

that butter-making may be carried on profitably during the months unsuitable for cheese-making have been, I understand, a success, and if in the counties in which cattle-grazing, cheese-making, and the fattening of hogs, interests closely allied, are now successfully carried on, we can add a large manufacture of high-class butter without diminishing the output of cheese, a distinct forward movement in Ontario farming will have been made."

"We are suffering all over North America from the waning of a wide-reaching real estate boom. The sudden decrease in building operations has thrown large numbers out of employment, and the supposed profits from real estate operations have in many cases disappeared. Many people are clearly not so well off as they imagined, and a general indisposition, and in some cases inability, to spend money as freely as heretofore is the natural result. Not only have the imaginary profits of past speculations disappeared, but there are at the moment no captivating suburban ventures, nor can the dealers in city lots trade with that certainty of a steadily rising market which has been so much the cause of activity in business during late years. We have danced, and we must pay the piper with what grace we may.

There is also another grave reason for the dissatisfaction in some quarters with the results of business. There are too many people in business. This is getting to be an old story, but it seems necessary to draw attention to it until the remedy is applied. Small villages complain that their business is going to the larger towns, and the towns complain of the cities. Small manufacturers complain at the consolidations and so-called monopolies, which are becoming as marked a feature in Canada as elsewhere. Retail shopkeepers complain at the great establishments now common in many cities, where almost anything may be bought at a margin of profit which is ruinous to the smaller dealer. Unfortunately some people view these changes as abnormal, and seem to be waiting for a return to former conditions. In the meantime the merchant, manufacturer, or shopkeeper who finds himself at a disadvantage tries to meet the situation by the same old method of too long and too large credits, prices which leave too slender margin for profit, and added expenses in trying to meet his better situated competitors. But these changes, which have concentrated business in larger centres and stronger hands, are but a part of the great centralization in commerce, labor, and so many things, which is one of the most prominent developments of the last decade or two. We have applied the wonderful machinery of the age to the better organization of trade, and as this goes on with remorseless strides the small centres of the world lose their importance, and distance being practically lessened, the area controlled by larger cities or larger business

organizations is enormously increased. The farmer's wife does not so often ride in a wagon five or ten miles to the nearest village to make her purchases, but with a Saturday half-ticket goes by rail twenty or thirty miles to the nearest town or city, and with less loss of time and greater ease. The merchant or manufacturer orders his merchandise from the uttermost parts of the earth, by cable if he chooses, with certainty as to the time of its arrival. The farmer raises food on the Western prairies with no thought as to who will eat it, and thus furnishes food for outlandish folks thousands of miles away, of whom he has never heard.

This is a state of things which has brought too much ruin to individuals to warrant one in saying that it is an unmixed good, but it is a change permanent enough to demand that we should meet it with a more ready change of front than we at present offer. We talk vaguely about over-production as the source of many evils in trade, but there are many varieties of over-production. We have produced thousands of new houses in Toronto, clearly not required by the population, but it may not be these which are left vacant eventually, but the older and less attractive houses. In the same way we have a distinct over-production of shopkeepers and other men in business, and the men with the newest methods are apt to drive the others out. If business men find their trade or profits going from them, hard as it may be, they should meet such a state of affairs promptly by turning to some industry in which there is not over-production at the moment. All grumbling to the contrary notwithstanding, there is no over-production in Canadian farming at the moment, and the return from the honest industry of a farmer in Ontario or the North-West is greater proportionately than in any of the ordinary callings of men with which I am acquainted."

#### SIZE OF FRUIT PACKAGES.

The sizes of most packages for fruits and vegetables vary in locations, says the Rural New Yorker. For example, the Cape Cod cranberry crate holds thirty-two quarts, while a New Jersey crate holds thirty quarts. Cabbages, cauliflowers, lettuce and sometimes egg plants come in barrel crates. Beets, green peas, string beans, tomatoes, onions and some other similar articles are in crates holding about a bushel. The smallest bushel crates come from Bermuda and the largest from Norfolk. Charleston sends large quantities of octagonal crates. Tomatoes from Key West come in crates holding about a peck apiece, each tomato being wrapped in paper. When potatoes in bulk are sold by the barrel, 180 pounds are counted a barrel. The barrels have a capacity of 165 pounds of packed tubers. English and Scotch potatoes come in 168 pound sacks. All the coarse

vegetables, as well as apples, etc., come in ordinary barrels, holding about two and a

quarter bushels. A keg of pears means about a bushel. Some barrels, evidently made on a fence machine, with the pickets close together, are used for cheap and light vegetables from the south. A barrel made from splints, something like a basket, is sometimes seen. A dozen of celery usually means a dozen roots, though it happens sometimes, when the roots are small, two or more roots are counted as one.

#### CREAMERY BUTTER EXHIBITION.

An exhibition of creamery butter will be held under the auspices of the Ontario Creameries Association, in the town of Harriston, at the time of holding the annual convention of that association, in the second week of January, 1893, when the following five prizes in each class will be offered for competition:—

(1) Butter not less than 100 lbs., made before July 10, 1892, in package or packages, suitable for export—\$20, \$15, \$10, \$5, \$3.

(2) Butter not less than 100 lbs., made after July 10 and before September 10, 1892, in package or packages suitable for export—\$20, \$15, \$10, \$5, \$3.

(3) Butter not less than 100 lbs., made after September 10 and before December 10, 1892, in package or packages suitable for export—\$20, \$15, \$10, \$5, \$3.

(4) Butter not less than 50 lbs., made first week in January, 1893, in any style of package, prints or rolls, suitable for home market—\$20, \$15, \$10, \$5, \$3.

All exhibitors must be members of the Association. An entrance fee of 25 cents must accompany each entry. Arrangements for cold storage have been made with Mr. R. Y. Fish, Waterloo, Ontario, for all butters entered in classes 1 and 2, at a rate of 10 cents per hundred lbs. per month, which charge, together with other charges, such as cooperage, brining of butters, unpaid freights, and freights from Waterloo to Harriston at time of exhibition, will be charged against such butter. Butters entered in classes 3 and 4, must be shipped direct to the Secretary of the Association, Harriston, of which further notice will be given. Only such butters in classes 1 and 2, as are put in cold storage as above, will be eligible for competition. Butters for competition in Class 1 must reach Waterloo not later than July 13th; in Class 2, not later than September 13th. Ship to John Hannah, Secretary, care of R. Y. Fish, Waterloo, Ontario. Advise R. Y. Fish at time of shipment. All butter exhibited must be the property of and made by the exhibitor. All entries should be made with the Secretary at least one week previous to the date of closing in each class. Exhibitors who do not accompany their exhibit can have the same sold or reshipped by giving the Secretary notice.

The grocers of London, Ont., purpose holding a grand procession on the occasion of their annual picnic next month.