

feet high by fourteen feet. It is estimated the yearly output of pig iron from the one furnace will be 20,000 tons. This will represent a consumption of some 40,000 tons of coal, it being estimated that it takes two tons of coal to produce a ton of pig. In connection with the works the Company will build from fifteen to twenty coke ovens, or a sufficient number to produce thirty tons of coke per week. These ovens are called, if we mistake not, the "Copic," and are of a design not at present in use in this Province. One of the features of the new style of oven is that the coke is not drawn out by hand, in pieces, but is driven out en bloc by a ram. It is said that it only takes five minutes to discharge an oven and recharge it. It is also claimed for it that any sort of coal, almost, can be made to produce a good quality of coke. The fire proof bricks for the furnace will be imported from Scotland, and the bricks for the ovens from Germany. The erection of the furnace will be proceeded with as rapidly as possible, yet, owing to the large amount of labor involved in its construction, it is not expected smelting operations will begin till the last of the year or the beginning of next.—*Herald*.

COMMERCIAL.

The cold and unseasonable weather that prevailed during nearly all the past week checked the movement in goods generally, both for the city and for suburban trade. In the country, roads are still bad, and such farmers as can get to their fields are out working them, so that there is little business in consequence. Travellers out on the tail end of a sorting-up trip are only sending in small jobbing orders for immediate delivery.

Remittances show a marked improvement, and present indications are that the summer trade this year will prove a large and profitable one.

Stocks of all kinds of goods in both wholesale and retail hands appear to be smaller proportionally than they have been for some years. This is a good feature, because it shows that merchants are keeping their business well in hand, and are not lining their shelves with goods that they may find difficulty in selling. Nor is it necessary now as it was a few years ago to keep large stocks, a considerable per centage of which was sure to lie over until it became unsaleable. The modern wonderfully improved facilities for inter-communication and for transportation permit a business man to re-stock in any line in which he finds himself running short in a few days or hours, when not so long ago weeks and perhaps months would have been required.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REVIEW OF HENRY CLEWS & CO.—NEW YORK, MAY 9, 1891.—"The 'bull' campaign has now had three weeks of trial. The result proves that it has been based upon natural conditions, and has rested upon a sound foundation. During the last four weeks, we have exported about \$19,000,000 of gold, which has to that extent depleted the reserves of the banks, and this has not only a severe but a more or less unexpected test of the strength of the stock market. Under an ordinary state of things such a drain would have sufficed to cause important selling of long stocks and a big decline in prices, but in the present condition of things, whilst it has encouraged active selling by the 'bear' operators, it has not prevented a material rise in prices, and has simply acted as a preventive of a still further advance. It is another evidence of the intrinsic strength of the market that not only has the upward movement had little or no support from the London and Continental markets, but it has actually had to contend with the return of securities from those sources.

These facts show incontestably that the success of the 'bull' campaign, thus far, is due to a bona fide recovery of confidence and to solid causes. At the same time, however, the larger operators are wise in their disposition to postpone any extreme urging of the rise until the uncertainties attending the money market are mitigated. At present, the end of the export of specie is not in clear sight. The European money markets are kept unsettled by the still disturbed condition of South American finances, and by the possibility that Russia's expenditure for armaments and railways, also preparations for conversion of a loan, may withdraw large deposits now resting at foreign centres; and Thursday's advance of the Bank of England rate of discount to four per cent is an expression of this uneasy feeling. A crisis at any of the European money centres might easily increase our shipments of gold and send home American securities; and such a crisis is far from being beyond the range of possibility; there are, indeed, those who think such an event probable. Until the probabilities of such disturbances are dissipated, the present range of prices is safer than a higher range would be; and the more prudent operators appear to hold that view.

But while it may be prudent to maintain this attitude for the time being, that fact does not warrant any unfavorable inference as to the position of the market at a later stage. A few weeks later, not only will the European demand for gold have been satisfied, but the situation arising from the results of the world's harvests will necessitate a material reflux of gold to this country. The recent cold wave has come too late to cause any appreciable injury to either the Winter or Spring crops of wheat. The latest advices from the other leading wheat growing countries afford little improvement on the unfavorable prospects of their harvest; and we have, therefore, still a reasonable promise of an extraordinary export of this cereal at much above average prices. This alone is sufficient to insure a course of the foreign exchanges that will contribute largely towards meeting the interior demand for currency during the Fall months. In the meantime, the reserves of the New York banks are not suffering any actual reduction, the withdrawals of gold for export, since the beginning of April, having been set off by the return of currency from the interior and the exchanges with the Sub-treasury. Whilst, therefore, there may be reason for moderation in stock operations for the moment, there is none for apprehension as to the future, on the contrary, any favorable turn in the European situation or in

our foreign exchanges would be accepted as sufficient reason for the resumption of activity in the 'bull' campaign.

The serious labor disturbances in Europe, on the 1st of May, have been an unsettling factor on the foreign markets during the week, with which business here has in some measure sympathized; but, on the other hand, this has been offset by the abatement of war gossip at the Continental capitals. Here 'labor-day' has passed with less agitation of the eight hours question and less display of the Socialistic agitation than had been expected, which is a valuable contribution towards confidence and enterprise in business at large. The spirit of trade throughout the country is steadily gaining in confidence; and neither the labor market nor the capital market shows any lack of wholesome employment. Should the anticipated abundant harvest be realized, the resulting prosperity of the farming interest will tend to create a Fall business of unusual activity, with a season of unusual earnings for the railroads."

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

	Week May 8. week.	Prev. 1890	Weeks corresponding to May 8.	1889	1888	Failures for the year to date	1891	1890	1889	1888
United States.....	116	190	152	174	177	4429	4290	4570	4069	
Canada.....	31	41	26	29	29	777	724	703	735	

DRY GOODS.—The cold weather of the past two weeks has been quite a set-back to the dry goods sorting trade, and has caused a large falling off in orders. However, one or two leading houses report a number of orders for Canadian fall woollens, though many houses prefer to wait till they can better gauge their requirements for fall fabrics. Cotton goods are steady, and owing to the low price at which the raw article was bought in, the mills are said to be making fair profits. Prices are generally well maintained, considering the cuts which the mills outside the Dominion Cotton Company have made. Remittances have been fair, some reporting an improvement over those of last week, but city collections have been slow.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There has been some more business doing in pig iron, but the increase has not been very appreciable. Still the market has a firmer tendency on the whole, and it is said that some purchases that were made last week could not be duplicated now at the same figures. Advices from primary markets continue strong in tenor, and warrants have not abated the strength they have displayed, while makers' brands are also firm, although, for natural reasons, the alteration in them is not so marked as that of warrants. There is a steady business to note for Canadian bar iron, while foreign remains in the same position. Hoops and bands show no change, and the same may be said of sheet iron, in which foreign advices continue strong. The easy feeling in copper is maintained, and although figures remain nominally the same, it is believed that more business has been done under than at quotations.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market has ruled quiet, the movement being small and prices unchanged. The stocks of corn and oat meals is small, but is quite sufficient for the demand. Beerbohm's cable reports wheat and corn steadier, but nothing doing. French country markets mostly a turn cheaper. At Chicago the wheat market has been quite demoralized and declined considerably. Corn has also been weak, and oats fluctuating with a strong downward tendency. The Montreal *Trade Bulletin*, which is always well informed, particularly in grain matters, reviews the situation as follows:—"Since our last issue the wheat trade has had a genuine surprise in the wholly unlooked for decline of July wheat to 97½c., being a drop of 16c. to 17c. per bushel within the past three weeks. This abrupt change from an apparently strong 'bull' market to that of a depressed and demoralized one has upset the calculations of many a Montreal speculator, who, when wheat was selling at \$1.13 in Chicago, based his future hopes of wealth and prosperity on its going to \$1.25; but when on Tuesday last it collapsed with an awkward thud to 97½c., he was so dumbfounded with amazement that he durst not back his 'bull' courage any further, but allowed himself to be sold out under the rules. It is known that some operators who purchased at about \$1.13 kept on taking more on each break, feeling certain that a sudden reaction was bound to succeed every drop, but when the perpendicular 'slump' to 97½c. was registered many were compelled to drop out from sheer marginal exhaustion. On Wednesday, however, there was a quick rally of 3c. to \$1.00½ July and \$1.01 May, closing at \$1.00 for both options. Many are of opinion that the precipitate decline was wholly unwarranted, and that a speedy recovery to top figures will be experienced. Be this as it may, it is pretty certain that the losses in wheat during the past week or ten days have been heavy, and have made a considerable hiatus in former gains. The panicky features of the market have no doubt been due to the late favorable conditions of the crop on this continent and the marked improvement noticed in the British and Continental crops. On the other hand, there are those who still believe that the late decline in prices was a pure 'fluke,' and that the supplies are barely sufficient to hold out until the new crop is harvested in sufficient quantity to relieve the apparent scarcity, although this view must be regarded as extremely problematical. Everything at the moment points to a large crop of both spring and winter wheat on this continent, and by the middle of next month it is expected that new samples will be shown on the St. Louis market. That there will be sufficient wheat and flour to tide over all legitimate requirements on both sides of the Atlantic between now and next harvest, is a foregone conclusion, but at the same time we would not be surprised to see higher prices."

PROVISIONS.—Little or no business has been done in the local provision markets since our last report, and prices have remained without change. The demand for pork is quiet, and the trade is confined to dealers. Something is doing in sugar cured hams, picnic hams and breakfast bacon, but in a very sluggish way. In lard a fair trade is doing. Dealers and producers claim that the new material costs high and that prices must advance. In