

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture has just published a valuable bulletin on peach culture in Canada. The opinion is expressed that the area favorable for the growth of this fruit is sufficiently large to admit of a great extension of the industry. Of late years the crop has been greatly increased, and the acreage under cultivation is continually extending.

The Ottawa Agricultural Government authorities have been experimenting with good results in the feeding of fowl. The rations consist exclusively of oatmeal ground as fine as flour, mixed with skimmed milk, and fed to the fowls by cramming machines.

Hay at Sackville, N.B., is said to be worth only \$4 per ton.

Efforts to buy French walnuts have brought out the information that shippers will have little to spare this year, as the crop was short and the bulk of it was purchased for Germany.

The Singapore Exchange market report, dated October 26, says: "Coffee—More doing in Palembang at lower prices; very little in Bali. Black pepper in small supply; a small business at lower rates. White pepper—A fair business at lower quotations. Rice is steady; small arrivals from all ports. Sago—A fair business in pearl and flour; prices about as last quoted. Tapioca—A fair business in flake and pearl at last prices."

Last mail advices from Sicily and Bari report very light stocks of shelled almonds remaining, with an active demand from the importing countries. The stock of Valencia in the primary market appears to be exhausted. Jordan seem to be the only description of shelled almonds of which there is good supply.—N. Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce.

At a meeting of the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange the railroad companies urgently pressed for the immediate naming of the two export grades of wheat not yet designated by the exchange, the council decided to recommend Nos. 1 and 2 "special wheat" to cover grain that has been dried by artificial process. It was also decided to recommend to the committee of the grain standards Board, appointed for the purpose, that they select standard samples to cover this description of grain.

—While we do not get the number of immigrants that we desire, we continue to get a fair number from Europe, generally of a desirable class, and we have this year got a fair sprinkling from the Northwestern States of the American Union. The number who arrived in Canada at ocean ports during ten months ended with October was about 19,000, as compared with 17,000 last year. The total arrivals from ocean travel by Eastern Canada and from the United States reported at Winnipeg was 26,060. This figure does not represent the total immigration, because in addition to the 22,379 new arrivals from abroad, who are definitely accounted for, probably 5,000 came into the country without having been made the subject of immigration record. Returns of the people passing in and out of Manitoba's territories on railways shows a favorable balance of 29,000. It is estimated on the basis of the ten months operations that by the end of the year the returns will show between thirty and thirty-five thousand immigrants settled in the country. Of those reported at Winnipeg, 10,069 settled in Manitoba, 7,070 in the territories, 5,759 in British Columbia, and in the Yukon 2,239.

—At a meeting in Boston on Monday last of the Oil Trade Association, Hon. Chas. S. Hamlin, Samuel B. Capen, Lucius Tuttle, president of the Boston and Maine Railroad, and Osborn Howes, secretary of the Boston Board of Fire Underwriters, were among the speakers. This last-named gentleman was very outspoken. The subject discussed was "Our Trade with the Dominion of Canada." Mr. Howes spoke of the tremendous opportunities for trade with Canada. He went on to show the enormous amount of traffic between Canada and the United States at the present time, stating that 38,000,000 tons of freight pass through the Detroit river during every year, one-sixth of the freight carried over the Great Lakes and adjoining waters. "How have we treated Canadians?" he asked. "It has been a case of meeting their approaches with blows rather than blessings. Instead of opening the door, we have almost in every case shut it in their faces, and yet our trade has grown."

—There is a movement among railway authorities in the United States to abolish the system of free riding on railways by means of passes. It is said that the Western Passenger Association has taken the opinion of the lines within its agreement, and an Executive Committee have actually reported in favor of the abolition of passes. It is considered certain that the days of the railway pass are numbered. If it were done away with in the States, it would be easier to accomplish the abolition of the system in Canada. By that means we shall be able to rid ourselves of the reproach that our legislators, or 90 per cent. of them, now travel to and from their Parliamentary duties by means of free passes given them by the railways.

—The Nelson Miner attributes to The Monetary Times the opinion that the mining royalty in the Yukon ought to be abolished, and then proceeds to combat that view. It so happens that The Monetary Times never expressed the opinion attributed to it. What we have said, from first to last, is that a royalty of 10 per cent. is too high, and the figure ought to be reduced. The Nelson Miner's advocacy of a mining royalty in the Klondyke, reminds us of the professional joker, who was ready to sacrifice all his relations on the altar of patriotism, during the American Civil War. The gander would scarcely relish the sauce which it thinks very suitable for the goose.

—A meeting of citizens was held in Seaforth on Monday evening last to consider the business interests of the town, and how to further them. A resolution was reached to organize a Board of Trade, which might assist in advancing the manufacturing interests of the town. The following were elected officers: President, D. D. Wilson; vice-president, A. Young; secretary, W. D. McLean; treasurer, W. K. Pearce; council, F. Holmsted, M. Y. McLean, W. O. Reid, Jas. Scott, J. H. Reid, Jas. Watson, F. C. G. Minty, Jas. L. Kimoran.

—It is important to note, bearing in mind the published statements that Canadian commercial travelers had been forbidden to pursue their calling in the United States by the terms of the alien contract labor law, that Secretary Spaulding declares the law is not so construed by the Treasury Department. Commercial travelers are not considered as coming within its provisions.

—Dividends have been declared by the following loan companies in Ontario: Huron & Erie, 4½ per cent. for half year, payable 3rd January, 1899; Building & Loan Association, 1 per cent. for four months, payable 3rd January, 1899; British Mortgage Loan, 3 per cent. for half year, payable 3rd January, 1899.

—The bank clearings for the present week all over this continent are said to be the largest on record. The aggregates at Canadian clearing houses have for some weeks past been \$30,000,000, or over; this week they reach \$33,000,000.

—A branch of the Bank of British North America was opened in Ashcroft, B.C., on 1st December. This branch is under the temporary management of Mr. D. Simpson, assistant manager of the Vancouver branch.

—The Eastern Townships Bank declares a dividend of 3½ per cent for the current half year.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Dec. 8th, 1898, compared with those of the previous week

CLEARINGS.	Dec. 8th, 1898.	Dec. 1st, 1898.
Montreal.....	\$16,514,612	\$15,355,238
Toronto	10,762,600	9,520,568
Winnipeg	2,934,070	3,264,384
Halifax	1,489,187	1,222,309
Hamilton	871,998	709,426
St. John	844,262	642,000

\$33,416,729 \$30,713,925

Aggregate balances this week, \$4,626,949; last week, \$4,282,300.