

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The fishery protection fleet in the Atlantic coast waters is all ready for the season's business and a close watch is being kept on the large number of American fishermen now on the Nova Scotia coast.

Receipts of Brazil nuts from primary sources are reported at New York to be only one-half of what they were for the corresponding season a year ago. There is no speculative interest, but the market is, on account of the strong statistical position, higher and advancing.

The present shipping season thus far shows a considerable increase over 1896 in the quantity of cheese shipped from Montreal across the Atlantic. The shipments thus far this spring amount to 186,630 boxes, which is 37,000 boxes more than to corresponding date of last year. The exports last week were 59,515 boxes, as compared with 26,251 boxes in like week of 1896.

The Japan *Times* of May 12 says: "According to a report dated the 5th inst., sent by the Shizuoka Tea Syndicate to the Tokyo Central Chamber of Commerce, the budding of tea plants is generally in a bad condition owing to the changes in the weather, which will delay the opening of the season about a week compared with normal years. It is estimated by experts that the crop of this year will not be less than usual in quantity, but will be inferior in quality."

There is sure to be a lively competition in the salmon market for fresh fish this season, notwithstanding that salmon from the American pens at Point Roberts will be brought in free of duty. Thirty-eight large and small factories will require a large number of sockeye salmon to fill the average pack, and fishermen (free lances) will probably realize a better price than has obtained for many years, especially as salmon are pretty solid in the market.—*Vancouver, B.C., World, June 5th.*

There are over seventy lobster canneries in operation this season, says an eastern exchange, on Cape Breton Island. In the Little Bras d'Or district, where three canneries are in operation this season, the price of lobsters has been raised to \$2 per hundredweight. In consequence of this the codfishing industry has been abandoned and nearly all fishermen are now engaged in catching lobsters. One man with his two boys is said to have netted \$70 last week in lobster fishing at Little Bras d'Or.

ABOUT DRY GOODS.

Toronto retailers report an active trade this week in summer out-ing materials. The holiday season is almost at hand and preparations for Muskoka and life at other popular Canadian summer resorts are active.

The representatives of the wholesale houses have now had several weeks' experience in soliciting orders for next autumn's woolen trade. Moderately favorable reports are received from most districts as to prospects for the fall.

Advices from London, England, state that factories are busily preparing winter goods for the Canadian trade. The sales of the fine vicunas, serges and fancy worsteds to France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and the United States are almost phenomenal in extent.

Crepons are having a good run, says the *Draper's Record*, in the better class trades—say, anything over 2s. a yard. Bradford is securing the bulk of the trade, French houses not being able to offer the goods at a price low enough. Complaints are made that many of the French dress goods now sent to the English market stiffen on the shelves, and the trade has suffered in consequence.

Black and blue serges and neat grey mixtures have gone off well, writes a Manchester correspondent, but complaints are made regarding the unwillingness of some English firms to cut short lengths. German houses have secured custom in this country which would otherwise never have passed into their hands, simply because they have been willing to oblige small buyers by cutting short lengths. They have even been able to sell Manchester goods to retailers because Manchester houses would not sell any quantity less than a single piece.

The Paris correspondent of the *Dry Goods Economist* says: The color which holds the first place in the list for the coming season is a bluish mauve. It is shown in six graduated shades, to which the names of Longchamps, Auteuil, Chantilly, Derby, Jockey Club and Hippique have been given. The first is very pale, and the pink tinge in it is more apparent than in the rest. The second is very closely akin to Periwinkle, but not so blue, and the rest deepen down by easy stages to a shade that is very much the same as Eveque. Auteuil, Chantilly and Derby compose a shade entitled European.

—The Atlas Loan Company, of St. Thomas, is paying quarterly dividends. The last is just declared at the rate of six per cent. per annum.

LIFE AND ACCIDENT ITEMS.

SUREST OF PROVISIONS.

Tae mak'a happy fireside clime
For weans an' wife,
That's the true pathos an' sublime
O' human life.

So wrote Robert Burns, one of the sweetest singers the world has ever known, and who when he felt the chill of death approaching turned his thoughts towards Bonnie Jean and the "weans," whom he knew would be left alone in Dumfries, friendless, helpless and penniless. "As to my individual self I am tranquil," he wrote, "but Burns' poor widow and half a dozen of his dear little ones, there I am as weak as human tears." The Master-singer died in his prime, leaving to posterity and all time one of the richest lyrical legacies ever bequeathed by man, and to his wife and children a legacy of poverty and tears. Similar tragedies are being enacted every day, each individual case containing within itself the element of its own peculiar bitterness, which none but they who suffer know. Life insurance has been devised that such things shall cease; becoming as it does the surest of provisions against such calamities as surround the family of a man who has answered "adsum" to the last call like a true soldier, and who died "like a man."

The corporation of Montreal has accepted the offer of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada to erect in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty a memorial monument and drinking fountain on Dominion square. The design is that of a solid granite pile, surmounted by the figure of a sleeping lion. The height from the ground will be eleven feet seven inches. On the front of the memorial would be a drinking fountain, surrounded by a wreath of palms. Above the slab containing the inscription will be a shield containing the royal arms. At the sides and rear would be a series of seven shields, each containing a few words emblematical of the immense strides the Empire had taken during Her Majesty's reign.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, June 17th, 1897, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	June 17.	June 10.
Montreal	\$13,717,275	\$13,668,834
Toronto	6,978,232	8,116,107
Halifax	1,056,156	1,178,343
Winnipeg	1,356,969	1,252,737
Hamilton	588,006	671,233
St. John	534,977	667,390
	\$24,231,609	\$25,554,644

Aggregate balances this week, \$3,419,790; last week, \$3,646,289.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

J. B., City.—The main items composing the sum of \$105,000 manufacturers exported to foreign ports from Toronto last month, were: Agricultural implements, \$49,474; bicycles, \$6,578; rags, \$5,204; books, \$3,580; drugs, \$3,560; metals, \$2,405; whiskey, \$2,040.

—The following upon the subject of a winter port for the Canadian line of steamers appears in a recent issue of the *St. John Telegraph*: "The fact that the new contract for the fast line contains a clause placing St. John on the same footing as Halifax as a terminal port, and allowing the contractor to make his choice between them, leaves the matter still an open one. The Government has in this matter done what the late Government refused to do, although often pressed by the people of this city to grant that measure of justice to St. John. All our people ever asked was that St. John should not be ignored, but should be placed on the same footing as Halifax, and this the present Government has done. This is a fact which no amount of Tory casuistry can argue away."

—We learn that the general manager in London of the Bank of British Columbia, Mr. W. C. Ward, accompanied by Mr. George Gillespie, manager of the bank in Victoria, left Victoria last week for Kootenay, where they will visit the different branches of the bank. This done, it is the intention of Mr. Ward to visit the branches of the bank in Portland and San Francisco. Early in July he will leave British Columbia for London, where he will reside.

—The Winnipeg section of the Canadian Bankers' Association held its annual meeting last week. Mr. F. H. Mathewson, manager in that city of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, was elected chairman of the section for the ensuing year, and Mr. D. Simpson, local manager of the Bank of British North America, was re-elected secretary. Mr. Simpson was also chosen secretary of the clearing house.