

Dominion Government will be asked to appoint inspectors to examine all such imported stock.

A gradual but steady advance in both beet and cane raw sugars is reported from abroad and the New York granulated market is excited. The anticipation of an advance in Canadian prices has caused a revived activity in demand since our last, and yellows are firmer by a sixteenth.

The heaviest shipment of German refined sugars that ever reached Montreal, some 7,000 to 8,000 bags, arrived at that port on Monday, and has had some effect, probably, in checking an advance in Canadian refined, which was deemed probable by reason of the bull news from abroad about sugar.

There is great activity in the potato trade around Shediak, N.B., says the *Moncton Times*. The purchases of them will reach between 60,000 and 70,000 barrels, or nearly 200,000 bushels. The price paid was \$1 a barrel for some time, but is now 90 cents. Nearly all will go to the West Indies and Bermuda. Commencing nearly twenty years ago in a small way, it has grown until now there are seven or eight warehouses, mostly frost-proof and some of very large size with stone basements.

An order-in-council has been passed permitting United States fishing vessels on the Pacific Coast to land their fish from the deep sea at Canadian ports and have them exported in bond to the United States. The city of Vancouver has been for some time past pressing upon the Government to permit this, as it would bring a large trade to the port which at present was done at American ports. On the other hand, the city of Victoria was not in favor of it. Instructions have been forwarded to the collectors of customs on the Pacific Coast to permit the landing of fish from the deep sea and exporting in bond to the United States for six months only. As there is no arrangement for American ships purchasing supplies, it is doubtful how the order will work.

The sugar-refining interests have been often accused of extorting money from the public by means of unlawful combinations in restraint of trade. The following extract from the annual report of the Acadia Sugar Refining Company, to be presented at the fifth annual meeting, on December 2nd, is in this connection significant: "The directors beg to submit herewith the balance sheet of the company for the year ending September 30th, 1897. The business of the year has resulted in a loss of \$21,082.19, which was due to continued depression in trade, extreme competition, and a further decline in the value of sugars. The balance at debit of profit and loss at the close of last year was \$68,354.24, to which has been added the present year's loss, making the amount at the debit of this account \$89,436.43, which is carried forward. The insurance on the property destroyed and damaged by fire at Moncton was duly collected by the Eastern Trust Company, as mortgagees, and the amount, with accrued interest, \$59,198.57, is held by them, as shown in the financial statement. The efficiency of the refineries at Woodside and Richmond has been fully maintained."

The position of tea during the month, says a Colombo circular, October 7th, has altered considerably. Telegrams from Calcutta give a considerable reduction of the estimate, and from the following figures relative to manufacture and original estimate, it will be seen that it is quite possible that even the present estimate may not be obtained, the more so as indications point to the early setting in of the cold weather. This strengthens the position of both Indian and Ceylon tea very materially, and it seems quite possible that even higher prices may be reached than those yet obtained. Figures referred to: Manufactured to August 31st, 1897, 79,435,429 lbs.; original estimate of crop for 1897, 156,669,112 lbs.; revised estimate of crop for 1897, 148,011,705 lbs. The Ceylon official estimate for September was 7 to 7½ millions, whereas only 6½ has gone forward to the United Kingdom. October will probably be about 7 millions. Owing to a breakdown in the railway, caused by a landslip, supplies in the immediate future are likely to be curtailed, as it is reported the slip will take a fortnight to remove, and transport by cart is necessarily slow.

#### ITEMS RELATING TO DRY GOODS.

Crimping or gauffering, as applied to materials, is making rapid progress in Paris, and promises to constitute a very important feature of fashion.

A novel weave is produced in Berlin by a machine that weaves two colors in the warp and two in the woof. The effect is very tasteful, and the design does not become apparent unless the cloth is moved or falls in folds.

News comes from Paris that the new prefect of police, M. Blanc, has issued an order forbidding women to wear high hats in the theatres. Well done, and pluckily done, M. Blanc. But we may remember that

the chief authority of Chicago issued an edict of the same kind, but high hats are still worn in Chicago.

"Our minister preached a sublime sermon, Sunday," observed madame. "I did enjoy it so much. And right in the middle of it I hit on how to have my black serge fixed over. The whole scheme came like a miracle, and will work out no end of swell. That frock has been such a torment—I have had no good of it at all. It hung in the wardrobe, a reproach and a waste of material. Sermons are so beneficial. You really ought to go to church oftener. I am ashamed that you missed that one last Sunday."—*Chicago Post*.

Some observant hatter has been keeping track of the sizes of men's heads and writes the result of his observations to the *Apparel Gazette*. He has found that the demand for the various sizes run about as follows: Of his total sales, one-fifth consisted of hats 7½ in size; for 7 and 7½ the demand was represented by 17 per cent each; for 6½, it was 15.6 per cent., and for 7½ size 12½ per cent. Sizes No. 6½ and 7½ sold in the proportion of 7.3 per cent.; size 7½ at 1.66 per cent., while only .83 per cent. of his customers asked for the unusually large size of 7½.

Even the big monopolistic concerns, with tens of millions of capital, cannot always show monopolist profits. Last week, we are told by cable, shares of the Coats, as the great thread combine is known, dropped 11 points when an unfavorable annual report came out showing that the profits during the past year have fallen off \$500,000. It is some eighteen months since the announcement that J. and P. Coats, Clark and Company, Jonas Brooks and Bros., and James Chadwick and Bros., amalgamated under the name of "The Coats Thread Company, and it was added that the company would raise the total nominal capital from \$28,850,000 to \$36,500,000. Great as the decline in profits appears when we hear the words "half a million," it represents only one-and-a-third per cent. on the enormous capital of this concern.

The furs to be worn this season are very elaborate, and resemble closely those worn by the beautiful women who sat for Sir Joshua Reynolds, Gainsborough and Romney. A set of chinchilla is typical of the present trend of taste in furs. The cape is very full and falls to just below the shoulders. Below the edge of the cape is a mass of foamy ruffles of pink satin and white lace. The high, flaring collar is lined with a mass of pink and white frills, and a broad pink satin ribbon comes around the neck outside of the collar and fastens in a big bow in front. The ermine capes, lined with Marie Louise blue satin, are as old-timey looking as those moth-eaten heirlooms from our great grandmothers. The soft, fluffy, blue-gray moufflon fur, so pretty and becoming for young girls and young women, is much worn. Pretty sets, including toque, muff and boa, are made of ostrich feathers in the natural tint, half brown, half gray, and trimmed with ruched frills of chiffon. An odd set of mink has a toque with crown of panther-spotted beaver, with two long plumes and a blue velvet bow for trimming.

The movement for the creation of a European Exporters' Association for the protection of creditors' interests in connection with Canadians on Canadian estates, is proceeding apace. In connection with it I have been shown a letter from a large Manchester firm, expressing pleasure at the news of the movement for "the rectification in some greater or lesser degree of the existing inequalities to which British houses are subject in the laws of Canada relating to insolvencies." Referring to recent failures in Canada, the writer of the letter says that "the circumstances connected with one or two of them have not been such as to inspire unbounded confidence in the methods of working such matters. In one case we see steps taken, in a matter of appointing a liquidator, in opposition to which the major interest (in this case European) have ranged themselves. In another case we find that the committee of inspection is presided over by the largest creditor in Canada, and that during the proceeding this creditor firm has had its goods returned (by a back door), to the detriment of the estate." These and other expressions of opinion show that the commercial community has been thoroughly roused as to the necessity of action in the matter, and I am glad to see that in Canada also the movement is receiving support. The presence of the Hon. W. S. Fielding, the Canadian Minister of Finance, at the meeting referred to, greatly increases the importance with which the proceedings will be regarded by the commercial community.—*Draper's Record*.

#### METALS AND HARDWARE.

A despatch of 12th instant from Ishpeming, Mich., thinks it safe to predict that throughout the Lake Superior iron mining districts the close of navigation will see less ore in stock at the mines than at the end of any shipping season since 1890, at the close of which year the stock piles were swept with brooms to get the last pound of ore. The Gogebic mines are more completely cleaned out of ore than at the close