

summer, falling off to 2½ cents in September. The stocks in all markets, says the Cincinnati *Price Current*, were, on 1st October last year, 40,000 bushels; the Virginia crop was 4,000,000; Tennessee, 1,200,000; North Carolina, 250,000. Total supply, therefore, 5,490,000. There were stocks on hand at Cincinnati, Norfolk, and other points 1st October this year, 1,182,000. The consumption of the twelve months has thus been 4,308,000 bushels, so that every fourteen persons in the United States eat a bushel of pea nuts between them in a year (some groups of fourteen that we have seen eat a good deal more than fourteen bushels). This was an unusually large consumption, the average of five previous years being less than 3,000,000 bushels. It may interest some Canadians, as it certainly does many Americans, to know that they are not likely to starve for want of pea nuts next year. The probable supply of pea nuts, available for the ensuing year, October 1, 1891, to October 1, 1892, as indicated by the *Price Current's* statistics and estimates, is shown by the figures which follow:

	Bushels
Stock on hand October 1, 1891	1,182,000
Estimated Virginia crop.....	3,000,000
Estimated Tennessee crop	800,000
Estimated North Carolina crop	200,000
Total available supply.....	5,182,000

ITEMS FOR GROCERS.

In the advertisement of Messrs. Lovell & Christmas, West Smithfield, London, and Fennel street, Manchester, published in *The Grocers' Gazette* (London, England), are quoted the following prices of cheese:—
Canadian, finest Ingersolls 54s..... 56s.
Canadian, fine 52s.
States, fine..... 50s.
Before long we trust to see equally flattering quotations and prices of Canadian butter.

Chicago parties have been engaged in the dirty work of selling imitations of Canadian whiskeys, and branding them as genuine. In the case of well-known brands, these clever rascals have counterfeited the labels, brands and even the revenue stamps. Walker's whiskey has been specially selected for attack, and the Walkerville firm has for some time past had detectives working up the case, with the result that the guilty parties have been traced to Chicago. Criminal actions against all the parties to the fraud will shortly be instituted.

A fraud in California canned fruits, especially peaches, was exposed some time ago by the California *Fruit-Grower*. Now that journal has secured from New York samples of the bogus goods. They seem to be imitations of the pack of J. Lusk & Co. The cans were of eastern manufacture, three-pounds size, bearing a label containing the imprint of Russell, Morgan & Co., Cincinnati, O. The inscription on the label is as follows; "Table Fruit—Golden Yellow Peaches—packed by J. Lusk & Co., Oakland, California," accompanied by a trade-mark, consisting of a shield. Upon cutting a can, the contents were found to consist of peaches of two or three varieties, white and yellow, some cut into thin slices and others into quarters, and packed in water in the place of syrup. When turned into a dish for inspection the mass presented a disgusting appearance, the liquor being very dark in color and dirty, the fruit mushy, with portions of the pit clinging to it.

In reply to an enquirer as to the standard weight per gallon, of sorghum syrup, the St.

Paradoxical—for a grocer to put down his raisins.—*Yonkers Statesman*.

Or a sleeping partner to be wide awake.

Louis Grocer says that a sorghum syrup of good body will weigh about 11½ pounds per gallon.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Wholesale Grocers' Association was held at the office of the Board of Trade on Friday last. After the business of the regular monthly meeting the election of officers for the coming year was gone on with. Mr. Hebert referred to the president's long and valuable services to the association, and urged him, on its behalf, to retain his office. Mr. Childs consented to do so and was re-elected by acclamation. The new board is as follows: President, George Childs; vice-president, Charles P. Hebert; treasurer, D. T. Tees. Directors: Chas. Chaput, W. W. Lockerby and J. C. Rose. Committee of Arbitration: Arthur Birks, D. C. Brosseau, Wm. Kinloch, H. Laporte and H. Regan.

The Government lobster hatchery at Pictou, established last year, seems to be a success. Spawn from lobsters taken to the factories, and which otherwise would have been destroyed, is taken to the hatchery. Millions of lobsters have thus been hatched and given a chance to grow and keep up the supply.

A joint stock company has been formed to take over the Calcott brewery at Peterboro. It is called the Canada Brewing and Malting Co., capital, \$100,000, of which \$30,000 is already subscribed. Mr. Calcott will be the first president.

An incident related in the last number of the *Manchester Grocers' Review* illustrates business difficulties and the abuses of the credit system as they exist in the Old Country: At the Bolton Bankruptcy Court, the first examination was taken of Monica Ward, provision dealer and draper, Duke street, Bedford Leigh, whose liabilities were £355 6s. 2d., and whose assets were estimated to produce £15. The debtor stated on the death of her husband in March, 1890, she took over the business, but owing to bad trade, sickness, and bad debts she found herself in difficulties. A piano and certain furniture in the house belonged to her son and daughter, having been purchased on the hire system. She had carried on a credit system ever since she commenced business, and this was largely responsible for her failure.

The failure of the Pioneer Grocery Store on Cordov street, Vancouver, is announced by the *British Columbia Commerce*. Its proprietor, J. B. Thornton, besides being a grocer, was the proprietor of the Stewart House, on Water street, and besides running a couple of logging camps, had recently contracted for corporation work. He owes \$10,000 and there is not over \$500 worth left in the shop. He is missing, and presumed to have gone to the States. "Thornton is believed to have been really an honest man, but his losses were too great for him to ever hope to pay. He came here from the States before the fire of 1886."

A London tea report by late mail says: "Already we have received 10,000,000 lbs. more Indian teas than last season, and that amount will account for the extra estimated supply, if it is reached, although some say we shall only get 5,000,000 extra. The export from China will certainly not be so large, and the stock of Congou is now 8,000,000 lbs. less, with only 6,500,000 lbs. of all kinds on the water, against 10,500,000 lbs. at same date last year. Cylone is the 'nightmare' of the market, as they say they are going to swamp us with increased supplies."

INSURANCE NOTES.

The illuminated calendars for 1892 now begin to come in. Our first and neatest is from the London and Lancashire Life, which Mr. B. Hal Brown represents in Canada. Mr. W. H. White, 18 Toronto St., is manager for this city and district.

"Plain and square, like the company," is what was said in our hearing about the calendar of the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

There are recent evidences that the Mutual Insurance Company is becoming modest, and rejecting the spread-eagle tendencies of some of its American competitors. Perhaps such an evidence is observable in its calendar for 1892, for the company's name is the least legible portion of the whole big sheet.

It is an odd streak in a man's nature that impels him to set houses on fire for mere deviltry. But there are such men—outside of insane asylums. One of them, John Porter, was arraigned before Judge Chadwick, of Guelph, last week, on the charge of setting fire to Lee's hotel, in Rockwood, the week before and for setting fire to Baker's hotel in Eramosa, in June last, and was found guilty on both charges. The evidence went to show that in each case the man got up from his bed to perform the mischief. In the case of the fire at the Centre Inn, Eramosa, he put coal oil on paper in the kitchen and ignited it. This was about 5 o'clock in the morning. A traveller, coming to Guelph, noticed the fire and aroused the proprietor, who put the fire out. At Lee's hotel the fire was discovered in a room where there was no stove, and no possible way of it occurring only from an incendiary source. The evidence went to show that when he was sober he worked faithfully, but as soon as he got his pay he would get drunk, and then would exhibit incendiary proclivities. Sentence deferred.

The marine losses have been so heavy from the violence from the successive storms in British waters that a number of the underwriters have retired from Lloyds.

On Monday evening, 14th instant, President P. B. Armstrong invited a large party of the insurance profession to partake of a banquet at Delmonicos, New York. He then and there disclosed the astounding fact that he had reinsured the risks of the three fire insurance companies of which he was president—the Mutual Fire, the Fire Association, and the Armstrong Fire—with the Lancashire Insurance Company of Manchester, England, aggregating \$200,000,000 of insurance, and that he had paid to Mr. E. Litchfield, the United States manager of the Lancashire, the sum of \$1,000,000, the amount of reserve, a large transaction, truly.

It was expected that the result of the investigation into the affairs of the New York Life would have been closed and its results made public by Christmas. It is now said it will be done on New Year's Day. In any case, the company has been pronounced financially sound, and the impatience of the curiosity-hunters will have to wait.

We are informed that Messrs. Muntz & Beatty have been appointed agents in Toronto for the Queen Insurance Company. The members of the firm, G. Harold Muntz, and E. P. Beatty, are energetic men, and may be expected to make the most of their appointment. We have already stated, in a recent issue, how strong a claim to the confidence of insurers is made by the Queen, and a good share of the fire business going may be expected to be secured for it.