

In New York State the number of establishments in which strikes were inaugurated in 1882 was 817. In 1883 the number of establishments involved was 952, in 1884 931, and in 1886 the number fell to 647, but in 1887 the number reached 4,490 establishments, or 1,143 more than the combined number for the preceding four years.

The people of Owen Sound are enthusiastic over the establishment of a big iron ship yard by the Pease Iron Works Company, of Toronto. It is the intention to contract for the building of iron steamers, constructing the hulls at Owen Sound works, and the engines at their factory in Toronto. They will follow the Clyde style of construction, and for the present it is their intention to import the steel plates required from Scotland. Scotch steel can be brought into Canada free of duty cheaper than that manufactured in the United States. An order of about 1,000 tons of steel, to be used in the construction of the new C. P. R. boat, is now on the way from the Old Country.

As showing the direct Canadian trade, which is by means of her connections at present possessed by this country, it may be noted that the S. S. *Parthia* on her trip from Vancouver for Yokohama, had in her cargo 6,000 sacks of flour and 620 bales of Canadian cotton piece goods. We want foreign markets as well as those which we possess at home, and we are glad to see that they are gradually opening up.

COMMERCIAL.

The general state of trade has been satisfactory. The continued wet weather has, naturally, had a rather depressing effect, but, on reviewing the whole situation, transactions have been fully up to expectations.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week.—J. M. DeWolf, (estate of) carriage works, Halifax, stock, &c., advertised for sale by auction, E. R. Moffatt, grocer, North Sydney, removed to Boston, J. E. Jefferson, grocer, Annapolis, sold out to his son, Walter G. Jefferson, S. M. McKenzie, Publisher, New Glasgow, sold out "Eastern Chronicle" newspaper to James A. Fraser, but will continue to print at his office, Isaac Gates, grocer, Lunenburg, sold out by sheriff under bill of sale.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures.

	Week		Weeks corresponding to			Failures for the year to date.			
	Oct. 19	Prev. week	1887	1886	1885	1888	1887	1886	1885
United States	195	195	195	188	161	7,806	7,505	8,090	9,224
Canada	31	34	14	22	27	1,382	1,027	981	1,013

DRY GOODS.—The improvement in sorting up orders noted in our last has been well maintained. These orders cover the general lines of winter wear. There is, however, so much cutting of prices that there is little or no margin of profit. Add to this the fact that payments as a rule are not promptly made and paper has almost invariably to be renewed, and it becomes evident that under such conditions the textile traffic cannot be remunerative. The city retail trade during the week has been fair, but collections are disappointing and, as a rule, have cost more than the profit on sales.

BREADSTUFFS.—The flour market has been rather quiet again, and the demand was only moderate, as buyers have in many cases held off to a great extent. The volume of business has, therefore, been moderate at firm prices.

After the excitement consequent upon the intense speculative movement in breadstuffs all over the continent had subsided, markets began to settle down to a healthy basis for trade, and relative values obtained.

During the excitement Chicago was from 8c. to 12c. (including freight) per bushel higher on wheat than New York, and New York dearer than London, whilst our own Canadian markets were slower in being affected.

The price of wheat throughout Ontario has gradually picked its way up from \$1 08 on the 1st of October (at which time wheat was \$1 25 in Chicago) to \$1 22 for fall wheat, and \$1 35 for Manitoba hard, which is the current ruling price throughout Ontario to-day. The asking rate of mills for 90 per cent patents range from \$6.50 to \$6.85 delivered at Halifax. We have heard of solitary cars being picked up at a trifle less.

The *Echo Agricole* of Paris, an authority on food statistics, has published an estimate of the wheat crop of the world for 1889 and the world's requirements for the present cereal year. We compile the following therefrom:—

	Production, Bushels.
Europe	1,111,878,000
America	452,760,000
Asia	341,628,000
Australia	38,406,000
Africa	32,928,000

Total production..... 1,977,600,000

	Surplus.
America	107,016,000
Asia	35,572,000
Australia	12,348,000
Africa	6,860,000

Total surplus, bushels..... 161,896,000

European requirements 193,452,000

Deficiency 31,556,000

The amount of production and surplus placed to the credit of America no doubt includes both North and South America. It will be observed that, if Europe is the largest producer of wheat, it has, nevertheless, not furnished

enough for its own consumption. *Bradstreet* states that:—The rapid advance in the price of flour, from 40 to 60 per cent, according to the grade—to but 40 per cent on the quantities used in the making of bread sold to the larger proportion of the public—is nearly in proportion to the gain shown in wheat. There is a somewhat larger advance than that on wheat, but the reason is clear. In England, where lies our chief market for a large share of our total annual exportation, the price of home-grown wheat has declined, owing to poor quality, but flour (from home-grown wheat) has advanced about \$2 per barrel. With this situation to back the 30 per cent higher winter wheat in the United States, and a greater advance in the price of No. 1 hard spring wheat (owing to decreased production), the 40 per cent advance in the price of flour in the United States is thoroughly warranted by apparent international trade conditions. In brief, nearly if not quite the whole appreciation in the price of flour is legitimately based upon the apparent statistical position of wheat, and has been influenced but triflingly if at all, through additional impetus lent by the late September corner. Reduced exports, reduced purchases by millers, higher prices for wheat and for bread, are not therefore the outcome of the corner in September wheat, and have not been augmented 5 per cent, if at all, by it. It is a common error with many to mistake for a cause that which should be classed as an outcome or consequence. The steamer *Finance* cleared from Newport News on Saturday, the 13th inst., with 15,000 bushels of wheat and 1,350 barrels of flour. The shipment of wheat to Brazil is unusual, and it is surmised that it is to be used for seeding. In Chicago the market has been very strong, and quotations have been:—Wheat \$1.10 November, \$1.11½ December, \$1 12½ May; corn rather weaker, at 43½c. November, 40½c. December, 39½c. May. Oats quiet and steady at 24½c. November, 25½c. December, 29½c. May.

PROVISIONS.—There continues to be a good jobbing demand for pork, and the market has been fairly active with a good business doing. Owing, however, to a shortness of supply in some lines, buyers have in some cases been unable to fill their wants even at the recent advance which has been well retained. The enquiry for lard has been very fair, and sales were made quite freely. There has been no change in the Liverpool provision markets, prices being steady all round. Pork is quoted at 77s. 6d.; lard at 46s. 6d., bacon 46s. 6d. to 48s. 6d., and tallow at 28s. There was a strong tone to the Chicago provision market, pork advancing 30c. to \$14.42½ November, \$14 37½ December, \$14.27½ May. Lard was also stronger. and moved up to \$8.35 November, \$8.15 December, and \$8.17½ January. The hog market has continued weak, and another decline of 5c. to 10c. was scored.

BUTTER.—Choice creamery is scarce, and in good demand. Writing on the butter situation in Montreal, the *Trade Bulletin* remarks as follows:—"It was not long since that butter appeared a most undesirable commodity to handle, and most dealers and shippers left it severely alone. All of a sudden, however, a great scarcity is found to exist in the offerings of choice grades of creamery and dairy, prices of which have advanced 1c. to 2c. per lb., after making allowance for the difference in quality of the fall make. For choice September creamery, 23c. has been paid at the factory, but holders are not free sellers at that figure. It is estimated that the fall make of creamery in the districts around Montreal will amount to between 4,000 and 5,000 packages, which some contend will be all wanted for the home trade, whilst others affirm that, taking into consideration the large quantity of goods that is still held, an export outlet is necessary in order to work off an undoubted surplus. In the best sections of the Eastern Townships, buyers are picking up fine dairy fall ends at 20c., and 18c. for straight dairies. In the Richmond section of the Townships these figures are materially shaded, owing to the poorer make. Little or no Morrisburg butter is coming to this market at present, although a fair make is said to be in progress, and only a few occasional parcels of Brockville can be secured. At points west of Toronto considerable quantities of dairy are reported as being held, but at figures which at present preclude their being handled here. Within the past few weeks 12 to 15 carloads, chiefly creamery, have been shipped from this city to British Columbia and the North-West, costing 22c. to 23c. per lb. The exports of butter from this port from the opening of navigation to Oct. 13th were 11,189 packages, against 53,693 packages for the corresponding period in 1887. The exports this season have shown a very remarkable falling off, being 42,500 packages less than those of last year to date, and 23,300 packages less than those of 1882, which were the lowest previous on record. Up to this date in 1879 we had shipped 138,353 packages. Now, as we have exported such an unprecedentedly small quantity this season, the question naturally arises:—Is not a large portion of the butter still held in the country?"

CHEESE.—The strength of the market, to which we referred in our last, has been well maintained, with a further addition to prices in Liverpool, which are up to 50s. for finest white and colored. A report from Utica, N. Y., says:—"The cheese market was quiet but steady. No offers were heard until after 5 p. m., and then 10½c. was put on the fancies general. Sales of the day include September stock from the fifteenth to the twenty-fourth, but an average is about wholly on home trade, as nobody has any faith in the export business. Shippers seem to be pretty nearly out of the market, not being willing to pay the prices asked. But somebody appeared to take the cheese without much grumbling, and it is believed that a good share of it went to parties who expect to sell it to the home trade. Of the amount taken at 10½c. a considerable portion was small cheese, perhaps one-half. The rest was fine, full cream, September stock of regular size."

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—Under a fair enquiry the pig iron market continues to be firm. There is, however, no animation about it either here or abroad, and quotations all around are unchanged. This is of course in a sense a transition period of the year, and little activity can be expected till winter really sets in. Business in nails is fairly active with prices firm.