

six months, has ended with 510 games played. Strange to relate, in this intellectual game the Boston men did not lead, for the highest percentage, 89.3, was made by a Philadelphia man, the next two being New Yorkers, while Boston came fifth with 84.6.

A shut-down at two of the big mills at Lowell, Mass., was announced last week, owing to the generally unsatisfactory state of the textile business. The Merrimack mills will shut down their cotton and print works for a week at least. Some 2,600 employees will be thrown out of work, and a weekly pay roll stopped of \$20,000. The Lowell Mfg. Co. will shut down its Brussels department this week, and until further orders will run it every alternate week.

The question how to use cotton mill waste to the best advantage is one of much importance. Evans Arthur Leigh, the American agent of Platt Brothers, of Manchester, England, who are the largest builders of textile machinery in the world, shows a line of goods made from sweepers' waste and printed. These goods are perfect beauties, says an exchange, and were made in Finland, Russia, where they have for many years been produced to quite a large extent.

Commenting on the wool market, the Boston *Journal of Commerce* says it is still decidedly inactive and shows no marked change in its features. Manufacturers have been very scarce in the market, and but few have even taken the trouble to show themselves. The dull trade is, therefore, not even relieved by the presence of the usual buyers. The manufacturers are not oversupplied with work, and while many are employed, others are without orders and shut down.

The export of United States wool to England is no longer being only talked about, it is being done. The *Wool and Cotton Reporter* notes among the important occurrences of last week the shipment of 50,000 pounds of American wool to England by one Boston firm, Nichols & Dupee, and the export of 300,000 pounds of American wool by Eismann Brothers, another Boston firm. "As certain foolish newspapers will immediately dispute these shipments, we give," says that journal, "the names of the shippers."

There is a flax mill at Northfield, Minnesota, turning out some \$200 worth of material per day, that goes to the linen thread makers of the Eastern States to be finished. Next year machinery will be put in at the Northfield mill to make thread and linen fabrics. The farmers of the vicinity raise the flax according to directions given by the mill owners. Provided plenty of water can be obtained to rot the straw, and plenty of the right kind of flax straw raised, such a mill would be a paying enterprise in Manitoba and North Dakota.

A strike has occurred among the employees of the gingham department of the Highland Park Mfg. Co.'s cotton mill of Charlotte, N.C., the first strike of any consequence among the operatives of cotton mills in that part of the South. The strike is the result of a reduction in wages of 2½ cents on the cut. The operatives have been receiving 22½ cents a cut. The strike, unlike those occurring at the northern mills, was not "ordered" by any labor organization, but is the result of a conference on the part of a number of the operatives in their individual capacity. An arbitration committee will be appointed.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Notice is given by the United Felt Factories of an advance of about five per cent. in quotations of felt, owing to the higher price of wool.

Sugars are a trifle firmer in New York; granulated went up a point on Tuesday. In Montreal, however, the feeling in sugars on Wednesday was weak and the demand slack.

The wholesale fruit firm of Rublee, Riddell & Co. was dissolved last week, Mr. W. P. Riddell retiring. The business is to be continued under the style of M. W. Rublee & Co., Winnipeg.

Tobacco Trust shares, a feature of Tuesday in Wall street, opened active and strong again next day, quickly selling up to 90½. Some heavy selling orders when this price was reached sent the stock back to around opening prices. Sugar Trust was fairly active and strong early, selling up to 116½.

It remains to be seen whether the spring freight rates on the Canadian railways, which have just been adopted, will bring any great improvement in the volume of wholesale movement of merchandise. Neither here nor in Montreal has there been much of an increase in new business, a portion of the recent shipments this week being of goods ordered weeks ago and only awaiting the change of rates to be shipped.

The North-West Territories are not going to starve for lack of butchers' meat. Arch. McLean, of Crinan, left for the North-West on March 26th, with 900 head of cattle, loaded at different points along the C.P.R., about twelve carloads being loaded at Glencoe, while Wm. Reid and Wellington Hodgins, Lucan, shipped 200 head of cattle to

Lethbridge on the same day. They were purchased chiefly near London.

Samples of tobacco handed into the office of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, by Mr. S. J. Collum, of Morris, Manitoba, disprove the assertion that this "friendliest of plants," as Charles Lamb called it in his "Farewell," cannot be grown in that Province. These specimens were grown and cured by French-Canadian farmers in the vicinity of Morris. Mr. Collum asserts that it has been successfully cultivated there for the past fifteen years.

The market for manufactured furs is much depressed. The untoward commercial conditions in the United States are most unfavorable to business. As a consequence, the Hudson's Bay sales in March were by no means animated. Compared with March, 1895, black bear skins were 40 per cent.; brown bear, 50 per cent.; silver fox, 25 per cent.; red fox, 30 per cent.; mink, 10 to 30 per cent.; lynx, 35 per cent.; wolf, 15 per cent.; hair seals, 20 per cent. lower.

A curious project is mooted by some New Yorker who aims to do away with the wholesale grocer. A prospectus bearing a symbol consisting of four links united, has been issued from the "Office of Consolidated Grocery Company, importers, wholesale grocers and commission merchants, 91 Hudson street, New York, an organization to consolidate the interests of the retail grocers in New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City, and within a radius of thirty miles of New York City."

A merchant in Stamford, Connecticut, has had the temerity to stamp on all bank bills passing through his hands an advertisement of his business. They went through many hands and in several instances customers have refused to take them from their storekeepers. Inquiries have been made at the bank whether or no such mutilation of the bills makes them worthless. But while the bankers don't approve of such advertising, they admit that the bills retain their face value even in this form, as at present there is no law against such practices.

Appearances point, at last, to progress in our butter trade with England. The Mother Country imports every year some 60,000,000 pounds of butter, and Canada supplies but one and one-half per cent. of their amount. Canadian dairymen have hitherto given their almost exclusive attention to cheese; but values in the cheese market are now so low that the dairymen are compelled to look elsewhere for a more remunerative employment of capital. A number of Ontario cheese factories have been fitted up with creamery plant, and a merchant conversant with dairy interests in the Province predicts that fifty creameries will be added this season to the number already in operation in Ontario.

"Some Foreign Trees for the Southern States" is the title of a bulletin prepared for the United States Department of Agriculture. The trees described and recommended for trial in the Southern States are cork, oak, wattle tree, eucalyptus and bamboo. * * * The cork oak (*Quercus suber*) is not unknown in America. The Agricultural Department distributed acorns of the tree as early as 1858 in the South and in California. Then there is the wattle tree, a native of Australia, belonging to the acacia family, and related to our black locust, red bud, coffee tree, etc. This tree is valuable for tanning purposes. Its bark contains two or three times more tannin, or tannic acid, than American oaks and hemlocks. It is propagated from seeds.

METAL TRADES.

Iron articles will seldom rust if they have been cleansed from oil by hot soda water and afterward dipped in hot lime water and dried.

It is estimated that 30 per cent. of the iron manufactured by Tennessee is sold outside of the southern States. It is said to be the favorite iron with pipe, plough, and stove makers in the east and north.

The Robb Engineering Company, of Amherst, N.S., has received an order for a 250-horse power cross compound Robb-Armstrong engine, and two 125-horse power boilers for the Cornwall, Ont., street railway.

Pig tin is higher in New York, sympathizing with fluctuations in London, and prices went up on Monday to \$13.40 net cash and \$13.45 to 13.50 f.o.b. for lots of five tons or more. Pig lead dull at steady prices, say, \$3.10 to 3.12½ for spot delivery.

An American journal expresses the conviction that the sale of bicycles has not interfered with the legitimate sale of vehicles. "A carriage dealer who sells a hundred wagons in twelve months will not sell one less on account of his bicycle business—no matter how much he may hear to the contrary." We very much doubt the conclusion.

The American copper market is in an unsettled state. Orders from home consumers and from exporters are but light. Sales could not have been made on Tuesday in New York in a large way at over 10½c. for Lake Superior ingot, 10½c. for electrolytic and 10½ to 10½c. for casting stock, says the *Bulletin*. London cables came slightly lower.