

Exports of cheese from Montreal were large last week, totalling 101,900 boxes, as against 79,484 boxes in same time of 1899. Butter exports for the week showed a slight decline, being 16,032 packages, as compared with 17,301.

The five cent rises in sugar, which grocers have been getting used to in recent weeks, have not ceased. As our market report shows, raw sugar is scarce in New York, and refined goes higher still. The cable shows beet sugar $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. higher in London, and Java $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. higher. All sugars are firm in New York and Philadelphia. Our Montreal correspondent reports a decided stiffness in molasses; offers cabled at 17c.; last week's figure, have been declined, and 19c., first cost, is now asked in Barbadoes, with reported difficulty in getting supplies.

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

The knitted goods market in the United States is very dull.

An indignant protest has been made by the Montreal Dry Goods Association against the Government's having settled out of court the case of the Crown vs. Fitzgibbon, Shafheitlin & Co., for undervaluation at the custom house, when that case was actually under trial before the Exchequer Court. In a series of resolutions adopted and forwarded to the Government, the association recounts the proceedings in the case, and reminds the Government that it sent a deputation to Ottawa to personally interview the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Justice. It reminds the Ottawa Government that the protection of honorable importers who adhered both to the spirit and the letter of the law was the bounden duty of the Government—not their betrayal, and it recalls the expressed wishes of leading boards of trade in Canada that no compromise should be made where repeated and glaring frauds were established, but the full penalty inflicted. And yet the Government settled the case for a monetary consideration, and the payment of costs incurred. The memorial concludes thus: "That it is a matter for great regret that the efforts of this association, and other associations, in the cause of honest administration of the customs law, should have been so unsuccessful, and their petitions treated by the Government with such indifference and neglect."

American manufacturers are making more seamless hosiery than can be consumed in the United States, and are finding an outlet in Australia, Mexico, South America, China and Japan.

The wool market of Boston is characterized by "monotonous dullness" at last accounts, namely, Monday, July 2nd. The estimates made that the London sales would open at 5 to 10 per cent. decline have been confirmed by the event. The New York market on June 30th was dull and uninteresting.

Writing last week of print cloths, the American Wool and Cotton Reporter said: The print cloths market appears to have reached a state of almost complete stagnation, and last week, we are told, there was practically no trading in the market. A number of the mills are still contracted some time ahead, but next month many of these contracts expire, and for the past two or three months orders have not been received in sufficient volume to guarantee anything like a full employment of machinery when these contracts run out.

Some enterprising people in London, Ontario, have applied for and obtained a charter for the Helena Costume Company, limited; capital, \$60,000. This company is intended to make and deal in clothing, costumes, underwear, mantles, collars, cuffs, blouses and similar articles of wearing apparel. The parties to the memorandum of association are, Charles Dickens Burdick, manufacturer; Lottie Eureka Burdick, his wife; Howard David Bates, gentleman; George Frederick Tull, cutter, and Harry Alexander Ruth, machinist.

Any observer who is not a fashionable female must have been struck with the folly of a fashion of long trailing skirts which compel the woman who wears them to hold them up with her hand behind her back in a position as ungraceful as it is fatiguing. Here is what The London Lancet, the great medical publication, has to say of it: The habit has arisen of seizing the upper part of the skirt, and holding it in a bunch at a place called by women "the broad part of the back below the waist," and among anatomists by the less cumbersome term

"gluteal region." According to The Lancet this practice can be commended neither from a physiological nor from an artistic point of view. The absurdity and the ugliness of the habit of walking in a long dress are condemned as "too palpable to be labored," and that journal protests, from a sanitary point of view, against the importation into private houses of skirts reeking with filth. It urges that for walking in the street a short skirt should be worn, and commends the sensible walking-gown now adopted by the best-dressed women, but not yet in favor with ladies of the middle and lower classes.

LAKE NAVIGATION.

It is not to be wondered at that vessel-owners and masters on the great American lakes are bitterly disappointed that the provision of \$6,000 to be expended for the private lights which they have been maintaining was stricken from the sundry civil bill after it had received the approval of the United States Senate at Washington. It is a matter of vital importance to them as the money is coming directly out of their own pockets. For years the owners of steamers and vessels have maintained lights and buoys at various points in the Great Lakes and connecting rivers, and the Marine Review expresses the rightful indignation they feel that the Government of a great country should be so ignorantly parsimonious as to grudge the small sum of \$6,000 for such a purpose. It must mean that the Senate of the United States does not know the vastness of the trade of the Great Lakes. But then The Review should bear in mind that there is a good deal the United States Senate does not know. The emergency river and harbor bill retains the Michigan items intact. It gives \$100,000 for the improvement of the Lake George channel, St. Mary's river, so as to admit of light-draught vessels passing that way, and provides for the beginning of work on an additional canal at St. Clair flats. The sundry civil bill, as passed, also contains these items: For continuing the work on breakwater at Cleveland, \$175,000; for continuing improvements on harbor at Ashtabula, Ohio, \$110,000; at Lorain, Ohio, \$125,000; on the Detroit river, \$200,000; Hay Lake channel, St. Mary's river, \$250,000.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

The staff of the Caledonian Insurance Co. made a presentation the other day to Mr. D. J. Surene, who retires from the secretaryship of the company after 31 years' service. Besides a clock the staff gave him a fishing rod and fly book. Mr. Deuchar, the manager, was in the chair. It was remarked by Mr. Niven that no better evidence could have been given of the heartiness of the staff than that they had put off a very important golf match for the purpose of being present, a most graceful compliment to Mr. Surene. And this causes a London journal to say, very saucily, that to stay away from a golf match is the greatest sacrifice possible to a Scotchman. Hence the compliment is the greatest.

Chief Quigley of Rochester, N.Y., has urged the need of a salvage corps for that city so often that people think he is a little cranky on the subject, says the Investigator. But last week a fire on South Salina street in that city damaged a milliner's stock about \$350, and the water the department poured on the fire increased the damage to \$30,000—estimated. Chief Quigley was distressed, but the fire had to be put out. Perhaps he is right after all about that salvage corps. There is no doubt that great and needless loss is caused by firemen deluging premises with water in many cases. The chemical engine or the bucket would often do what tons of water are used for, and save underwriters from heavy loss.

The National Life Assurance Company of Canada closed its books for the half year on Saturday, the 30th ult., we are told, with \$1,172,500 of insurance in force, and with an annual premium income of \$42,455. The company received applications for \$181,500, during the month of June, and issued policies amounting to \$165,500. Such results accomplished during the past ten and a half months should be gratifying to the management.

The great drawback to doing business among the general run of Chinese is the great difficulty of proving death claims,