

well if placed between two sheets of blotting paper and ironed. The iron must not be too hot. The secret of pressing flowers and leaves is to frequently change the paper in which they are placed and to avoid too sudden pressure at first.

COMMERCIAL.

The general condition of trade affairs has continued to be without material change, though the markets in all departments have exhibited a fair degree of activity, and the distribution of merchandise has been satisfactory. Locally payments are well met, but reports from the west continue to be unsatisfactory. A crisis in financial matters appears to impend in that section of the Dominion, and, though it may not directly affect the status of our merchants in the Maritime Provinces to any great extent, still the results of any general trade disaster in any portion of Canada must be felt throughout.

The weather continues to be very backward, and frosts more or less heavy are experienced every night. This, with the lack of rain, which is beginning to be seriously felt, retards farming operations, and many persons of experience are predicting a very short hay crop. The country very much needs heavy, warm rains, interspersed with sunshine, to forward the crops. Some rain fell here on Tuesday and Wednesday, was warm and moist, but we do not know whether the much needed moisture extended far up the country.

It is said that considerable quantities of hay are still held in some sections of this province. If that is true there will be no absolute want of that kind of cattle food for a while.

The new contractors are doing a good deal of work on the City Hall that does not show, because it mainly consists of tearing down the bad work of their predecessor. They have a considerable force on, and promise that, as soon as they have cleared up things, they will rush the building up rapidly.

The health of the German Emperor appears to be decidedly improving, and, as his tendencies are known to be pacific, this fact gives a stable tone to the European trade that it did not possess while his life hung, as it were, in the balance. A general European war is not now as imminent as it has appeared at any time during the past dozen years, and business interests are not threatened with disruption to any great extent at present.

A Montreal paper remarks as follows:—"Owing to slow collections on the part of country storekeepers in Ontario, it is anticipated that renewals with wholesale houses will be numerous between now and next October. At least, that is what some of our large dry good houses look forward to, and consequently have exercised a great deal of caution in filling their orders of late. We have made it a point to interview travellers in different lines of business who have recently returned from the West, and they have invariably informed us, that trade partakes of a very unfavorable aspect in Ontario, owing to overtrading on the one hand, and a scarcity of farm produce on the other hand. It is to be hoped however, that as soon as cheese production gets into full swing, and causes our shippers to realize on between \$150,000 and \$250,000 of English exchange per week, that an improvement will be experienced in remittances from the West, which have lately been exceedingly disappointing." The Halifax Sugar Refinery has shut down temporarily—owing it is reported to a difficulty with Mr. Dustan as to water supply.

The following are the assignments and business changes in this Province during the past week:—J. H. Margeson, druggist, Halifax, deceased, and stock, etc., sold out to Irwin & Son. Wallace Maling, victualler, Halifax, assigned to Wm. A. Maling. Wm. Blair & Co., bottlers, Amherst, about selling out to Geo. D. McCullum of Spring Hill. Kenneth M. Solomon, gen. store, Acadia Mines, assigned in trust.

DRY GOODS.—The dry goods market has been fairly active and a good trade accomplished in seasonable goods. No apparent change has occurred in staple goods, but a disposition to shade prices in cotton fabrics is reported to be developing. The extent of this shading is as yet uncertain. Travellers report their sorting-up trips to have continued fairly prosperous, and stocks in country merchants' and retailers' hands are generally regarded as lighter than usual at this season. Importers continue to be very cautious, and have not, so far, ordered beyond their prospective probable requirements. The reluctance with which country dealers have taken hold of "fall goods" has, evidently, largely influenced importers in making up their estimates of their requirements. The trade in soft and light summer textile fabrics is at present very good. Business in this line in Great Britain seems to be somewhat depressed and purchasers appear to show no anxiety to help matters by pushing in unseasonably. They predict even lower figures than now obtain before long, and only purchase enough "to keep them going."

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—A satisfactory trade has been accomplished in most lines of iron and hardware, and prices have preserved regularity throughout the lines. No change worthy of note has transpired. Glasgow cables warrants at 37s. 9d. From London the cable reports tin at £85 and Chili brass at £81. Our Philadelphia advices say that "the iron trade there is still in an unsettled and an unsatisfactory state, except with reference to bar iron, for which there is a slight improvement, owing to the general depletion of stocks. The attitude of a good many producers with reference to future prices has not been determined. Standard No. 1 at \$19 to \$19.50; forge at 15.50, muck bars at \$27, merchant have been going at \$17 to \$18.50. Large buyers have been placing summer orders. Nails are sluggish, as distant markets are not absorbing their anticipated quotas. Plate, tank and shell iron and steel are moving more freely, but a very conservative feeling prevails all around. Steel rails are dull.

BREADSTUFFS.—As regards actual business the flour market has ruled very quiet since our last report. The unsettled—almost feverish—condition of the United States and our own western markets has made holders anything but anxious to sell at quotations. It is, however, quite possible that "estimates" of the "growing crop" and of the "reserve supply" may prove to be entire-

ly astray, and that the demand will not fail to be promptly met. The British markets have been quiet and steady with material change. Cargoes of wheat and corn in all positions were steady at unchanged quotations. In Liverpool wheat was steady as to prices, but the tone was dull. Corn was 3d. cheaper at 5s. 5d. In Chicago there was decided strength in the grain market and an active business was done. Wheat was strong and advanced to 86½c. June, 87½c. July, 87½c. August. Corn also advanced ½c. to 7c. to 56½c. June, 56½c. July and August. In sympathy with wheat and corn cash improved ½c. to ¾c., standing at last quotations at 34½c. June, 33½c. July, 29½c. August. Macdougall Brothers, stock brokers of the Chicago Board of Trade, write:—"While the market is very strong, the absence of general buying of a few is not a healthy state of things, and sharp fluctuations are probable. We think present holders likely to force prices higher, but we cannot recommend buying in such a forced market." The *Mark Lane Express*, in its review of the British grain trade during the past week, says:—"English wheat values during the week have been hard to maintain. The demand for flour is small, but the quantities of new ground locally are so much reduced that the provincial markets have raised the price of country flour. The hot weather has given an impetus to crops, and the barley, oat and wheat fields show an excellent plant. If the favorable weather lasts the crops promise to be above the average. Foreign wheat is slow and unchanged, with the exception of Russian, which is a fraction cheaper. The excitement in the markets of America has affected values here. India is beginning to ship more freely." The Washington official weather crop bulletin for the past week states that the average temperature east of the Rocky Mountains has been below the nominal. In the grain regions of the Northwest and Ohio Valley the cold weather during the week has prevented any marked improvement in the crop conditions, notwithstanding the abundance of rain. Damaging frosts occurred in Michigan southward to northern Alabama. Reports from Minnesota state that the weather conditions have been generally favorable for the crops, though too cold for rapid growth. Reports from Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri indicate that the weather during the week has been favorable for small grain, but unfavorable for corn. The *Farmers' Review* crop report for the week does not indicate any material improvement in the condition of winter wheat, but on the other hand, insects in Illinois and other states are becoming more plentiful, but the damage as yet has not been serious. The extremely backward spring and cold rain have retarded insects from hatching out, hence the reports of injury by them are not yet common. In New York the wheat market has been strong and moved up 1½c. to 1½c. to 95½c. June and August, 97½c. July. Corn improved to 64c. for June, July and August. Oats were 38½c. June, 39½c. July, 35½c. August. In Toledo and Detroit, wheat and corn were also strong and moving up. The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* says:—"The first sale of Prince Edward Island oats ever made in this market was recorded by us last week, namely, 20,000 bushels at 40c. per 32 lbs., and we now have to chronicle the sale of 30,000 bushels at 40c. per 32 lbs., and more money could be obtained to-day. These two cargoes are now on the way here in sailing vessels, comprising 50,000 bushels, and other cargoes are expected. The above cargoes were shipped to and sold by Messrs J. & R. McLea of this city. The scarcity of coarse grains in this province and Ontario appears to have opened up a good market for the oats of Prince Edward Island, which were formerly shipped to British ports."

The English wheat trade appears to be getting almost as speculative as that of Chicago, and a great portion of the recent steep advance in the price of wheat on this side is said to be due to the persistent short selling of English operators, who had previously made such heaps of money out of it, that they could not be made to believe it was possible to oversell the market. They have recently found out their mistake, however, a number of whom became scared when No. 2 spring in Chicago moved up above 88c., and covered at about the highest price of the late advance. One Liverpool operator is said to have dropped \$50,000. We were shown a letter from a Chicago commission firm last week, which stated that Englishmen were still persistent believers in lower prices, and that before the recent bull movement was started, a Liverpool operator had made as much as \$500,000 in the Chicago market, by short selling. Some large English orders to sell were received in New York and Chicago on Monday and Tuesday of last week, and the course of the market on these days tended to encourage subsequent efforts in the same direction.

PROVISIONS.—There is little to note in the local provision market. Though supplies are limited, the demand is very moderate. In Liverpool, bacon has been weaker, and declined 3d., to 38s. 6d. to 41s.; pork was unchanged at 70s., and tallow 23s. 9d. In Chicago there has been a firmer feeling in pork, and prices moved up 2½c. to \$14 37½ June, \$14 47½ July, \$14 55 August. Lard was easier, and fell off to \$6.85 June, \$8 7½ July, \$8 72½ August. The hog market was stronger, and moved up 3c. Quotations were:—Light grades \$5.40 to \$5.65, mixed packing \$5.50 to \$5.70, heavy shipping \$5.65 to \$5.80; rough packing \$5.40 to \$5.55.

BUTTER.—Some dealers report a little accumulation of new stock, but there is no surplus of really choice butter. Such an article always does, and, doubtless, always will command a ready market at remunerative prices, but inferior grades, and stale butter, is not wanted, and the tendency to buy it on account of its cheapness is visibly lessening. In England, of late, a decided preference is shown for good, wholesome, honest margarine over bad or indifferent butter. To show that this is the case in other places, we quote the following from a Montreal contemporary:—"A few weeks ago, we mentioned the sale of 1,000 packages of margarine for Newfoundland account, and we have to report the sale of another lot of 750 packages for shipment to St. John's, Nfld. We also learn that 3,000 packages of margarine have just arrived at the above port from New York, which demonstrates that medium and low grade butter has been almost entirely superseded by the imitation product margarine in the fisherman's island of Newfoundland."