

## COMMERCIAL.

The cooler and more seasonable weather that has prevailed during the week has naturally improved the tone of the markets, and an improvement on the previous week is noticeable in most lines. Nearly all farm products are now harvested, and a considerable proportion is already marketed and realised upon, so that the cash therefore is in hand in most sections and, of course, it is more freely going out in liquidation of old claims or in the purchase of new necessities.

The time is rapidly approaching, indeed it is now here, when the managers of our financial institutions must review the situation in all seriousness. Owing to the competition in banking, the large amount of capital seeking employment and the decreased percentage of bank earnings, shareholders must content themselves with smaller dividends if the capital of our monetary institutions is to remain intact. It now appears that not only will it be necessary to declare smaller dividends to shareholders, but depositors must be obliged to accept reduced rates of interest on money that they intrust to the banks for safe-keeping. Mr. E. S. Clouston, the general manager of the Bank of Montreal, in his speech at the last meeting of his shareholders made it manifest that competition has reduced the percentage of bank earnings, and it is absurd to think that the banks of this or any country can continue to pay as large dividends as in years gone by when profits were much larger than they now are. There can be no question that some of our banks would be taking a wise step if they should reduce the dividends that they award to their shareholders. It is true that such a step would require a good deal of courage on the part of the managers, as it would be looked upon as a sign of weakness. Still it would indisputably be far better to pay smaller dividends than to be compelled eventually to reduce their capital. Unfortunately at this juncture deposits have increased at about the same ratio that loans have decreased, and we hear of instances where good, sound amounts have been placed on deposit in some of our banks upon which interest has been refused owing to a surfeit of funds awaiting investment. It is evident that smaller dividends upon bank capital and reduced rates of interest on deposits will soon become essential to profitable banking unless things alter soon very materially from the conditions now existing.

Trade in Great Britain is in an extremely depressed condition and financial affairs there are very unsettled. To add to the otherwise unsatisfactory condition of a number of leading industries in that country, recent advices report 15,000 hands idle that were formerly employed in the Clyde ship-building yards; and, to intensify the trouble, a general reduction in wages has been decided upon in the Clyde works, to take effect Oct. 10th amounting to 10 per cent. The wages of the Clyde miners are reduced 61. per day. England will not be able to carry out her free trade principles in their entirety much longer with the whole world militating against her with its protective policy. The time is surely coming when that country will have, in self-defence, to adopt some measure of fair trade, or in time her manufacturing interests will wane just as her agricultural interests have done in years past. The *Monreal Trade Bulletin* says on this subject:—"The large profits of manufacturers in the United States under the McKinley tariff will not be long before they lead to the inevitable over-production which attends protected industries, and then England will be the dumping ground for these manufactured goods, the same as Canada was before she rightly shut them out by her protective tariff and made them herself. As soon as American manufactures exceed the home demand, cargoes upon cargoes will be flung upon the English markets for realization, not for profit; and then will come the time when England may feel disposed to modify her free trade policy."

## Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week Oct. 7	Previous week.	Weeks 1892	Weeks 1891	Weeks 1890	Weeks 1889
United States	198	143	230	183	243	
Canada	36	22	38	30	28	

**DRY GOODS.**—Both city and country retailers speak of business as being active and better, and orders from travellers show that the sorting trade promises to be a very good one. Stocks of winter goods in retailers' hands are light, and there cannot fail to be a good demand to fill up the requirements which are certain to be seen. Some lines of winter goods are scarce—the better qualities of blankets being short, while the supply of shirts and drawers has been shortened by the burning of a couple of factories in Canada. Prices of all goods are very firm, with a decided upward tendency in many. The advance in colored cotton goods for the spring trade previously indicated, has proved fully equal to what was expected, these kinds of goods being from 15 to 20 per cent. higher than they were last year. Not only so, but the output of each kind is kept from exceeding the possible consumption, and thus there is no chance of any decline. Merchants have to understand, therefore, that, if the price does not suit them, they can leave the goods. Remittances continue to show a steady improvement all over.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—There has been a fair volume of business in flour on local account during the week. The oatmeal market has ruled very quiet and prices are easier. Feed is quiet and easy. In Chicago trade has been rather light, but the feeling was quite strong and prices have been well maintained in the face of dull and lower cables, large receipts, and only a very moderate export demand. A steady and large out-go causes a firmer feeling among the large class dealers even if the daily export demand is lighter. The extremely dry weather is causing fears of a reduced area of winter wheat, and is probably the strongest feature of the market at present. Should it continue many days longer, a sharp up-turn by the country buying would be by no means improbable. Speculative business is again largely local, only very few outside orders being received. Corn has been rather more

active and ruled firm. Heavy frosts were reported but this is of little or no effect on the market, the crop being considered matured.

**PROVISIONS.**—The local provision market is without change. Business cannot be called brisk, but there is a good fair jobbing trade doing. Some lots of lard have been moved during the past few days at steady prices. In Chicago provisions have ruled very strong, the whole list advancing and large purchases of packers' foreign houses. The firmness at the stock yards and better cables were the principal causes of the improvement.

**BUTTER.** continues quiet in this market without any particular change. There is a very good consumptive demand, which improves as the weather becomes cooler. In Montreal the market is in a very ticklish position at the present time, and it is a question if prices have not attained their maximum altitude. For a pot September creamery 23c. has been paid; but it is said that the purchase would not be repeated. English buyers appear to be out of the market at the moment, as several orders have been cancelled from the other side, and local buyers will not touch creamery at present prices except in small lots to cover immediate wants. Several lots of August creamery have been placed at 23½ and one choice lot at 23c. Early makes, 21½ to 22c. In Eastern Townships dairy, higher prices it is said are paid in the country than can be had for it here. The last sales of choice selected dairies for export were made at 19½ to 20c. and yet as high as 20½ to 21c. is said to have been paid in the Townships. A lot of Morrisburg was sold at 19½. In Western, there is no demand at the moment, but prices are quoted at 16c. to 18c. as to quality, a lot of fair Western changing hands at 16c. A London letter says:—"Buyers have got tired of paying such high rates for butter, and have been adopting the masterly inactivity line of action, filling only absolute wants. This has helped down prices a bit at the end of the week, so that the predicted further rise, which did come off on Monday, has since been lost, and rates have gone back again into last week's groove, which still leaves them shilling higher than the week previous. Agents are hoping to be able to get fixed at present figures, which purchasers do not feel inclined to operate at until there has been a declassification to dimensions which will admit of a turnover at a reasonable profit on the popular prices, and say they will see this brought about before they lay in stock. This may bring quotations down again; but supplies are moderate, and consumption is brisk, so that it is not to be expected much depreciation will result before the picked shipments of Victoria begin to arrive, which is not far ahead now. The estimate of export from Melbourne this season is about 3,000 tons; but it is expected, if rates do not go against shippers, that there will be more, as additional factories have been brought into play by the bonus system, which the buttermen in Melbourne are beginning to fight about among themselves now. It is a pretty tune for a Government to have to play to a limited few—£55,000 in bonuses, which is the figure alleged for this year."

**CHEESE** in this market continues dull and unsettled with very little business doing. The cable, according to shippers, does not afford much encouragement, though the Liverpool public cable is higher at 49. At Montreal "The market is dull, and reflects to some extent the weak and unsettled tone of the situation in New York, but more especially on stock below finest. There is quite a difference of opinion regarding values; but if a lot of 1,000 to 2,000 boxes of finest Western September was put on the market, it is doubtful if more than 16½c. could be obtained. On the other hand, if a similar lot had to be purchased, we question if it could be had under 10½c. Quite a few sales have been made of under-priced goods at all the way from 8½c. to 10c. The make is now getting pretty light, and a number of the factories will close on the 15th of the month." A letter from London reports:—"The cheese market remains about the same. There are signs that prices are going up presently, but the move is hardly made yet, a turn for the better this week for recent arrivals in poor condition being the only present indication. The stocks are, however, being gradually drawn on, and rates must go higher presently. Present top quotation, 51s."

**EGGS.**—Receipts of eggs are gradually falling off, as is usual at this season, but the absence of anything like an active consumptive demand or of export enquiry keeps prices virtually unchanged, though holders are very firm in their figures. In Montreal "Receipts have slackened off considerably during the past few days, and the market is firmer with sales of nice fresh August and September gathered at 14c. to 14½c., some holders asking 15c. Held eggs have sold at 13c. to 13½c." A London correspondent writes:—"The partial stoppage of supplies from Hamurg has had an appreciable effect on the market for eggs, which has been ill supplied from other quarters, and rates have advanced again, top price being 9s. 3d. to 10s. 3d. per long hundred for French, lowest 6s. for Germans. In Glasgow, too, there has been an advance on Danish, owing to limited supply. Canadians selling at previous quotations, as they do at Liverpool, where things are a trifle duller."

**APPLES** are now being pushed forward to market very rapidly, and local demands are being over-supplied at very cheap rates. The reported results so far of Canadian apple sales in England are not too *couleur de rose* for exporters this season. The apple crop of Canada is great, some authorities even putting it as the largest ever produced here. The cost of getting them into the States is heavy; and when apples reach a high limit of price, consumers prefer to do without them altogether, and more particularly in good times like the present when food necessities are all so cheap. The apple crops of Belgium and France are stated, from good sources, to be ten times greater this year than last year, and sufficient to keep down the English

## CHANGE IS WELCOME.

Gentlemen,—For twenty years I suffered from Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, Poor Appetite, etc., and received no benefit from the many medicines I tried, but after taking five bottles of B.B.B. I can eat heartily of any food and am strong and smart. It is a grand medicine and has made a wonderful change in my health.

Mrs. W. H. LEE, Harley, Ont.