or pledge assets of the estate to a purchaser or mortgagee in good faith, and the purchaser or mortgagee is not put upon inquiry or affected with notice of breach of trust because the executor is described in the transfer or mortgage as "trustee." Every executor is a trustee, but he does not cease to be an executor and become merely a trustee until the testator's wishes are completely carried out. This is a judgment of the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

IN re PRITTE AND CITY OF TORONTO.—The Court of Appeal for Ontario has decided that a municipal corporation has power to expropriate lands for the purpose of constructing a sewer, and also has power to expropriate, as incident thereto, the right of entry thereto for the purpose of maintenance and repair. The date of the passing of the by-law defining the lands and the nature of the rights required is the date in relation to which the compensation should be assessed.

HETT V. IANSEN.—The Court of Chancery holds that in an action against the owner of a building for damages caused by a defective grating in front of it, in which it was shown that the premises were leased to tenants, who had covenanted to repair and after the expiry of the lease had remained on as tenants, the owner of the premises was not liable.

GUNN V. CALDWELL.—On a sale of land an extension of time for some payments was granted, when some promissory notes made by subsequent purchasers were given to G. as collateral security. The plaintiff discounted the notes, but was obliged to retire them at maturity, and afterwards recovered judgment on them without being able to realize anything. The Court of Chancery decided that this treatment did not make them the property of G., and that in an action to recover the balance of the purchase money he was not bound to give credit for their amount.

STUART V. THE GREENBIE WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS CO.—The Supreme Court of the United States has held that the trust arising in favor of creditors by subscriptions to a stock of a corporation cannot be defeated by a simulated payment of such subscription, nor by any device short of an actual payment in good faith. While any settlement or satisfaction of such subscription may be good as between the corporation and the stockholders, it is unavailing as against the claims of the creditors. In an action by a creditor of a corporation to compel stockholders to pay the amounts unpaid on their subscriptions to stock, where the assessments or calls on the minutes of the corporation do not show that the stock was fully paid for, it devolves on defendants to show what, if any, further payments were made.

THE "LANZHAR."—In an action for limitation of liability, the owner of a ship, which is constructed with a double bottom for water ballast, is entitled, according to the view of the English Court of Queen's Bench, in calculating the gross tonnage upon which his statutory liability in damages is based, to avail himself of the provisions of s. 5 of the Merchant Shipping (tonnage) Act, 1889, and measure to the upper side of the inner plating of the double bottom, so as to exclude the space between the inner and outer plating.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings for week ended Thursday, 25th August. \$10,851,000. Balances, \$1,339,439.

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended Sep. 1st, 1892, are as under:—

	Clearings.	Balances.
Aug 26	\$668,754	\$83,951
" 27	747,769	109,327
" 29	614,523	119,940
" 30	935,373	164,090
" 31	927,726	144,090
Sept. 1	793,039	98,959
Total	\$4,684,984	\$720,521

HALIFAX CLEARING-HOUSE.

Bank clearings for week ending Aug. 27th, 1892, were as follows, viz.:

Monday, August 22	\$129,836 86
Tuesday, " 23	151,885 53
Wednesday, " 24	200,066 14
Thursday, " 25	191,485 19
Friday, " 26	165,922 61
Saturday, " 27	187,055 67
Total	\$1,026,252 00

—According to the *St. John Telegraph*, the provincial government of New Brunswick has passed an order-in-council to assist St. John's harbor improvements. Such an elevator as is contemplated by the terms of the order-in-council will cost about \$80,000, or if enlarged to 500,000 bushels capacity, the cost would be about \$125,000. One appropriation of \$1,000 a year for 20 years, to be asked of the legislature, will be in aid of wharf and warehouse construction, and another of \$1,500 a year for twenty years will go towards the cost of a grain elevator of a capacity not less than 300,000 bushels of grain, with machinery capable of handling 500,000 bushels of grain. The sums named are equivalent to the interest at 4 per cent. of \$25,000 and \$37,500, or \$62,500 in all.

—An Ottawa telegram makes the showing of the Intercolonial Railway for the fiscal year ended with June last \$200,000 better than the previous year. The revenue for 1891-2 is given at \$2,945,441, and the expenditure at \$3,439,377, leaving a deficit of \$493,930. July and August of the present year are said to show a satisfactory revenue, and Mr. Haggart's reductions of expenditure are beginning to tell.

THE COST OF GOVERNMENT IN THE STATES.

The expenditures of a country such as the United States, at the present stage of its existence, reach very large figures. Here is an alphabetical statement, somewhat condensed, prepared by Senator Allison, chairman of the Appropriations Committee. It makes comparison of the appropriations of the first session of the fifty-second Congress with those made at the first session of the last Congress:—

The agricultural bill of the first session of last Congress appropriated \$1,799,100; this session's bill (1892) appropriates \$3,232,995.

Army bill, \$24,206,471, as compared with \$24,308,499 this session.

Diplomatic and consular, \$1,710,815; but it is less this session, viz., \$1,604,045.

Fortifications cost this session only \$2,734,276; the Indians, \$7,664,047.

The legislative appropriation is \$21,899,252, which is \$800,000 more than last.

For the navy this session, \$23,543,385, against \$24,136,000 last, which included \$1,000,000 appropriated by a joint resolution for nickel ore or nickel matte for naval purposes.

For pensions last year the appropriation was \$123,779,368; this session it is \$154,411,682. The former appropriation includes \$25,321,907 pension deficiencies for the year 1890, and the latter appropriation includes \$7,674,332 pension deficiencies for the year 1892.

It costs Uncle Sam a million and a half a week to run his postal machinery. The amount appropriated this year for the Post Office is \$80,331,876, which is eight millions more than in 1891. For rivers and harbors he spends \$21,153,000, a decline of \$4,000,000. There is also a decline in sundry civil appropriations from \$29,738,000 to \$27,837,000.

Deficiencies, \$13,295,541; this session, \$8,211,261. The former appropriation is exclusive of pension deficiencies, which are included in the Pension bill. This same amount also includes \$3,325,000 for the eleventh census, \$1,740,000 for the postal service, and \$1,147,995 for bounties, back pay, etc. Miscellaneous, this session, is only \$3,153,000 where it was \$7,010,000 last year.

The total of the regular appropriations for this session is \$385,837,500, and for the first session of the fifty-first Congress, \$361,770,057, making the appropriations of the first session of the last Congress, as compared with this session, \$17,476,504 less.

The permanent and annual appropriations of this session aggregated \$121,863,880, and for the corresponding session of the last Congress they were \$101,628,453. The grand total appropriations of this session were \$507,701,380, and of the first session of the last Congress \$463,398,510, showing an increase of \$44,322,870 over the bills of the first session of the last Congress.

—"For years," said a woman the other day, "I have never slept without seeing that a couple of silk handkerchiefs hung near my toilet-stand, and that the bowl was half-full of water. When I was a young woman, not out of my teens, I was in a hotel which took fire. I should have suffocated if my uncle, with whom I was travelling, had not thrown a wet silk handkerchief over my face. Thus protected, I followed him through the hall filled with choking smoke and down the stairs to safety. I have taught the practice to my children, and it has become a habit with us all. You want good big ones and they must be wetted thoroughly; then you may, if forced, endure the thickest smoke for a considerable time."

—A Vancouver paper says that a fish dealer in that city shipped east to Calgary a salmon the largest yet reported. Its weight was 70 pounds and it was caught in the Fraser River near Westminster. A couple of other salmon that came over weighed 65 and 68 pounds.