

BRADFORD.—The business done travels over a great variety of things, and is especially good for lustrous. Prices tend to harden all round. Botany spinners are very busy indeed, and much pressed for deliveries. Mohairs are again in strong demand, and are commanding the best prices. Manufacturers and merchants are agreed in stating that the rapid advance made by spinners recently is checking business both in the home trade and for America.

NOTTINGHAM.—A little better business is doing all round than of late, and there are signs that trade is at last on the improve. In laces Valenciennes takes the lead with point de Paris, and muslin in fair request. Not much is doing in guipures. Such laces as Torchons, Maltese, Bretonne and Brabant, in cheap qualities, are in moderate demand, as are also Irish trimmings. Brown cotton nets sell pretty well and are firm in value, and there is also a steady demand for bobbin nets. In silk laces not much is doing, but there is a good demand for veilings, and expert chenille spotters are in full work. Silk tulle is dull. The hosiery branch is doing well on the whole, natural wool and white merino underwear of all kinds selling pretty freely. Black merino hose and fancy half hose are in good demand. Cotton goods are dull, and not much is doing in gloves. Lace yarns quiet, hosiery yarns more active, silk unchanged.

BELFAST.—Trade is showing steady improvement. Flax supplies are small, as the season is early and the fibre already offered has been of very poor quality, prices ranging from 4s. to 6s. 6d., and a few medium lots going to 7s. 3d. This year will have a very injurious effect on the next sowing, and a correspondent of the *Economist* estimates an acreage under 80,000 next year, against 95,000 last season. The spinning branch has been gradually making headway, and though spinners are relatively not so well off as manufacturers, the tendency is towards improvement, and prices are stiffening. Brown cloth has been selling fairly well, both in power and hand-loom descriptions. Balley-menais keep in very limited supply and prices are firm. There has been a moderate inquiry for handkerchiefs. Coarse damasks are selling freely.

PRICES SLAUGHTERED.

One of the most apparent follies of trade is price cutting, and yet it is a most frequent practice. We do not refer to a wholesome reduction in prices occasioned by legitimate competition; but to a mercantile war where one merchant deliberately sets to work to bring about the ruin of a trade rival. A press correspondent writing from Brandon says: "About a year ago all the dry goods men in the city engaged in a war of prices, a large quantity of goods being sold below actual cost prices. Shortly afterwards a firm of wholesale grocers entered the retail field and cut the prices of groceries, etc., nearly in two. Then the lumbermen also caught the keen competition fever and in spite of the persistent efforts of the lumber combine, the products of the forest were sold at ruinous prices. The latest to join in the procession are the coal dealers, with the result that the best American anthracite coal can be bought here now for \$8 per ton in small lots and delivered." It is true that consumers are receiving cheap supplies; but when prices again advance—and they must advance if merchants are to live—the purchasing power of the public will be suddenly curtailed, and values previously considered reasonable will then be complained of as extravagant.

SUGARS FIRM.

The sugar market is very firm, and prices have advanced. Toronto jobbers are quoting 3c. to 3-16 of a cent higher all around than last week. The refiners in Montreal have very strong views, quoting granulated, in round lots, 4 cents per pound, and demand 1-16c. more for anything under 100 barrels. Refiners' quotations on yellows range between 3 and 3½c. The raw sugar markets abroad are very firm. Gresecker's estimate of European beet crop is 3,687,000 tons for Europe, a decrease of 1,160,000 tons against last season, and as this authority is considered by some as better than Licht, the effect is correspondingly inspiring in Canada and the United States. The stock of raws in four ports of the United Kingdom is much larger than he same time last year, namely, 123,000 tons, as compared with 56,000 a year ago.

MANITOBA AND TERRITORIAL WOOL.

One of the growing industries of Manitoba and the Territories is the sheep-raising industry. Eight or ten years ago very few farmers in Manitoba kept sheep. Now quite a number of farmers are beginning to keep a few sheep. The difficulties in the way of keeping sheep have been the ravages of wolves, and the necessity for close fencing to keep them in. In the Territories sheep are kept in large flocks, and where raised in this way men can be kept constantly with them to guard and keep the flock. Last year the exportation of sheep

began for the first time, and this summer again some thousands of head will be exported to Great Britain from the Territories and Manitoba. The wool business has grown with the sheep interest, and this year it is estimated that not far from 800,000 pounds of wool were produced in Manitoba and the Territories, the great portion of which was handled by Winnipeg dealers. The scab disease, which caused a good deal of trouble in the Territories a couple of years ago, where it was introduced by the importation of sheep from the United States, appears now to have been about eradicated. Wool from the same flocks, which last year was in bad shape on account of the scab, is this year entirely free from the infection. One of the finest lots of wool received in Winnipeg this year came from a flock which last year produced a wretchedly poor article, on account of the prevalence of scab in the flock, thus showing that the sheep have been carefully handled since last year.—*Commercial*.

LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE.

The long looked for report of Messrs. de Martigny and Chipman regarding the affairs of the Banque du Peuple was presented this morning. The full Board of Directors was present, and Mr. Jacques Grenier, the president, presided. The committee representing the depositors and stockholders, of which the Hon. F. E. Gilman is chairman, was not called to the conference. No action was taken upon the report. Another meeting will be held to-morrow afternoon at three o'clock, at which the committee of depositors and stockholders will take part.—*Montreal Star*.

CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, October 3rd, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Oct. 3.	Sept. 26.
Montreal	\$11,732,599	\$10,777,814
Toronto ..	5,737,829	5,537,222
Halifax	1,233,084	1,258,770
Winnipeg	1,170,887	1,272,022
Hamilton	667,178	661,079
Total	\$20,541,568	\$19,506,907
Aggregate balances this week, \$3,075,457; last week, \$3,098,053.		

—Autumn exhibitions are in vogue with the people of British Columbia at later dates than with us in the East of Canada. We have just received the announcements of a dozen fairs at different points. As we have already noted, the exhibition of the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society of British Columbia will be held at New Westminster next week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, October 8th to 11th. Kamloops has one this week, October 2nd to 5th, and Chilliwack on identical days. Those of the Surrey and other associations have already been held at Cloverdale, at Mission City, at Glenwood. Another takes place at Ashcroft this week. The Okanagan Agricultural Association holds its fair at Vernon, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, October 9th, 10th and 11th. The Richmond Society holds its second fair at Eburne on the 15th instant, and the Delta Society at Ladner on October 16th.

—Having now seen three numbers of Mr. Franklin Webster's new weekly paper, *The Insurance Press*, we are confirmed in the impression that when Mr. Webster started out to produce a paper after his own pattern, the pattern was a good one, and the product of a creditable kind. There is news in the new paper, there is character in it, there is "ginger" in it; and these three qualities are the sort of thing that American readers look for—more especially the ginger. There are people enough to write platitudes nowadays. What most readers are looking for is something practical, and not too lofty and goody-goody. *The Insurance Press* will make many friends, and some enemies, but it is likely to be admired for the enemies it makes.

—Under the heading of "An Assessment Lesson," an exchange suggests that the Covenant Mutual Life Association of Galesburg, Illinois, and the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association of New York, have realized the assessment principle in full. The death rate must increase with increasing age. The Knights of Honor, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Royal Arcanum, and a whole lot more are getting their wisdom rapidly. Meantime the members of all these orders, and a thousand more, are beginning to appreciate the fact that while those who die early get their something for nothing, those who live on in hope that they will have the same advantage, are finding out that it will be the costliest nothing they have ever paid out.