

By the June crop reports of the United States Government the yield of winter wheat is estimated at 268,969,000 bushels, as compared with 257,709,377 bushels last year, and 184,470,000 bushels of spring wheat, against 209,393,000 the previous year.

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, it appears is overrun with dead-beats, and the grocers hit upon a plan of getting even with them by turning over their uncollectable bills to the Women's Missionary Society, who succeeded in getting paid a great number that had been deemed hopeless. The grocers got none of the money, but the sums collected were credited to them as religious donations.

By way, probably, of showing how it does not pay to do evil that good may come, however "smart" you may be, the San Francisco *Grocer* points out to the American people that the making of "filled" cheese is said to have caused the loss of upwards of \$13,000,000 a year to the dairy farmers of the United States, in export trade that has been diverted from that country to Canada.

The order of the Captain-General of Cuba prohibiting the exportation of leaf tobacco from Havana will have a powerful effect upon some sections of the retail cigar trade of the States. The certainty that the great bulk of the retail trade will have to handle cigars of somewhat darker colors has fallen like a bombshell in certain quarters, and this is where the great changes will have to be made in the method of handling and pushing clear Havana cigars to the consumer.

Is the consumption of codfish dying out in the United States? asks the *Grocery World*, and answers the question by saying no, with modifications. He finds out, as this journal has often had occasion to remark, that the lightening in the rigidity with which the Catholic Church observed its fast days was probably as much the cause of it as anything else. This would account for reduced consumption in the New England States in particular. But dealers, it appears, in various parts of the States, "both wholesale and retail, report trade in cod exceedingly dull. For some reason nobody seems to want this commodity at any price. Prices were scarcely ever lower than at present, and yet the demand is thoroughly demoralized."

In dealing with people of property who are in receipt of sure incomes, there is very little doubt, says the *Country Merchant*, that monthly accounts are best and most convenient both for the customer and for the retail grocer. But outside of that limited class it appears certain that still shorter credits or absolute cash should prevail. "For the last five years the state of trade has been such that there is very little margin left for people who are running on future expectations, and no one can say how much longer the same conditions may still prevail. Consequently it is not safe to make a rule of trusting this class, which is always by far the largest in every community. Vast numbers of these people are in appointments, and earning, say, \$75 per month. They run bills wherever they can, with the grocer, the baker, the milkman, and everybody else, and probably besides owe monthly instalments on some of their furniture."

HIDES ABROAD,

From the hide circular of Messrs. L. & W. Van de Velde, Antwerp, dated June 1st, we take the following: "The dullness which reigned over our market since several months has at last been dissipated; a lively demand has sprung up during May, and considerable business has been done, chiefly in heavy ox, of which England took the largest part at the lowest prices. Quotations have advanced about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., and close with the tendency in favor of sellers. This brisk revival is more attributable to the prospects of a short supply of foreign hides, consequent on the important deficit in the River Plate slaughters, than to the condition of the leather trade, which so far has shown but few signs of palpable improvement. There has not been the same activity for light ox, the prices of which, owing to a momentary scarcity, had been held too high, being nearly on the same level as those of heavies. The supply has increased lately, and buyers do not show the same readiness to pay the extreme figures wanted. Salted cow have been much enquired for, especially new season's, which will be very rare this year. Quotations are very firm, with slight advances already obtained. Some more business has been doing lately in dry hides, but prices have not improved. The falling off in the killings amount to 448,000 head, as shown by the particulars at foot. In comparing the present figures to those of the preceding four years, the deficiency amounts to 519,250 head, being nearly one-third of the total kill."

—A transaction of some moment is reported from Moncton. What is known as the James Miller property in Cumberland county, Nova Scotia, consisting of 65,000 acres, has been sold to the Shulee Lumber Co., Prescott, Gillespie & Co., for \$150,000. Of this property half is in Economy and remainder in St. Mary's parish. It is estimated there is 100 million feet of lumber on the land.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

H. B. L., Regina, Assa., asks us to "kindly recommend, through your 'Answers to Correspondents' column, one or two books giving the principles of life assurance, as I presume there have been books published on this subject." We reply that the work entitled "Three Systems of Life Insurance," by Mervin Tabor, which costs \$2.50 in the States, is likely to give the information sought. Or, perhaps, the "Instruction Book for Life Agents and Canvassers," compiled by Willey, and revised by Walter S. Nichols, price \$1.50, would answer. Both these, and a dozen other works on insurance, may be had from C. C. Hine, 137 Broadway, New York, or can be ordered through a Canadian bookseller.

M. M., Guelph.—Your American informant is mistaken, we think, in his pretension that "the United States have been stocking the great lakes with fish spawn, and that they were the exemplars to Canada in fishery protection." As long ago as 1868 fish fry were distributed in the rivers and lakes of Ontario, and every year since 1875 from eight millions to ninety millions of fry have been distributed annually. There are now fourteen fish hatcheries in different parts of Canada, and we are told that repeatedly of late years the United States authorities have applied to Canada for spawn to place on the American shores of the great lakes.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, June 18th, 1896, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	June 18.	June 11.
Montreal	\$10,422,289	\$10,623,970
Toronto	6,006,435	7,544,901
Halifax	1,088,293	1,154,664
Winnipeg	955,903	961,344
Hamilton	617,931	687,343
St. John	558,629	639,238
	\$19,649,480	\$21,611,460

Aggregate balances this week, \$2,700,824; last week, \$2,736,943.

—According to the British Columbia official *Gazette* of June 5th, there is very considerable activity in incorporating mining and other companies in that province. Besides the Takush Harbor Timber Company, Limited, of England, whose capital is £80,000, and the Kootenai Water Supply Co., of Rochester, N.Y., capital \$1,000,000, there are fifteen mining companies, with capitals of from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 each incorporated. Only five of these are Canadian, the remainder hailing from the State of Washington. We observe also among the list of incorporated companies the British Columbia School of Mines; capital stock, \$30,000; headquarters, Vancouver.

—The convention in Toronto of the Canadian Electrical Association, under the presidency of Mr. A. B. Smith, closed yesterday, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Niagara Falls. The session was an interesting one, and Mr. Milne's illustrated lecture upon "Radiant Matter" was a decided feature. The officers elected were as follows: President, John Yule; first vice-president, L. B. McFarlane; second vice-president, C. Breithaupt; secretary-treasurer, C. H. Mortimer. A committee was appointed to confer with the Government regarding the new inspection Act, which is not giving satisfaction.

—We may remind our readers that a national convention of the credit managers of banks, mercantile and manufacturing establishments will be held in Toledo, Ohio, Tuesday to Thursday, June 23rd to 25th. The idea of this gathering "is to perfect an organization of the leading credit managers of the country, whose objects will be to promote the influence of its members for protection against imposition, injustice and fraud; to advocate changes in the collection and bankruptcy laws of the various States as well as the United States, and to secure the protection of creditors against many abuses now prevalent."

—The shutting down of some of the large cotton mills in the Eastern States has thrown out many families of French Canadians, who, being unable to find other employment, are returning to their native country. It is reported to *Fibre and Fabrics* of Boston, that some of them have bought farms and do not intend to return to the States, at least not until more prosperous times.