

A Massachusetts debtor has been sent to prison for twelve days for nonpayment of a grocery bill of \$8, amounting with costs to \$23.75, in instalments of 50 cents per month. The debtor is thereby punished, but the grocer is minus the costs as well as the original amount. The instalments ordered were far too small and wide apart. The debtor would have had 47 months in which to pay.

The ninth annual meeting of the London Retail Grocers' Association was held last week with Mr. R. A. Jones, president, in the chair. The supply of some lines of canned goods were reported to be limited, and quotations considerably in advance of last year. The officers elected were: T. A. Rowat, president; J. C. Trebilcock, vice-president; W. H. Branton, treasurer; E. Sutton, secretary; W. H. Ferguson, guard; George Loveless, F. Robinson, N. McLeod and D. Shoebotham, directors.

A meeting of the Dominion Cigar Manufacturers' Association was held in Toronto on Monday last. Those present represented 80 per cent. of the total output. It was decided to ask the Government to raise the duty on imported cigars from \$3 to \$4.50 per pound. This is the United States duty, and the cigarmakers claim that the proposed increase would greatly encourage the manufacture of clear-filled Havana cigars in Canada. The past year, it was reported, had been a prosperous one, the consumption having been 123,000,000 cigars.

In the opinion of The Chicago Tribune only an accident can prevent the breaking of all previous records by the corn crop production of the United States this year. "A canvass of the eight States which raise the bulk of Indian corn in this country warrants an estimate above that of 1896, which heretofore has been the record, and there is much in the advices received to justify a prediction that the crop will approximate 2,500,000,000 bushels. The first corn crop of the country to reach in round numbers 2,000,000,000 bushels was that of 1885," and only eight previous years ever produced this much.

Some very interesting figures indicating the increase in Canada's butter export trade with Great Britain have just been published at Ottawa. Not only is the trade growing in bulk but, as we have elsewhere noticed, the improved quality of the butter as we are sending to the Old Country is creating a very favorable impression. British Board of Trade statistics show an increase in the importation of Canadian butter and cheese that is unprecedented. The export to Great Britain of Canadian butter for the first eight months of the last three years is shown to have been: 1897, 28,668 cwt.; 1898, 45,450 cwt.; 1899, 117,850 cwt. For the month of August, 1897, the quantity of Canadian butter shipped to Great Britain was 10,888 cwt. In August, 1898, this figure was increased to 15,736 cwt., but in August, 1899, the amount had jumped to the tremendous figure of 60,957 cwt., or something over 150 tons per day. In cheese the increase was not relatively so large. Up to Aug. 31 the quantity of Canadian cheese sent to Great Britain since Jan. 1 was 731,080 cwt., as against 687,683 cwt., during the corresponding eight months in 1898.

#### ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

E. H., Hamilton, Bermuda.—Have replied by letter to the first part of your enquiry. The firms you name are the principal Canadian manufacturers of the kind, but there are several others, mostly in Ontario. (2) Your certificate is not worthless; shares of the Consolidated Stock of the Grand Trunk Railway, which were quoted in the London market at  $6\frac{3}{8}$  and  $6\frac{5}{8}$  per cent. two years ago, are now worth  $8\frac{1}{8}$  to  $8\frac{3}{8}$ , according to London quotations of 2nd September.

C. B., Hamilton.—It would be in the year 1888 or 1889. The C.P.R. was not opened through in the year you mention, 1884, and the British Association delegates only got as far as Calgary or thereabout.

—Rather a singular case, that of A. W. Falconer, a quiet-living married school-master at Galt, who is charged with having obtained some thousands of dollars as an agent, for investment on land or loan stock, while in reality he did not invest it at all, but speculated with and lost it. Then he appears to have lied about it, and continued for years to pay interest regularly on money so obtained, fooling the owners of it, some

of whom were women. He was arraigned at Berlin on Tuesday last before Judge Chisholm, charged with misappropriating money entrusted to him for investment, and pleaded not guilty. He elected a summary trial, and Tuesday, Oct. 3, was fixed as the date.

—Owing to the death of Mr. C. M. Taylor, first vice-president of the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company, Waterloo, Ont., the board of that company last week elected Mr. Wm. Snider, merchant miller, Waterloo, to fill the vacancy on the directorate; Mr. Hoskin, Q.C., second vice-president, was moved up to the first vice-presidency, and Mr. B. M. Britton, Q.C., M.P., Kingston, who has been a member of the board since 1883, was made second vice-president. Thus far this year, we are told, the new business of this popular company is in excess of the same period of last year, and the Ontario holds a record for having written in 1898 the second largest amount of insurance of any company in Canada.

—We have received, with the "Compliments of the Superintendent of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada," a copy of the Book of Views of Western Canada, issued by authority of the Minister of the Interior at Ottawa, and intended to describe in outline the interesting points of Western Canada. The little book is an attractive one. The Department has wisely made large use of the pictorial art in addition to brief letterpress, and scenes in prairie farming, ranching, mining and sporting life are numerous. Not so much notice has been taken of the timber and fishery interests.

#### ONTARIO CHEESE BOARDS.

Sixteen boards this week report offerings of 25,139 boxes, which is a considerable decrease from last week's figures, when nineteen boards offered 31,342 boxes. Cheese has moved more freely, as buyers are paying from  $11\frac{1}{2}$  to  $11\frac{3}{4}$  c. per lb. this week, whereas last week the highest price reached was  $11\frac{3}{8}$  c. It is interesting to compare the prices paid during the corresponding weeks of 1897, 1898 and 1899. In 1897 the average price was  $9\frac{1}{4}$  c. per lb., in 1898 prices ranged from  $8\frac{1}{2}$  c. to  $9\frac{5}{16}$  c. per lb., while during the past week as high as  $11\frac{3}{4}$  c. per lb. was paid. We append our usual table:

Boards and Date of meeting.	No. of factor- ies.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price Per lb. Cts.
Brockville, Sept. 21 ..	..	3,458	1,905	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Madoc, Sept. 21 ....	15	790	765	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Brantford, Sept. 22 ..	..	1,596	1,596	$11\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$
Iroquois, Sept. 22....	..	892	..	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Kemptville, Sept. 22..	15	1,065	1,065	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Lindsay, Sept. 22 ....	..	1,462	1,462	$11\frac{1}{2}$ - $11\frac{1}{4}$
Ottawa, Sept. 22 ....	..	2,855	..	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Perth, Sept. 22.....	..	1,400	1,400	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Winchester, Sept. 22 ..	..	710	..	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Belleville, Sept. 23 ..	..	700	55	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Cornwall, Sept. 23 ..	..	1,966	..	$11\frac{1}{2}$ - $11\frac{1}{4}$
London, Sept. 23....	14	1,801	1,246	$11\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$
South Finch, Sept. 23 ..	..	1,750	..	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Ingersoll, Sept. 26 ..	..	1,920	..	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Napanee, Sept. 27....	..	780	320	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Woodstock, Sept. 27..	12	1,994	1,125	$11\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{16}$

#### CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, September 28, 1899, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Sept. 23, 1899.	Sept. 21, 1899.
Montreal.....	\$15,147,587	\$17,001,606
Toronto.....	9,711,388	9,712,194
Winnipeg .....	2,145,616	1,886,448
Halifax .....	1,378,396	1,466,360
Hamilton .....	735,850	885,985
St. John .....	732,696	725,643
Victoria .....	710,974	875,158
Vancouver .....	1,002,147	1,305,097

81,564,654    \$88,858,491

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,251,788; last week, \$5,852,440.