

centres of the Dominion with a complete list published in our issue of March 23rd 1877. Among the Montreal firms included in that list the following rode out the storm successfully, and some appear to have made money all along even during the darkest period:

General Dry Goods.

Gault Bros. & Co.
S. Greenshields, Son & Co.
Jacques Grenier & Co.
P. M. Galarneau & Co.
J. Y. Gilmour & Co.
James Donnelly & Son.
Hodgson, Sumner & Co.
James Johnston & Co.
Lamarche, Demers & Prevost.
F. & J. Leclair & Co.
McIntyre, French & Co.
McLachlan Bros. & Co.
Mackay Bros.
J. G. Mackenzie & Co.
P. P. Martin & Co.
Ogilvy & Co., (Toronto).
A. Prevost & Co.
Robertsons, Linton & Co.
Stirling, McCall & Co.
Thibaudeau Bros. & Co.
W. J. McMaster & Co., (Toronto).

The list has received considerable accessions meanwhile: Mr. S. Carsley has added a wholesale department to his business; Sutherland, Lindsay & Co. began last spring, and two new firms are just opening in this line, Reid, Lonsdale & Co., and Beall, Ross & Co. Among the recent additions may also be mentioned Messrs. Robt. Dunn, Jas. Brown & Son, and H. R. Beveridge & Co., and branches of the Toronto houses of Wyld, Brock & Darling, and Hughes Bros. The fancy goods department is represented by Messrs. Hodgson, Sumner & Co., Thos. May & Co., John McLean & Co., and Paterson Bros. The woollen goods trade has lost two houses, and is now represented by

Cantlie, Ewan & Co.
M. Fisher & Sons.
David Morrice & Co.
S. H. & J. Moss.
F. Stephen & Co.
Mills & Hutchison.

The shirt and gentlemen's furnishing branch is represented by Skelton Bros. & Co., Tooke Bros. & Co., and A. H. Sims & Co., &c. The wholesale clothing department is represented by Messrs. H. Shorey & Co., J. O'Brien & Co., W. Ewan & Co., Mackenzie & Co., C. Huston & Co., and J. S. Evans & Co.

There were meantime some twelve failures in general dry goods; three in fancy and dry goods; two in woollens; three in gentlemen's furnishings; and three in wholesale clothing; some twenty

three in all. Two houses removed to Toronto.

It is impossible to estimate the wants of four millions of people who have been severely economizing during the last four or five years, and who now begin to find themselves becoming possessed of greatly enlarged purchasing powers, what with repeated good crops, increased wage-power of prosperous manufactories, good prices for lumber and grain, and a great increase in the consumption of all goods to supply the wants of thousands of probable railway workmen in the North-West, but it is scarcely too much to say that the dry goods trade is entering upon one of the most successful eras that it has yet seen, and it is to be supposed that the number of new firms will increase in that department until the reaction begins to show itself again.

BEEF SUGAR.

Dr. William McMurtrie, of the American Agricultural Department, has completed his report to that Government on the manufacture of sugar from beets, in France. This report cannot fail to be of interest to Canada, as it justifies the hopes entertained of a successful culture of the root in several provinces of the Dominion. The best localities for beet raising in the United States, according to Dr. McMurtrie, are New England, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dakota, Washington Territory, Oregon and California, and one or two counties in Pennsylvania. The isothermal lines of this continent indicate the adaptability of a large area in Canada for this purpose, the temperature being identical with the States above mentioned. Seventy degrees Fahrenheit are considered as the most desirable temperature for the cultivation of the beet, and not less than two inches of rainfall for the summer months, with an average of ten rainy days to the month. These deductions drawn from statistics compiled in localities where the beet thrives best, answer exactly to the rainfall and average temperature observed and noted by the Meteorological Bureau of Toronto for the Province of Quebec, and, consequently, the raising of beet root may enter into the regular agricultural production of the country. Its importance as an industrial production may be inferred from the fact that the number of operatives employed in the beet sugar manufacture in France, in 1875, amounted to 51,023 men, 9,367 women, and 8,192 children, which figures do not include persons employed in the cultivation of the root. The report contains several chapters on the choice of

soil and its preparation, planting, cultivating, harvesting and preserving the beet; we cannot enter into the details, but the fact is fully established that the production of sugar from the beet affords work in the field and in the factory throughout the year. Statistics presented in the interesting report of Dr. McMurtrie show that the cost of raising a ton of beets is, in France, about \$4. The total cost of manufacture in 1873 and 1874 was \$7.09 per ton, and in 1877 and 1878, \$6.89 per ton. Dr. McMurtrie estimates at \$3 the cost of extracting the sugar from a ton of beets in the United States.

In view of introducing the sugar beet in this country, and the manufacture of sugar from it, an exemption of excise duty for a certain number of years has been asked from the Government. Even promises to that effect by members of the Cabinet do not seem sufficient, and we are told that a guarantee has been asked from the Federal Government at Ottawa against any reduction of the import duties now levied on foreign sugar. Every one knows that a very large portion of the fiscal revenue is derived from foreign sugar either refined, or imported here to be refined. To protect a new industry, however important it may eventually become, to such a degree as to endanger the actual revenue of the country, is a matter of too great importance to be left to the decision or to the pledging of Cabinet Ministers, and Parliament alone ought to decide. The pledge demanded from the Government not to change or modify the existing duties on imported sugar for five years cannot readily be given, as events may occur, or commercial relations with our neighbors may be so altered as to make a modification of our tariff quite desirable, and any binding to the contrary may prevent an advantageous exchange between the two countries. Beet root culture in Europe is not entirely devoted to sugar making; a certain portion of the crop in France and Germany is raised for the production of alcohol, and there is no reason why the raising of beets in this country could not be devoted to the same object. The exportation of alcohol made of cereals, has become very large in the United States, and takes in Europe the place of alcohol from wine.

Manufactured in bond, alcohol from beets as well as alcohol from corn might perhaps compete in the European markets with alcohol distilled from the same material, and cause the Canadian product to be sought after to some extent in preference to grain. The farmer would not be slow to realize the benefits; besides,