

says is true. This gentleman declares that he is aware from enquiries made, that, in October, there were 600,000 boxes of cheese in cold storage, of the value of \$3,000,000, and this cheese was all of early make—June, July and the early part of August, it being stored with a view of placing it on the English market in the fall and representing it as September make.

With the cold snap the receipts of fresh eggs have fallen off. Stocks of cold storage are well cleaned up and the outlook is bright, with prices advanced. Although the market is now in good shape, for weeks the situation has been full of discouragement. It is questionable wisdom to carry cold storage stock so late in the season; too much dependence must be placed upon that uncertain factor, the weather.

The portraits of three grocers, father, son and grandson, the Parkers, of Pownel, Vermont, appear in the *New England Grocer*, and good looking people they all are. "The story of that Vermont grocery store—the three generations of successful merchants—is of interest. The senior member of the trio is a man who fifty-five years ago started the business which has been by him and his son and grandson so successfully conducted. Four score years and more of age, he lives to see honored and respected descendants pursuing the same high-intentioned methods of mercantile life that have made his name synonymous with all that is commendable and praiseworthy." So, we are glad to believe, there are merchants scattered all over Canada and the States doing business worthily and well.

DRY GOODS ITEMS.

The craze for alpaca continues, and the coarse basket weaves in black are in great request.

A London traveler says the Japanese spinning mills are badly managed. The Chinese management, on the other hand, he compliments highly.

Shipments of linens from Belfast in January exceeded by one-third the average for the same month during the past five years, but the February orders were restricted.

Tulle will be extensively used this season for ruffles, but especially for millinery purposes, the smartest large bows being made of it. It will also be mixed with ribbon.

It is confidently affirmed that buttons will be fashionable, and it is a fact that they are being shown in great variety. The styles of the new costumes, too, are well adapted for the use of buttons.

Much trouble is taken, says a Paris correspondent, to make skirts supple and light, maintaining at the same time that full and rich appearance necessary to the *ensemble* of the present style of toilet.

The home demand in the Dundee linen market during third week of February has been quiet. The American trade was not up to expectations, and coarse goods are especially suffering, the demand being more for the finer kinds.

The largest power-loom in the world has just been built for Porritt Bros. & Austin, of Stubbins, England. The reed space is 28 feet, and a piece can be woven 27 feet wide. Its total length is 38 feet, its width 11 feet, and the weight twenty tons.

In Bradford dress goods, the new orders being placed are for expensive mohair crepons and cream and glaze shade jacquards. For the early spring the best trade is in clean-cut fine serge cloths, which look very much like fine worsted coating for men's wear.

Flowers are everywhere and on everything in the English fashionable quarters. There are necklets composed entirely of flowers, with a bunch of ribbon back and front, from which fall long stems of flowers. There are sleeves of flowers, corsages *decollete*, with flowers all round.

The Lancashire cotton manufacturing trade now embraces 42,681,081 spindles, and 638,469 looms distributed among 1,771 firms. Oldham is still the largest spinning district, with 11,218,369 spindles, Bolton coming second with rather less than half that number, although in weaving it is slightly ahead. Burnley has 76,908 looms and Blackburn 75,453. Preston comes third with 54,394 looms.

The latest arrivals of Canadian representatives on the other side of the ocean include Messrs. A. Foulds, Simonds & Foulds, Quebec; L. H. Gault, Gault Bros. & Co., Montreal; J. Paton, J. Paton & Co., Charlottetown, P.E.I.; S. J. Brown, Macaulay Bros. & Co., St. John, N.B.; H. D. Moses, Moses & Ross, Yarmouth, N.S.; T. Vooght, North Sydney, N.S.; Ed. Wood, Wood Bros. & Co., Halifax, N.S.; A. Kirkpatrick, J. Vassie & Co., St. John, N.B.; W. H. Muldrew, Toronto; F. W. Ayer, D. Munroe, A. Robertson, St. John's, Nfld.

The reports this week from the South of Scotland tweed districts are of rather a discouraging character, says the *Draper's Record* of Feb. 22. Orders are extremely scarce, and in many instances great difficulty is found in keeping the looms going. As a result of the steady

demand for worsteds, Scotch spinners are in rather a trying position. The run upon worsted goods has lasted for a couple of seasons, and the effect upon the Scotch tweed trade has been severely felt. For next season the demand is for homespun, Harris makes, chevots, saxonies and the best worsteds. The leading colorings are tan and fawn mixtures.

About 2,000 of the master tailors and of the so-called "intermediate masters" in the mantle trade in Berlin decided, on Feb. 15, to declare an immediate strike, to continue until their committee had agreed with the committee of the wholesale houses for an increase of wages or a fixed tariff of prices. Four largely attended meetings were also held by the workpeople and seamstresses employed in the millinery trade, in which it was resolved to continue on strike until their demands had been fully granted, and to refuse any proportional increase of wages on the basis of their present earnings, or any temporary concession of a fixed rate of pay. 34,000 men and women engaged in the clothing trade came out on strike. Meanwhile, a settlement has been arrived at between the employees and employers in the men and children's clothing trade, by which a 12½ per cent. advance has been conceded.

METALS AND HARDWARE.

Only 89 kilometers of new railways were completed and opened for traffic in France during last year.

A company is being formed at Moscow, Russia, for the purpose of establishing large wagon-building works in that city.

The poles are being erected between Niagara Falls and Buffalo for the transmission of electric energy from the Falls to that city.

Messrs. Krupp, of Essen, have, it is said, acquired land at Stettin, on which to establish works for the production of armor plate and other ships' defence material.

Telegraphic wire and apparatus connected therewith to the value of £57,224 were exported from the United Kingdom in January, showing an increase of £22,031 over January, 1895.

The machinery for Julius Waterous' new nail works has arrived in Brantford, and it is expected that all the machinery will shortly be in place and nail making begin in Brantford.

An hydraulic forge press is in course of construction at Parkhead Forge (Wm. Beardmore & Co.), which will, it is claimed, be the largest in existence. Its capacity is 12,000 tons, or 2,000 tons more than the largest in the Sheffield armor-plate works.

We learn from James Watson & Co.'s circular of 21st February that the number of iron furnaces in blast in Scotland on that date was 79 as compared with 73 a year before; of Middlesboro' 94, as compared with 93; of Cumberland 38, as compared with 23. The stock of Scotch pig in Connall's stores was 348,000 tons last month against 286,000 twelve months before: and of Cleveland pig iron, 183,000 tons against 103,000.

One might think it belonged to the Royal Canadian Yacht Club this newest of private postal cards, all red and blue and silver flags with P.P.C. on the burgee. But it doesn't. It appertains to the Toronto Radiator folks, who still insist, whether in black ink or in blue ink, in large type or small type, that they are "the largest manufacturers under the British flag." The Safford Line is a smasher, according to the picture, and the snow-plough in front of the engine looks like an upright piano. No wonder the T. R. Co. people are busy; they are hustlers.

There has been a firm tone in the Dutch tin market during the past week, says the *Iron Trades Journal* of Feb. 22nd. Banca tin has been in brisk request at 37½ fl. to 37¼ fl. There has been a good trade done, too, in Billiton tin, from stock, at 36¾ fl. The same authority says: "Quotations in Belgium are firm on the basis of £4 14s. for No. 2 iron for export, with 6s. additional to home consumers. Girders are priced at about the same figure, and sheets are £5 4s. for No. 2, and £5 12s. for steel sheets, both for export. Steel rails are about £4 8s. per ton."

HIDES AND LEATHER NOTES.

Montreal advices of Wednesday are that moderate sales of both Spanish and slaughter sole have been made within the week, and that more enquiry exists for colored and light stock at the hands of manufacturers.

A Detroit correspondent says that jobbers and retail dealers, not only in the city, but in the country, complain of poor collections. Some say that, come to think about it, they are even worse than in 1893, but everybody has got used to prevailing conditions.

A New York State tanner, C. W. Nicholson by name, has found his way to Charlottetown, P.E.I., whence he writes to *Hides and*