

Kid shoes may be kept soft and free from cracks by rubbing them occasionally with pure glycerine.

To wash lace curtains, soak them in clear, cold water, changing the water from time to time until it is nearly clear. Then squeeze them through soap suds, and put them into cold soaped water to boil. Rinse carefully and dip them into thick cooked starch, rubbing with the hands, wring gently and squeeze them, and then pin them down upon a carpet over which sheets have been spread, using a whisk broom upon their edges and pinning each scallop or point to place. Pin the edges straight and evenly, and close the room door to keep out dust. When perfectly dry they are ready to hang. If a blue white tint is desired, put a little bluing into the starch while it is boiling.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

FEDERATION AND HOME RULE.

That Imperial Federation would involve Home Rule for Ireland seems beyond a doubt. Like Archbishop O'Brien himself, the majority of Canadians and Australians are for Home Rule by any means "within the Ten Commandments."

But more than this, if Imperial interests (that is to say, such matters as are now dealt with by the Admiralty and the Foreign, Colonial, and War Offices) are to be managed exclusively by an Imperial Parliament or Congress, it will naturally follow that Provincial legislation should be delegated to Provincial Parliaments—in the three Kingdoms as well as in the other co-ordinate members of the Federation. And, most hopeful of all, the opposition of intelligent Unionists to Home Rule would be largely disarmed by the establishment of an Imperial Federation, for such a signal proof of the Imperial patriotism pervading the whole Empire would, of course, weaken and dishearten the separate party in Ireland. And if Fenians *did* at any time gain a controlling influence in the Irish government, they would feel themselves impotent to rebel; they would no longer evoke any sympathy abroad, and they would have to reckon, not with England or Scotland alone, but with the ever-growing forces of the Federal Empire.

This satisfactory ending of the Irish question would only be the first peaceful victory of Imperial Federation. The second would probably be a prompt, fair and lasting settlement of our fishery disputes. For Imperial Federation, if a dream now, would, when consummated, be a nightmare to all who would fain trespass on the rights of Britons.

PROTESTANT IRISHMAN.

COMMERCIAL.

Little or no change has transpired in the general trade situation during the past week, and, locally speaking, business has jogged along very quietly.

Finer, that is to say warmer, weather has stimulated the growth of vegetables. This fact keeps farmers in the field rather than in purchasing centres, and gives an air of dullness to the retail markets.

It is interesting to note that the new bonds of the Canada Pacific Railway, which are guaranteed by the Government of this country, have been eagerly taken up in the London market at a premium of 2 to 2½ per cent. These bonds bear interest at the rate of 3½ per cent, and were offered at 95 per cent. The principal is secured by mortgage to trustees of the whole land grant of the company, consisting of 14,334,230 acres, which is free from all liabilities, except in respect of the old grant bonds, amounting to about \$330,000. The Dominion Minister of the Interior, with two others approved by the Dominion Government, will act as trustees. The prospectus states that the company's sales in the past year averaged \$3.39½ per acre, and it is believed the land sales will suffice shortly to cover the new issue, when by agreement the bonds will become Dominion Government bonds both as regards the principal and interest.

A correspondent to a contemporary writes:—"Never before has bait been so plentiful and cheap at St. Pierre, Miquelon, as it has been this spring, and the Newfoundland bait law, which was intended to cripple the French fishing industry, has proved itself a complete failure. A number of Newfoundland vessels came up to the Magdalen Islands and loaded up with herring, and took them to St. Pierre. In the meantime the herring struck in abundantly at Bay St. George, and the French fishing fleet went there and baited up, and St. Pierre became overstocked, and herring quoted at 1½ fr. per barrel were unsalable. A number of Nova Scotia vessels sailed for the Magdalen Islands for the purpose of taking herring to St. Pierre for bait, but being long prevented from crossing by the ice, which blocked the passage between Cape Breton and East Point, P. E. I., they reached the M. I. too late, after the St. Pierre market was supplied."

Halifax grumbles at its electric light, and no one can deny that the service is not as efficient as it should be, still, we only pay 22½ cents per light, while New York contracts show much higher figures, as appears by the following return of awards:—"To the Brush company, 141 lamps at 35 cents a night, to the United States electric company, 352 lights at 35 cents, to the East River lighting company, 433 lamps at 35 cents, to the Bell electric light company, 18, at 27½ cents, to the Mount Morris electric light company, 85, at 28 to 60 cents, according to location, to the Harlem electric light company, 19, at 35 to 60 cents, to the North River company, 50, at an average of 35 cents each."

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* warbles as follows, under the heading "A Wealthy Insolvent":—"There are few insolvents who have met with the unprecedented good fortune that has attended the movements of Mr. Robert Stewart since the firm of R. & J. Stewart, of which he was a member, made such a disastrous failure at the time of the collapse of the Maritime

Bank. Mr. Robert A. Stewart is at present the managing spirit of the wealthy lumber concern of Grier & Co., of Ottawa, as well as the perpetual president of the rich New Brunswick Trading Company of St. John, which, by the way, is said to have bought a controlling interest in the Grier estate at Ottawa. In short, Mr. Stewart is considered one of the wealthiest bankrupts on this continent to-day, and why the Maritime Bank has not been able to realize anything from the estate of R. & J. Stewart, as reported in the evidence before the Court at St. John, N. B., is very strange to say the least. Mr. Robert Stewart, according to his own statement a few days ago at Ottawa, has a gold mine in his libel suits against the different newspapers for announcing his firm's failure, as he told a representative of a Boston paper that he wanted a million dollars damages from some one, for publishing the first despatch which let daylight into the financial weakness of R. & J. Stewart."

Not having received our copy of *Bradstreet's* for the past three weeks, we were unable to publish the report of the failures in the United States and Canada. We now present the returns for the past four weeks:—

Week		Prev. week		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date			
May 11.		1888		May 11		1888	1887	1886	1885
United States	177	166	167	166	197	1,069	1,165	1,311	3,209
Canada	29	14	20	30	31	735	600	517	320

Week		Prev. week		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date			
May 18.		1888		May 18		1888	1887	1886	1885
United States	180	177	142	152	164	1,240	1,297	1,406	3,573
Canada	24	20	20	12	22	759	620	529	312

Week		Prev. week		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date			
May 25.		1888		May 25		1888	1887	1886	1885
United States	139	180	107	170	184	4,388	1,401	1,030	3,535
Canada	22	21	17	15	26	781	537	514	328

Week		Prev. week		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date			
June 1.		1888		June 1		1888	1887	1886	1885
United States	123	139	110	159	161	4,511	1,514	1,795	3,715
Canada	28	22	19	16	21	809	656	560	328

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—John M. DeWolfe, carriage maker, Halifax, assigned in trust, Henry Burrill, jr., genl. store, Yarmouth, sold out branch store to Jos. B. Burrill, R. D. Campbell, genl. store, Dingwell, Cape North, sold out to R. E. Burko, and removed to Sydney; W. H. Carey, trader, North Kingston, selling off—going out of business.

DRY GOODS.—The dry goods market has been fairly active, and, in the main, steady. The spring trade is now virtually pretty well concluded, yet a fair sorting-up business has been transacted. Travellers with full lines of samples of fall goods, report having accomplished a little business, but that there is no special anxiety apparent to buy. The cotton "combine" appears to have "disintegrated," and the parties thereto are working on independent lines—at least it is known that prices have been cut, and it is said that some of the members have refused to renew the agreement. It is reported that stocks in manufacturers' hands are very heavy, and cannot be worked off at present. In fact the mills are not believed to be working on a profitable basis. Trade, however, has been, on the whole, fully up to expectations, most seasonable fabrics having encountered a fair sale. The *Irish Textile Journal*, Belfast, says:—"There is no perceptible improvement in trade since last report. Manufacturers are all fairly busy, though still complaining of the poor prices obtainable for cloth, and the spinning branch has not rallied. The operating cause at present appears to be the bad state of the continental linen trade, which is causing surplus stocks of yarns in the heavier numbers to be sent to this country for sale."

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—A steady and what, in contrast with several recently preceding weeks, might be termed an active business, has been accomplished in both heavy and shelf goods, and prices throughout the list have remained regular, without any material fluctuation. A Glasgow cable quotes warrants at 37s. 7d., No. 3 iron at Middlesborough at 31s. 3d. Tin, copper and lead are unchanged. London cables £86 5s. for tin, and £20 5s. for Chili bars.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market has been quiet and no business of importance has been done. Still a few sales have been effected at steady prices. The local demand for flour is slow and very little is accomplished at that line. Beerbohn's cable says:—"Cargoes off coast—wheat quiet, corn, nothing offering, cargoes on passage and for immediate shipment—wheat dull, corn quiet but steady. Liverpool spot wheat neglected. Weather in England cool but finer." The French Country markets are quiet but steady. In Paris wheat and flour are rather easier. The Chicago wheat market has fluctuated considerably and the general tendency is downwards. Late quotations are 84½c. June, 85½c. July and 84½c. August. In that market corn is weaker and declined, standing at our latest quotations at 54½c. June, 54c. July and 54½c. August. Oats improved ½c. to ¾c. being quoted 33½c. June, 33½c. July and 28½c. August. At seaboard wheat was weaker and declined to 91½c. June, 92½c. July 92½c. August and 92½c. September. Corn in New York was about steady. In Toledo, Detroit and Milwaukee wheat, oats and corn have been very weak and declined.—Dornbusch states that:—"The American markets are having a lively time, rapid rise, sudden falls, bulls trying to drive up quotations, bears endeavoring to counteract the movements of the enemy, alarms and excursions, but as far as European markets are concerned the result is not satisfactory to the wire-pullers for a rise. Holders on this side have certainly closed their ranks and prepared for possibilities, but the great mass of buyers are singularly apathetic, knowing that the supply of grain will come in good time from the East and South, thus rendering them practically independent of the Red American contingent." Advices from New York state:—"Buyers were inclined to hold off owing to the depression in wheat, and the individual transactions were not especially noteworthy. Prices, owing to the slowness of trade, were to a large extent