

Baltimore advices are to the effect that the pack of early peas is done, and that it is an exceedingly short one.

Mail advices received from Petersburg, Va., state that the few outside holders of Spanish shelled peanuts in that section are offering at 6½c. per pound.

Late advices from Smyrna state that the prospects for the fig crop are good, and present indications are that the output will amount to about 70,000 camel loads.

The present trouble in China, and the fact that Congress adjourned without tampering with the import duty, are influencing the tea market in the United States, and business is steadily improving.

Currants have advanced ½ cent in the New York market, and the tendency is still upward. Advices of an advanced and excited market in Greece are the cause. Our Montreal market reports mention the situation at Patras.

The United States visible supply of Brazil coffee as reported Wednesday morning was smaller than on the corresponding day three years ago, being 735,491 bags, against 1,195,773 bags in 1899, 907,431 bags in 1898 and 739,340 bags in 1897.

Shipments of dairy products to Europe from Montreal for the week are well ahead of same week last year. Those of cheese were 81,684 boxes against 52,574 boxes, and those of butter 2,453 packages, as compared with 1,353 packages in corresponding week of 1899.

At a meeting of the Toronto Retail Grocers' Association held on Monday night a resolution was adopted denouncing trading stamps. Competent men will canvass the city for subscribers to an agreement that after July 1st no cash coupons, amusement stamps or trading stamps of any other kind will be given to customers.

Says The New York Journal of Commerce: Agents of the outside Columbia River salmon packers who have made prices of \$1.60 for talls, \$1.75 for flats and \$1 for half-pounds say they are surprised at the freedom with which orders are being confirmed, as in view of the necessarily high prices they had expected buyers would not take anywhere near what they had ordered subject to approval of price.

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

Fancy ribbons are selling a little better than they have for some time. The soft felt hat trimmed with Roman scarf or with wide soft ribbon in white and colors is a favorite, and creates a market for the ribbon it needs.

Mrs. Mulcahey—Did yer mon hit ye in the head, that yer all scratched in the neck, Mrs. O'Hoolihan? Mrs. O'Hoolihan—Whisht now, haven't yer seen the latest fashion? Don't yer know they are wearin' barbs around the neck?

At a largely attended meeting of the retail merchants of Ottawa, the Retail Merchants' Association was revived on a permanent basis under the name of the Merchants' Association of Ottawa. Nearly every merchant in the city has signified his intention of joining. The following officers were elected: President, Joseph Boyden; vice-president, H. H. Lang; secretary, F. Lord; treasurer, T. W. Currier.

The writer of Fashion End in The Dry Goods Economist says: New shirt fronts, collars and embroidery, with small ruffles of val. lace around the edges, from which single strips reach to the belt line, edged and made of similar embroidery, a belt of the same character, made either all in one or separately, are among the new forms which are calculated to change the effect of the plain white or colored shirt waists into the embroidered effects, which are now so desirable.

According to our Paris correspondent, says The Dry Goods Economist, there is a tendency in the French fashion centre to bring about a revival of the hoop skirt or crinoline. Considerable uncertainty seems to prevail as to whether the revival can be effected or not. We hardly think, however, that such a cumbersome and ridiculous fashion could be adopted in these days of common sense dress, even in Paris, and we are satisfied that the athletic, go-ahead American woman is not going

to handicap herself by a return to the enormous balloon skirts of forty years ago. Imagine the business woman of to-day going downtown in the elevated with a voluminous crinoline on. We think we can see that crinoline's finish before she gets to 14th street.

INSURANCE ITEMS.

The explanation of the rumor that reached a contemporary of the amalgamation of the Lancashire Insurance Company with the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company is probably not far to seek, says the London Insurance Spectator of 1st June. It was perhaps due to the misdescription of other offices. However, it is not accurate, and has been officially denied.

A special of Monday last from Ottawa says that a statement of the losses to property in Hull in the recent fire has been made out at the city hall. The statement shows that \$289,050 of non-taxable property was burned, and \$1,091,910 of taxable property—including the E. B. Eddy works and mills, thus making a total of \$1,380,960. In this statement no account is taken of lumber yards, merchants' stock, and furniture, a correct estimate of which it is difficult to arrive at.

Accident insurance men say they anticipate a good business this year. "Campaign years are our best," said a well-known agent. "Our companies are becoming more liberal," said he. "Only last week a policy was issued to a well-known and daring steeple climber, whose occupation was given as an 'outside painter.'" While he aspires to high deeds, he evidently is wise enough to provide against the contingency of being laid low; though this is more likely to happen to the company that takes his risk!—Accident Assurance.

THE CHEESE BOARDS.

Cheese still holds its price, and on the different boards during the week sales were made at from 9¼c. to 9¾c. per lb. Over 81,000 boxes were exported from Montreal last week, making the total at that port for the season 241,787 boxes, against 186,350 for the same period last year. We append the following table of board transactions:

Boards and date of meeting.	No of factories.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold Boxes.	Price per lb. Cts.
Barrie, June 8.....	..	365	310	9½-1
Brockville, June 8....	..	3,717	1,122	9½-11-16
Madoc, June 8 .....	..	1,130	815	9½-11-16
Kingston, June 8 ....	..	1,490	11	9½-11-16
Iroquois, June 8.....	..	801	all	9½-1
Brighton, June 8 ....	..	685	610	9½
Ottawa, June 8.....	..	958	792	9½
Perth, June 8.....	..	1,458	all	9½-1
Cornwall June 9.....	..	1,385	1,245	9½-1
Cowansville, June 9..	57	3,026	2,954	9½-1
Belleville, June 9	12	860	200	9½
London, June 9.....	15	1,588	1,216	9 7-16-9-16
Campbellford June 12 ..	..	1,215	all	9½-3-16
Ingersoll June 12 ....	..	520	..	9-9-16

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, June 14th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	June 14, 1900.	June 7, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$14,255,650	\$14,571,242
Toronto.....	10,919,197	11,176,040
Winnipeg	2,382,434	2,239,992
Halifax	1,471,808	1,571,061
Hamilton	761,862	821,866
St. John	712,663	778,164
Vancouver	878,911	990,697
Victoria .....	.....	671,887

Aggregate balances, this week, \$.....; last week, \$32,820,949 ; \$5,138,070