

report from Liverpool, that even when English fruit is unsaleable, a ready market has been found for some of the best varieties of American, but the venture is, of course, always a speculative one. With regard to winter stock a lower range of prices, as compared with last year, must be anticipated until October, when markets should be cleared of English and ready to receive imports. Values will then be guided by the quantities received. The consumption of apples in Great Britain is a steadily increasing one, and there is no reason for supposing that it should not continue to be so. Last year, in spite of the enormous quantities of apples imported into that country, and of the variable quantity of many shipments, there was at no time any real collapse of the market, and taking prices throughout the whole season, they held up wonderfully well.

A despatch from Yokohama, Japan, says that choice high grades of good cupping quality have been in general demand. At present the demand is active for medium and low-grade leaf suitable for making pan-fried or sun-dried tea. On account of the scarcity of high grades prices remained very firm for these sorts, but gradually declined on the medium and lower grades of late arrivals. Second crop teas will be on the market in a few days; style and cup quality are reported to be good. Of medium and lower grades there was an abundant quantity. Medium to choice grades of basket-fired leaf were exceptionally scarce, style of late arrivals being below the average. Quality of higher grades slightly inferior, but lower grades show an improvement over last year's offerings at this time of the season. Style in general to date has been inferior to teas of last season. Kobe market.—The higher grades on the same basis, but lacking the fine quality and style of Yokohama leaf. The lower grades show light liquor and fair leaf; prices at present are comparatively low.

DRY GOODS ITEMS.

The fall millinery opening at Toronto will probably take place on Monday, the 29th inst., the week of the Exhibition.

As a result of the cotton mill strike at Fall River, Mass., in which eighty-one factories and twenty-six thousand operatives are involved, hundreds of French Canadians are reported to be returning to Canada, where they will remain until the mills reopen.

The report of the English Sewing Cotton Company, London, for the year ending March 31st, last, just issued, shows a very satisfactory improvement in earnings. After wiping out a debit of £64,177 from the previous year, there remains a net balance of £106,051, enabling the directors to pay arrears of preference dividend for eighteen months, and to carry forward £31,051. The net profit from the year's trading amounted to £170,829.

The Russian flax crop is described as very behindhand. In some districts sowing was not over till the middle of July, the weather having been very unfavorable. The Siberian districts are perhaps the worst and as large levies are being made among the peasants for war purposes the prospects are bad. As Ireland uses such large quantities of Russian fibre anything that affects the Russian crop influences the linen trade, even though the home flax crop should turn out to be everything that could be desired.

A New York millinery expert forecasts that this winter velvet will reign supreme, especially the plain rich lustrous pliable kinds. The new shapes in hats make it obligatory that velvet shall be the fabric most employed by the milliners. It will be the large-crowned hat with a brim of more or less curving tendency that will be prominent in this field of fashion. This will be a plain-covered hat, and require the richest of materials to perfect it. Even the smaller shapes, which will continue in vogue, will be made of velvet, but for them it will be draped in graceful folds, which results can only be obtained by the use of supple and light-weight velvets. The trimmings to be used will be the ostrich plume and tip, the coque and like feathers, and roses in rare shades and unusual size. Ornaments will come in for a fair share of attention with this certain revival of the crowned hat.

LIFE INSURANCE NOTES.

The annual colonial examinations of the Institute of Actuaries are to be held in April next. The precise date will be found in our advertising columns. The cities in which they are to be held are: Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa, in Canada; Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane in Australia; Wellington in New Zealand; and Cape Town in South Africa. Candidates are required to give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretaries in London, England, and pay a guinea fee before 31st January. The supervisor in Toronto is Mr. T. Bradshaw.

—The Toronto Star's third edition of its Summer Resort Guide is now issued, and fills an ever recurring summer want. It gives in concise form easily understandable directions as to how to reach the various pleasure resorts in Canada, after giving a few hints on the difficult matter as to which place to choose for the proposed outing, out of so many which this Canada of ours offers. It gives, too, the distances necessary to travel in each case, the cost of getting there, and the names of the various hotels, with their charges and proprietors' names. It is a veritable "silent guide" whose pages are always ready unobtrusively to offer us the information everybody feels so much need of at this time of the year.

—Northern Alberta's great summer fair, held at Edmonton on June 30th and July 1st and 2nd, was a great success, the weather being ideal and the show very fine. Entries of live stock were much more numerous than ever before, and in character this department showed, according to all reports, very great improvement. There is, without doubt, a promising future for this most important branch of farming in Alberta.

—We observe that the New Zealand Government proposes to appoint a High Commissioner, to reside in London. "King Dick," as the strenuous present Premier of that colony is nick-named, may be the lucky first occupant of the position, as his health is hardly equal to the strain of party politics. The general opinion in Britain seems to be that Mr. Seddon will make an admirable High Commissioner, who would lose no opportunity of pushing forward the interests of his country.

—Referring to the fact that this year the East goes West to see the Dominion Exhibition at Winnipeg, and that last year both East and West went to Central at Toronto on a like errand, the Maritime Merchant points out that to preserve symmetry in the arrangement of things, next year's Dominion Exhibition should be held in the Maritime Provinces. There is no good reason why the East should not have the \$50,000 Dominion Government grant for a big exhibition next year, while there are many reasons in favor of its having it. Central and Western Canada do not know as much about our Atlantic Provinces as they should.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

	Aug. 4th.	July 28th.
Montreal	\$19,394,462	\$20,236,581
Toronto	14,567,136	15,340,305
Winnipeg	5,585,811
Halifax	2,402,463	1,771,816
Hamilton	1,050,383	913,425
St. John	982,360	978,905
Vancouver	1,475,466	1,350,301
Victoria	697,851	481,810
Quebec	1,464,230
Ottawa	2,040,751	1,840,931
London	677,423	795,431
.....	\$50,759,546