

Toronto have been approached, and branches have been opened there and in Montreal. The doctor thinks there is something radically wrong or the supply of fresh salt-water fish would have a better chance in the West. There is, he says, no reason why fresh salt-water fish should not be retailed in the West at from 5 to 6 cents per pound, whereas at present they are selling at from 8 cents to 12 cents per pound.

CHEESE BOARDS.

There were twelve board meetings this week in Ontario and 10,168 boxes were offered for sale. Prices ranged between 9¼c. and 9¾c. per pound. There is a large export movement of cheese, and 16,421 boxes went out from Montreal the past week, against 5,532 boxes a year ago. The total shipments since May 1st were 24,351, against 13,953 boxes the corresponding period a year ago. We append our usual table of transactions:

Boards and Date of meeting.	No. of facto- ries.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price Per lb. Cts.
Kingston, May 11....	..	975	...	9¾
Brockville, May 11..	..	1,776	342	9⅞-¼
Chesterville, May 11.	..	382	40	9⅞-¼
South Finch, May 12.	..	764	...	9⅞-½
Iroquois, May 12....	..	536	476	9-9¼
Ingersoll, May 16....	..	670	...	...
Campbellford, May 16	..	1,025	850	9¼
Belleville, May 16....	20	1,130	715	9 3-16-¼
Tweed, May 17.....	..	445	445	9 5-16
Stirling, May 17.....	..	800	730	9¼-5-16
Napanee, May 17.....	..	870	770	9¼
Pictou, May 17.....	15	795	35	9¼

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

The Canadian cotton mills have seldom been busier than they are at present. The situation is one of strength and higher prices may be looked for.

Trade in the Kidderminster carpet circles is distinctly good in all departments. Some of the Brussels looms are still being run overtime, and large contracts have recently been entered into.

For the autumn trade in high novelties according to a prominent authority, the purples and plum shades, so favorably received this spring, are likely to have the call. For more staple goods blues promise well. Grays are looked upon as pretty sure to find favor with the fine trade. Brown and green seem less likely to forge ahead.

Of Barnsley linens, the Glasgow Herald says: Looms generally running full time with a prospect of steady trade demand. Home consumption for household linens of light to medium grades has been sustained, but orders for fine goods are still unimportant, and low-priced articles are mostly taken. Coarse fabrics have a steady sale.

At Halifax, England, merino is in good demand and gives tone to raw material of all grades. Prices have risen rather rapidly of late in consequence of the reports of short supplies. Fine crossbreds are also stronger in price. English wools are rather quiet, though there is some improvement in Downs. Spinners are firm in quotations, but they are cut very fine. The demand for manufactured goods continues to improve a little, and better weather would stimulate it.

The materials and colors likely to obtain favor for fall, says The Dry Goods Economist, are now well outlined. There has been a fairly satisfactory advance-order business for velvet effects and crepons; such materials may be considered the distinctive novelties. The next most popular fabrics, as indicated by advance orders, will be plaids in rough effects; they are expected to hold second place. Elaborate colorings have been ordered out by buyers in camel's hair effects; stripes in this same line are receiving considerable attention. There is reason to believe that rough effects are to gain in popularity. Several domestic agents controlling mills report a satisfactory season in rough effects, no other materials having engaged their attention. If the judgment of the leading dress goods buyers of the country can be relied upon, it may now be authoritatively

stated that plaid-back-materials are to be received with increased favor.

The Shoe and Leather Reporter has been attempting to educate the trade to the necessity of restricting the number of styles in footwear. We are not very sanguine as to the results, but even if the agitation has only partial results much good will have been accomplished. The Reporter says: The shapes of to-day are so universally satisfactory, both in respect of taste and of hygiene, that the desire is general for their retention, with only minor variations if, indeed, any at all are made. There will always be changes of materials and new combinations of them, but the stand should be taken for the perpetuity of the present lasts, essentially unchanged, in response to popular sentiment, refined taste, the comfort of the feet and the prosperity of the trade. Long, sharp toes are an abomination and a relic of mediaeval absurdity and it is to be hoped that they will never reappear.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. L. C., Ottawa.—The subject is referred to on page 1528 of this issue. There seems to be more personal bitterness than prudent negotiation in the present wrangle over the affairs of the Canada Life.

G. H. D., Sydney.—Letter received just as we are going to press. Will look into the subject.

"Great Britain maintains its position as the great coal merchant of the world," says Industries and Iron, "supplying two-fifths of the coal required by the inhabitants of the earth, and employing more than one-third of the total number of men who work in mines. In his report on the mineral output, Dr. Le Neve Foster, the chief inspector of mines in this country, shows that America leads in iron, Great Britain being second, the deposits of Alsace-Lorraine placing Germany third on the list with an output of ten million tons of ore, Spain produces the largest quantity of lead, the Malay peninsula is responsible for nearly two-thirds of the world's supply of tin, and the mines of Upper Silesia make the German empire foremost as a zinc-producing country. The South African Republic has been assailing the position of the United States as a gold-producer, although the latter still leads in silver."

—The vexed question of vessel taxation is gradually being settled on the lakes by several of the States adopting special laws to cover vessel property. The result will be, says The Marine Review, that the States holding to the old rule of trying to collect from the ships taxes equal to that charged up against personal property in large cities will find themselves without vessels of any kind from which to collect taxes. The home of the ship is easily changed. Wisconsin has just adopted a law similar to the Minnesota law, which provides for a tax of 3 cents per gross ton.

—If M. Menier has been trying to usurp only sovereign rights in the Island of Anticosti, the fact will now be discovered, the British Admiralty having ordered the sloop "Alert" to visit the island and make enquiry into charges consequent on the Menier purchase and occupation of the land.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing house for the week ended with Thursday, May 18th, 1899, compared with those of the previous week

CLEARINGS.	May 18th, 1899.	May 11th, 1899.
Montreal.....	\$15,821,294	\$16,498,886
Toronto.....	9,152,410	12,140,978
Winnipeg ..	1,523,767	1,729,096
Halifax	1,232,230	1,293,362
Hamilton	678,295	1,002,419
St. John	672,148	750,736
Victoria		714,575
Vancouver.....	789,803	726,549

\$ \$84,856.101

Aggregate balances, this week, \$.....; last week, \$5,121,321.