

Yesterday afternoon the extensive flour and oatmeal mills of Meldrum & Co. at Peterboro' were destroyed by fire, together with Wynn's saw mill, a warehouse and several dwellings. The loss is placed at \$100,000; the insurance is about \$66,000.

A GROCERS' ASSOCIATION.

There is trouble among the wholesale grocers in the United States over some matters of business procedure, and to get these regulated, and further, to consult about various trade subjects, a meeting of the various wholesale grocers' associations of the leading cities east of the Rocky Mountains was held in the Philadelphia Bourse on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. J. F. Grinstead, president of the Wholesale Grocers' Association of Louisville, Ky., presided. Orrin Thacker, secretary of the Columbus, O., Association, was secretary. Ten associations in Maryland, Kentucky, Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio, were represented. The handling of sugar is one subject over which there has been difficulty. By an agreement with the refiners last fall jobbers are allowed 3-16c. per pound rebate on all 100-barrel lots but all retail dealers buying in 100-barrel lots or more are not allowed this commission, but must pay the full card rates. It has been said that the jobbers in some instances in the West have not lived up to the agreement, which is one of the reasons why the meeting was called. It is also desired that a uniform time be fixed for reducing and advancing prices.

THE NEW NEW YORK.

The extension of the boundaries of New York city to include not only Brooklyn and Staten Island, but the whole of Westchester county, Long Island city, Jamaica and Flushing, makes the capital of the Empire State, so it is claimed, the second city in the world in respect of population. The bill was signed by Governor Morton on Monday last, to go into effect on 1st January, 1898. London covers an area of 690 square miles and has 4,000,000 population. The Greater New York will cover 318 square miles and have a population of more than 3,000,000. The present New York city had 1,801,739 residents in 1892, and Brooklyn 995,276; Staten Island boasted, by the same year's census, 53,542, while Flushing, Newtown and other districts now incorporated make up 135,000 more, giving a total of 2,985,442, and the natural increase would make the population by this time 3,100,000. Congratulations to "Greater New York."

VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Vancouver, B.C., Board of Trade, held in the new apartments of that body, a resolution of the Winnipeg Board of Trade urging the adoption of a uniform rate of two cents postage on all letters for delivery in Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, was endorsed. S. Oppenheimer explained that local dealers under present regulations suffered loss by shipment of goods on vessels for use as ship stores, and then gave a list of goods that were shipped free of duty. He pointed out that it was the custom in all countries, except Canada, to permit all goods for consumption to be shipped free of duty, when bound for foreign ports. In consequence of this restriction, owners of ships coming to Vancouver made very small purchases. It was finally resolved to petition the Hon. the Minister of Customs, and the Government, praying that it may be ordered that all goods, whether for consumption by the passengers and crew, or for use in the fitting and navigation of sailing vessels, may be allowed to be taken out of bond and shipped free of duty on board of said vessels. It was also resolved to ask the customs authorities for an increase in the staff of clerks at Vancouver, as merchants often suffered serious delay in getting goods out of bond. As might be expected, comparison with the staff at Victoria was made, showing that in the long room eleven clerks were employed, and that in 1895 they had to look after the collection of \$572,095, from 16,624 entries; while in Vancouver there are four people in the long room to collect \$275,488, from 9,664 entries.

AMERICAN TARIFF CONVENTION.

A convention, non-political and non-sectional, of the commercial, manufacturing, labor and agricultural organizations of the United States is to be held in Detroit, Mich., opening Tuesday, June 2nd, 1896 and continuing from day to day. The subjects to be discussed are:

First—Ways and means for taking the tariff question out of partisan politics and making it a business question, instead of a political football.

Second—The discussion of ways and means for the improvement of the consular service of the United States and its employment to increase foreign trade, especially with the Central and South American republics.

Third—The creation of a department of Commerce, Manufactures and Labor, and of making the chief of such department a member of the cabinet.

Fourth—The advisability of forming a permanent organization for the purpose of holding annual conventions for the consideration of national questions and advising Congress thereon.

Delegates are invited to be sent by boards of trade or other such bodies, and individuals will also be welcomed. It is intended that the plans adopted by this convention will be put in proper shape, and a committee appointed to present them to the two great political conventions to be held in June and July. The convention committee is composed of sixteen members, half a dozen of them presidents of boards of trade in Kansas City, Cincinnati, Scranton, Brunswick, Georgia and Brunswick, Missouri, Indianapolis and Duluth, the president of the Commercial Club at Dallas, Texas, and also of the Manufacturers' Exchange of Detroit, the New York Retail Grocers' Union, and the Flint Glass Workers' Union of Pittsburg.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

One steamer from Havana to New York, on Monday, had 8,840 barrels pine apples.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company is said to have sold 2,000 sacks of strong bakers to a firm in Sydney, Australia, one day this week.

During the year ending April 30 the mills of Minneapolis produced 12,040,215 barrels of flour. One mill alone produced over 4,000,000 barrels. These figures break the records.

Our Montreal correspondent writes that it is reported that the local agent of a California packer offered a local jobbing house 4½c. per pound for a lot of 3-crown loose muscatels, being a quarter cent over their original cost.

A well-known medical authority says in a recent work, that cheese should be eaten at least once a day. "It is the most valuable animal food obtainable," he says, "from two to three times as nutritious as the same money value of ordinary meat."

They counterfeit everything in Chicago, it seems. Not only Canadian whiskey; but even the Angostura bitters, an imitation of which is being marketed largely in Chicago by a so-called distilling company. A large seizure of bottles and labels was made recently, and prosecutions are to follow.

With assets of \$3,000,000 and liabilities of \$1,000,000, Ferd. Shumacher, the president of the American Cereal Company of Chicago, who did so much to improve the preparation of grain for human food, has made a voluntary assignment. He was also the president of a number of other large western companies.

"One reason why the retail grocers do not sell more cigars," said the tobacco man in a prominent jobbing house, "is that they want to make too large a profit. They charge a customer 10c. or 15c. for a cigar he can buy of the tobacconist up the block at 5c. less, and then wonder why the buyer doesn't come back."

Joe Howard says that merchants, butchers, bakers, and tradesmen are rarely worn out. "I never saw," says Joseph, "a butcher with care stamped upon his face. In spite of failures in mercantile life, tradesmen, as a general thing, are good natured, jolly-faced and comfortable." Something to be thankful for, isn't it?

Fairbank's world supply of lard, dated Chicago May 5, shows 173,500 tierces in Europe, against 189,500 last month; afloat for Europe, 40,000, against 45,000 tierces; American stocks, 220,000, against 184,000 last month, making a total world's increase of 15,000 tierces, which was less than expected, and shows a falling off except at Chicago, where the only increase occurs.

It is estimated, says the Stratford *Beacon*, that not more than 2,500 boxes of fodder cheese will be exported this season against about 20,000 boxes last year. Advices from this district state that the April make will be very small, and as the season is fully two weeks earlier than last year, with heavy pastures, full grass cheese are being turned out already, and the make in that section is expected to be heavy.

London cheese board opened for the season on Saturday afternoon and elected officers, M. R. Brown, of Appin, being chosen president; Wm. A. Lee, of W. Nissouri, vice-president; J. A. Nelles, secretary-treasurer. Seven factories boarded 426 boxes. After some discussion the board took an informal vote on whether they should sell on the board only or not. Twelve voted yea and five nay, and the question was then referred to a committee.

California dried fruits were firm in New York, on Monday and Tuesday. The demand was chiefly for loose raisins, especially for two-crowns, which are relatively cheaper than the higher grades. Several cars of two-crowns were reported on Monday sold at 2½c., but holders