

The fish market is very slow at present, the weather being yet too cold and windy for catches of gaspereaux. Halibut is the only fish now being caught, and that in very small quantities. As soon as the rainy season sets in the fish will become plentiful. Salt fish are selling slowly.—*St. John Record, April 2nd.*

It is estimated by the *N.Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce* that over 3 000,000 of hogs died in Iowa last year alone of cholera, and that the ravages in other States were also serious, though not so severe as in Iowa, where the disease seemed to centre. This condition of the hog market promises light supplies throughout the spring, if not the summer months, and holders are firm notwithstanding the dullness.

The Maritime Pure Food Co., Ltd., of Woodstock, N.B., is applying for a charter. Their business will be to can fruits and vegetables. The directors of the company are: H. Paxton Baird, C. S. Raymond, James Good, E. Slipp, Williamson Fisher, Wendell P. Jones and F. B. Greene. The Woodstock town council has decided to grant exemption from taxation for ten years to the building and plant of the company, and to furnish water for ten cents a thousand gallons.

At a sale of teas, coffees and fixtures of the firm of Thomas Doherty & Company, Montreal, last week, the prices realized were very satisfactory. The total sales amounted to \$11,000. The goods consisted of 63 lots of teas, 11 lots of coffees, and a quantity of vinegar, beside the store fixtures and book debts. The range of prices were as follows: Congous, 7c. to 16c.; Ceylons, 11c. to 26½c.; Gunpowders, 11c. to 16½c.; Young Hysons, 7½c. to 14c.; Japans, 8½c. to 22½c., and coffee, 5½c. to 18c.

In previous years, says a western exchange, the fruit growers of Essex have disposed of their fruit to the wholesale men in the cities. This year they will have a representative in all the leading cities to handle the fruit for them. By this means it is expected that a higher price will be realized than they have been receiving in the past. Toronto wholesale fruit dealers claim that the package used by the Essex growers is not suited to the trade of this market, and say that it must be improved before any large quantity of Essex green fruit can be sold to advantage in Toronto.

The Hamilton grocers are holding a Pure Food Exposition. The exhibits are arranged in the Drill Hall, and have a very attractive appearance. There are thirty-five booths on the ground floor, all different in design and decoration, and under brilliant illumination the general effect is very pretty. All varieties of food stuffs are shown, from flour up to fine cake and pastry, canned goods of all kinds, teas, coffees, sugars, pickles and confectionery. The exhibition was opened by the Hon. G. W. Ross. Mr. F. R. Close is the chairman of the executive committee, in charge of affairs, and to him much of the success of the Fair is due.

Concerning the Louisiana sugar crop the *Sugar Planters' Journal* says: "Almost every one of the delayed planters have finished cane planting, and while the unusual warmth had caused the seed to sprout a great deal, it is so sound and such a liberal quantity had been kept, that any breakage of eyes by handling is fully compensated for by more heavy and plentiful seeding. The stubble have been surprising planters most agreeably, by coming out better than was anticipated, so that it is almost certain that we will have as good a crop as was last year's excellent one, and the increased acreage will no doubt give even a larger sugar output."

Interviews, by a representative of the *Maritime Merchant*, with fish merchants at St. John, N.B., indicate that should the Dingley tariff bill pass with the proposed schedule of duties on Canadian fish it will quite seriously affect the trade in fresh and smoked fish of all kinds, pickled herring and mackerel, and also dry fish. The north shore which sends fresh salmon and other fish, the dealers here who send some smoked fish, the Nova Scotia shippers of dry fish to Portland and other ports, and those who send pickled fish to that market will find the proposed duties a serious bar to profitable business, except when there is a very marked shortage in the U. S. market supply.

#### ABOUT DRY GOODS.

The prospects are that a large trade will be done this year in wash goods. Is your stock complete?

The Dominion Suspender Company, of Niagara Falls, Ont., has received several orders from Capetown, South Africa.

The millinery openings in the Maritime Provinces were well attended, and reports indicate very satisfactory trading.

In the millinery trade the demand for straw braids is increasing: this material is used with the garniture of lace, flowers, chiffon and osprey.

There are in Crefeld thirteen firms connected with the industry of manufacturing fancy parasol silks, giving employment to about 1,000 weavers.

The uncertainties of the weather during the week have interrupted the spring trade in many districts. Retailers are opening their spring and every energy is being brought into play to make the new season's business a success.

The spring opening of the stores of Z. Paquet, at Quebec, was of unusual interest this year. Mr. Paquet's stock of hats and furs is one of the most complete in the Dominion, and with the stores adorned with flowers, and the sounds of music coming from the balcony, the opening was a distinct success.

Moire velours in dress silks for which there was such a large demand are considered too weighty for summer wear, with the call for these having subsided somewhat in consequence. They are, however, considered good property for fall when the demand is again expected to assume large proportions.

The exports of raw silk from India in the season 1895-96 were 1,459,373 pounds, valued at 6,167,336 rupees, against 1,097,656 pounds, of a value of 4,824,330 rupees, in the season 1894-95. The value of the exports of silk goods has also increased from 983,611 rupees for the season 1894-95 to 1,117,072 rupees for the season 1895-96.

The Fall demand for dress goods, says the *New York Journal and Bulletin of Commerce*, is tending more and more toward plain fabrics, and it is predicted by a prominent dress goods importer that colors will be a more predominating factor than weave. In the latter small fancy effects in armures, poplins and small jacquered styles give indications of assuming a strong position.

Reports received from the United States this week go to show that the state of trade there is better. The same statement applies to Canada also, but I hear that the wholesale houses are experiencing some difficulty in respect of remittances from country districts. The uncertainty existing as to the United States tariff does not tend to improve matters.—*Draper's Record.*

In Leeds, says the *Draper's Record*, the clothing trade continues good. The factories are busy, and are receiving a plentiful supply of orders, in spite of the recent unpleasant weather keeping back retailers' sales. There appears to be no striking novelties this season, but the styles of both fabric and make show better taste and more careful execution without apparently any increased cost to the consumer.

#### ABOUT FOOTWEAR.

Bicycle shoes come in black or tan, are plainly finished and invariably laced. The usual height is fifteen inches, so that the high top does not interfere with the bend of the leg when riding.—*The Review.*

Women have at last learned that a thin-soled shoe is not a good walking shoe. The wide-stitched sole and low heel are worn by the well dressed, and is not only a sensible provision in point of health, but adds much to the graceful carriage of the wearer.

A cheap shoe, to be paradoxical, says an American exchange, is an expensive shoe, for not only do they lose their shape quickly, but they have frequently a disagreeable odor, which causes infinite discomfort to the wearer, and is a source of so much annoyance that they are sometimes discarded while but half worn.

The pointed toe, say the authorities, has lost its foothold, and in its place will be worn the sensible bull-dog toe, which is full and round, following the outline of the foot.

Pebble grains, says *Hide and Leather*, are coming into prominence again. Shoe manufacturers are turning to four-ounce leather at 10 cents a foot, as material likely to be popular for school shoes and women's wear. This leather, though less strong and durable than oil grain and satins, is likewise less expensive, and shoes made from it can be sold with pasted counters, and cheapened in other ways, while remaining acceptable to buyers. Tanners have been somewhat surprised at this sudden evidence of popularity of pebble grains, and are unable to supply more than a portion of the quantities ordered.

#### NOTES FROM ABROAD.

The French Chamber of Deputies has passed the Port Dues bill imposing a tax upon foreign vessels of 1 franc and 25 centimes per metric ton upon merchandise and upon each head of cattle or passenger landed.

Higher prices are quoted for finished iron in France and are being obtained without any difficulty. The amount of fresh business doing is not particularly large, but as makers have as a rule sufficient work in hand for the next two months, they can well afford to hold out for the more remunerative terms.

The production of iron ore in Italy amounted in 1895 to a little over 200,000 tons, a slight falling off compared with the production a few years ago. By far the most important iron mines are those in the