

In London, England, the other day, an extraordinary occurrence took place. While some workmen were removing wooden blocks from the roadway on Charing Cross Road, an iron spike was driven in too far, piercing the electric lighting cables. These immediately fused, and the covering of three cable boxes were blown off. Fortunately, no one was injured. The fusing of the wires spread rapidly, and at different points in Charing Cross Road smoke began to issue from the gratings and cable boxes. Two fire engines were quickly on the scene, and a large number of police were summoned.

FOR DRY GOODS DEALERS.

A St. John despatch states that Judge Barker has made an order for the foreclosure of the mortgage held by Keltie, Jones and others against the Parks Cotton Co., whose mills have now been idle some months.

American hat manufacturers are now reported to be manipulating the formation of a combine under the title of the United Hat Manufacturers of the United States.

A Nottingham letter says:—"Many branches of the lace trade are in a very dull state. In fancy millinery departments good qualities of Valenciennes, torchons, malines and some heavy laces with allover nets and galoons are in favor. Fancy Plauen laces are not so much in request. There is no improvement in the cotton embroidery trimming department, and Irish crochet trimmings move slowly. The silk lace branches are depressed, but specialties in plain and fancy veilings are selling steadily. A large business is being done in Honiton braids, beadings and purls, and manufacturers of caps, aprons, collarettes, shirts, ruffles and articles of underwear are well engaged. Bobbin nets are in moderate request, but there is a fair demand for Brussels, Bretonne and Mechlin tulle, as well as for spotted nets.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Owing to the reduced acreage of broom corn planted this year and the strong position of the market, the prices of brooms across the line has been advanced materially.

Another fish hatchery is to be established by the Dominion Government in British Columbia—probably at Lakelse, Trout Lake. The fishing interests are very pleased with the news.

It is stated that the vegetable packers have now disposed of last year's pack and that the canneries are operating on the lines laid down last spring, whereby the pack was to be less by 30 per cent. than last year. Prospects would appear to be pretty good.

Mail advices from Saigon, dated June 6, say that the predictions made at the beginning of this season as to the yield of the rice crop being some 25 per cent. below last year's harvest seems to be realized, as stocks in the interior are already said to be low and decreasing rapidly. The shortness of crop, combined with the pretensions of natives not to part with their supplies except at enhanced prices, tends to keep our market firm and out of reach of some of the importing markets, especially Europe.

The annual conference of the British Grocers' Federation was held at Brighton, Eng., early this month. Among the business brought forward were motions calling on the railroads to give the members of grocers' associations special rates for such occasions; the establishing of rules to govern contracts to be made by the trade by which business should be regulated, condemning the system of private auctions in the tea trade, early closing, etc.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

The following enquiries were received at the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute during the week ended 13th July:—

A London firm desires to be placed in communication with Canadian shippers of beans and peas.

The manufacturers of brick-making machinery seek the services of an active Canadian resident agent to introduce their goods.

A North Country house asks for names of Canadian shippers of scrap and old metals.

An old established manufacturer of carbonic papers and other stationery supplies would like to establish some trade in Canada.

The following were among the inquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the High Commissioner's Office in London during the week ending 12th July, 1901:—

Inquiry is made for names of manufacturers in Canada of iron and steel work, cast and wrought iron piping, steel plates, steel angles, etc.

A well known firm of stationers in London are open to take up the agency for England for any Canadian specialty in their line of business.

The names of Canadian exporters of cheese-box wood and hoops for barrels are asked for.

A Manchester firm asks for the addresses of Canadian paper mills supplying "news."

A correspondent in Ontario asks for names of dealers in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, etc., who will be prepared to import baled hay this season.

SEA-SIDE DELIGHTS

A Halifax correspondent says, with relation to the impending advent down thereabouts of a number of Ontario and Quebec newspaper men on a press excursion: "I am glad to hear that you are thinking of coming down this way again. If you were down here now you might go to the Yacht Club in the morning for a dip in the salt water. I have had to go alone of late, since my Ontario chum has gone away. I have done a lot of sailing this year. Almost any afternoon we can get out at five o'clock for an hour and a half, and with the thermometer at 90° in the city that is a great comfort.

In most commercial directions business is fair. We are hoping to have a steel ship-building plant in Halifax; and, if we are fortunate enough to get it, things should boom here. We need something of the kind, because we have so few manufactories."

—The Summer School of Science for the Maritime provinces opens its annual session next week at Lunenburg, which has been called "the Gloucester of Canada." The town is not only interesting from a scientific and historic point of view, but is a resort of the summer tourist. Some of the most beautiful spots in the province are within easy distance, such as Deep Cove, Chester, Aspatogan, the LaHave, and Oak Island, the supposed hiding place of Captain Kidd's treasure. The Summer School, with its valuable course of lectures, concerts, etc., is open to all who wish to attend. Full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. J. D. Seaman, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

—It is agreeable to learn, as we do from Victoria under date 18th July, that it has been decided to change the name of the "British Columbia Board of Trade" to that of the "Victoria Board of Trade." The change ought to have been made sooner. For a dozen years at least it has been a misnomer. The Victoria Board could not be said of late to express the opinion of British Columbia at large, as was to be expected from its title. The development of the province has put it out of the power of any body on Vancouver Island to so represent it. The new title of the body is much more appropriate.

—At a meeting of the Kentville Board of Trade letters and reports were announced from the Halifax Board, from the N.S. Tourist Association, from the Annapolis Board in re Forestry in Nova Scotia, and from the New England Free Trade League. Sewerage and water supply were discussed; and the need of painting or in some way lessening the ugliness of telegraph and telephone poles was commented on in strong terms. This is a matter that interests scores of pretty places besides Kentville. The matter of the incorporated towns being represented in the county councils was discussed, the position of the towns under present laws is briefly stated in the phrase—"Taxation without representation." In many affairs of vital importance to towns the inhabitants are quite at the mercy of the municipal councils. Although no communication had been received from the secretary of Maritime Board of Trade in regard to the annual meeting to be held in Chatham, N.B., in August, it was thought well to appoint delegates, who were accordingly chosen.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, July 25th, 1901, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	July 25th, 1901.	July 18th, 1901.
Montreal.....	\$17,353,962	\$19,722,149
Toronto.....	10,839,309	11,992,654
Winnipeg.....	1,860,468	2,035,426
Halifax.....	1,795,781	2,096,815
Hamilton.....	699,353	824,301
St. John.....	809,537	1,019,445
Vancouver.....	1,258,133	855,847
Victoria.....	616,879	738,169
Quebec.....	1,453, 33	1,594,916
	\$36,687,255	\$40,879,722

Aggregate balances, this week, \$ 5,754,124; last week, \$4,974,122