

The general state of the home trade in the Manchester district does not show much change as compared with a week ago, says the "Draper's Record" correspondent. Speaking generally, the departments dealing with cotton goods are greatly hampered by the long time which now has to be given for orders to be completed in. This matter really affects the home-trade houses to a greater extent than shipping business. The trade in white calicoes has been very good all round since the beginning of the year. Of course, just at present things are not very active, but arrangements are being made for a good business later on in the year.

For merinos and the finest crossbreds of a merino character an advance of quite 5 per cent. on the concluding prices of the previous sales in March was quickly established at the London wool sales, and this was often exceeded as the sales proceeded. The value of combed merino of a 60's standard quality is now quite 28d. per lb., as compared with 26d. per lb., in March, and as there is every indication of the finest Australian wools being in greater request, both in the worsted and woolen home districts, as well as in the Continental manufacturing centres, it is quite possible that a still further advance may be reached before the next series of London colonial sales in June.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Colored Cotton Company was held in Montreal on the 1st inst. The financial report showed the net earnings for the fiscal year just closed to have been \$262,000. Out of this was paid interest on the bonds to the amount of \$111,000. A dividend of 2 per cent. was paid on the paid-up capital of \$2,700,000, and the sum of \$97,000 was carried forward to the credit of profit and loss account. A vote was given by the shareholders to increase the number of directors from five to seven, the two new directors elected being Mr. G. Caverhill and Senator Beique. The other directors were re-elected as follows: Mr. David Morrice, president; Sir George A. Drummond, vice-president; Messrs. E. S. Clouston, T. King and D. Morrice, jr.

Manufacturers of silk goods are receiving no particular encouragement for believing in any augmentation of their trade for the time being, and consequently are proceeding on most conservative lines, says the New York "Dry Goods Economist." While stocks are depleted, under existing conditions it is only regarded as businesslike policy to keep them down to the lowest possible ebb. Buyers realize, too, that by going into the market at this time they might injure their prospects for securing a moderate level for new silk. Demand at this time might cause importers to put the price of silk at a point where it would be possible for them to pay for cocoons at a high rate, which would certainly be demanded if the grower thought there were any probability of a continuation of high level.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The Sandwich, Ont., fish hatchery has, it is stated, distributed over 25,000,000 whitefish fry at various points along the Detroit River and in Lake Erie, including Sarnia, Bois Blanc and Fighting Island. It will shortly also distribute quantities of pickerel spawn.

American mackerel seiners, of whom there are calculated to be about seventy at present in the neighborhood of the Nova Scotia coast, are said to have met with but little success this season. Some of them have arrived in port practically empty-handed, while others have only a few barrels to their credit.

Mr. P. B. McNamara, Canadian trade agent at Manchester, Eng., calls attention to the neglect of the English barley market for Canadian growers. Last year there was imported into Great Britain 49,996,098 bushels, valued at £6,017,200, most of which came from Russia, Turkey, Roumania and the United States. The price of California malting barley in the British market, he says, at the present time is 63 cents a bushel.

The laws against fraudulent advertising in Germany are very strict, as is shown by a case recently reported from Berlin. The defendant, a merchant of Spandau, advertised that he would clear out his stock of goods at less than half price. A customer who made a purchase complained to the police that the advertisement was a fraud. Thereupon the retailer was prosecuted by the police and was fined \$150 and ordered to pay the customer \$75 damages. On appeal the fine was reduced to \$75 and the damages were remitted on the charge that the customer had not suffered any material loss.

Mr. W. A. McKinnon, the Canadian Commercial Agent at Bristol, Eng., has seen a number of prominent fruit dealers, and says they are agreed, with one exception, in regard to apples, that Canadians sell more readily and at higher prices than Americans; that one reason for this is the larger sized barrel in which Canadians are packed; that a much more important reason is that Canadians are better packed and graded, the grade marks being more reliable than those used by American competitors, and that this result is unanimously attributed to the influence of Government inspection, carried out under the Fruit Marks Act. The fruit trade, he goes on to say, approve the proposals made by the recent fruit convention at Ottawa to define No. 2 grade and also for a standard Canadian barrel.

—Another exceedingly rich find of silver is reported from Cobalt. The find was made by a party sent out by Lucky Barber, of Cobalt, and was located about thirty miles south of this town. The vein is eight inches wide, and has been traced over 700 feet. The samples brought in are said to be the richest and finest seen. A large area of new and good mining lands will now probably be prospected over.

—D. M. Howard, Government inspector in the MacKenzie River district, reports as follows regarding the catch of whales in the Arctic Ocean:—Boats now winter at Herschell Island and have between them 33 whales and one calf. This represents a considerable amount of money. Each whale is computed at San Francisco values to be worth from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars in oil, bone, etc., according to the size of the whale. At fifteen thousand dollars the 33 whales would have a value of four hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars, and of this sum Canada reaps no benefit whatever, all this money going to owners of vessels in San Francisco. It seems a pity that the vessel-owners of Vancouver and Victoria do not realize the profits in this industry and turn their attention to it. The run for them to the whaling grounds would be shorter by the distance between San Francisco and Vancouver, and they would be free from duty and should thus be able to compete successfully with the Americans.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian Clearing Houses for the week ending with Thursday, 7th June, 1906, as compared with those of the previous week:—

	June 7.	May 31
Montreal		\$22,633,097
Toronto	\$28,938,876	18,315,889
Winnipeg	9,371,501	9,420,817
Halifax	2,280,289	1,864,890
Hamilton	1,505,478	1,387,125
St. John	1,308,894	924,411
Vancouver	2,391,213	2,178,079
Victoria	661,427	570,146
Quebec	2,260,885	1,687,335
Ottawa	2,870,381	1,903,667
London	1,324,704	1,058,871
Calgary		908,163
Total		\$62,852,490

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