

manufacturers in Canada are not all dyed-in-the-wool Tories; that a great deal of the capital in our manufacturing enterprises belongs to Reformers, and that therefore, if for no other reason, the dreaded Grit iconoclasts even are likely to be careful how they deal with the manufacturing interest. Should Laurier and Mowat not show more tact than the *Canadian Manufacturer*, it will say very little for the sense of the people of Canada, who have placed them in power.

The diplomas awarded at the American Centennial Exhibition of 1894 at Chicago have at last been presented. The design includes a number of emblematic features, which are thus interpreted for us by A. H. Howard, the Toronto designer: At the top of the page a female figure, representing America, is seated, with the olive branch of peace in her hand, reclining against a bison, and pointing out to three nude boyish figures of the Caucasian, Indian and Negro races, the Chicago Exposition, the main buildings of which are seen in the distance through an arch in whose spandrels are figures representing manufacture and art. In mid air is a female form, the angel of victory presumably, holding out a wreath of bay; while beneath her, and with eyes looking upward upon her, are four female forms, typifying, we may suppose, Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa, propelling a barge, steered by Columbus, and bearing upon its side the shields of seven European nations. In panels at the sides of the design are the names of the various states of the world. The broad idea of the design, which is by Will H. Low, appears to be presentation of the homage of the East to the West—of the older nations to America.

#### ITEMS ABOUT DRY GOODS.

In Leeds there are signs of a slackening off in the clothing trade. Though most of the factories are still well employed, there is an increasing number of idle looms in the mills.

The tendency to cheap goods, so universal in trade to-day, is partly due to the lack of tact of salesmen and partly to the readiness of manufacturers to make cheap imitations of high grade goods.

German manufacturers are surpassing their English competitors in making tennis cloths, manile cloths, and certain descriptions of braid. The trade of the United States in these goods has fallen the past two or three seasons largely into German hands.

The belief is growing here, writes the Bradford correspondent of the *Draper's Record*, that bright fabrics, especially in fine expensive goods, will again be wanted for the summer of 1897, and already I hear of some speculative orders being placed in good alpacas and in silk warp glaze styles.

Reginald—"Time brings about some odd changes, doesn't it?" Harold—"I should say it did. Look at the matter of costumes. Why, when we played tennis we turned our trousers up at the bottom, and now that we play golf we turn our stockings down from the top."—*Woonsocket Reporter*.

In dress goods, says the *Drapery World*, the taste seems to be turning more in the direction of very fine plain fabrics in bright goods, which are to be taken in preference to the gros-grain makes of the Sicilian class. These finer goods require greater care and time in the production, and can only be produced from the most perfect and best quality of yarns, so their production is much more restricted than that of the heavier and coarser goods.

The ways of the Salvation Army, like those of the heathen Chinese, are childlike and bland. Passing by the army's depot in Clerkenwell-road the other day we were amused at a poster displayed outside the premises announcing "A great trade bang." A leading feature of the sale—for "bang" stood for sale—was the very seductive attraction: "Every man, woman and child making a purchase will be presented with a cabinet photo taken on the spot."—*Warehouseman and Draper*.

It has always been recognized in the dry goods trade that merchants have a certain dignity to maintain in their advertisements. The unseemly remarks of a Toronto department store in their advertising columns have long been the subject of adverse criticism, and culminated this week in an attack upon the motives of a competitor in introducing a radical system of early closing. Not only the trade but the newspapers are lowered in the eyes of the public by these so-called advertisements.

At this season of the year Canadian buyers in foreign textile markets represent the retail trade, the buyers on wholesale account having completed their work and gone home. The following list of Canadian dry goods men arriving in British markets is published by the *Drapery World*, June 27th: J. B. Campbell, R. Simpson, Toronto; C. J. Catto, J. Catto & Sons, Toronto; G. W. Kennedy, W. A. Murray & Co., Toronto; J. C. Lowry, the T. Eaton Co., Ltd., Toronto; A. Drake, Cockburn & Drake, Toronto; R. Darling, Toronto; J. Mickleborough, St. Thomas, Ont.; John Murphv, J. Murphy & Co., Montreal; J. B. Smallman, Smallman & Ingram, London, Ont.; H. J. Stobart, Stobart,

Sons & Co., Winnipeg; W. Dundas, Dundas & Flavelle, Lindsay, Ont. J. Gilchrist, Wall & Gilchrist, Peterborough, Ont.; W. Geddes, Geddes Bros., Sarnia; R. Peebles, Pratt & Watkins, Hamilton; J. White, Woodstock; Thos. Allison, Toronto; J. Fairbairn, S. Harris & Co., Montreal, and G. F. Glassco, Hamilton, Ont.

A philosopher in New England has discovered that the hard times are due to over-production, and he offers the proposition that we shall check over-production by reducing all working hours to eight a day. Of course, he must refer only to manufacturing operations. Farmers cannot work within the eight hour limit, and even if they should do so, their crops would persist in growing for twenty-four hours. But there are, in truth, no evidences of an excessive production of fabrics. There may be more in our markets than can be readily sold, but this may be due partly to the fact that the imports are unusually large, while the people are unusually poor. What makes them poor? Surely not a too great production of commodities, which are indeed wealth. There will be proof of overproduction when there is proof that the market carries a surplus after every consumer has all his wants fully supplied; and that will be when human desire reaches the point of satiety, or, in other words, never. Supposing, however, that the theory of overproduction should be accepted, would reduction of the hours of labor provide a remedy? For one thing, it would considerably advance prices and so induce a more considerable inflow of European fabrics to this market. Should the tariff be so amended as to present this formidable rivalry, a rising market would at once increase domestic competition until the domestic product would be as large with eight hours, as it is now with ten hours. Meantime, the buying power of the farmers would not enlarge in any degree; it would be smaller, for farm prices are going down, and half of all the mill customers are farmers. The true remedy for the sluggishness of the market is to restore the prosperity of all the people; first, by giving them ample tariff protection, and second, by providing for the arrest of the price decline of farm products and for their upward movement.—*Textile Record*, Philadelphia.

#### FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Report says that the Portugal catch of sardines this year has been a failure.

Advices from France state that the catch of sardines has opened up with but poor results as yet.

The cattle plague is causing serious damage in European Russia, and large herds are being destroyed by Government officials to stay the disease.

In a number of Canadian cities the price of strawberries has been well maintained this year in spite of abundant crops. Large shipments of berries have been made to the United States.

The visible supply of coffee of the world shows a decrease of 527,487 bags compared with July 1st of last year, but it shows an increase of 143,244 bags from June 1st. The total supply is now 3,115,680 bags.

The British revenue for the past three months was £1,696,000 in excess of the record of last year, and a round million of the increase is in excise receipts. As an exchange says, when John Bull is feeling comfortable he drinks to the good times.

News comes from Montreal that the train on the Canadian Pacific Railway which dropped into the Fraser River through a portion of the road-bed loosened by the recent British Columbia floods, had on board several thousand packages of Japan tea for that city.

Mail advices from Valencia to the 17th ult. state that the raisin crop promises well. Shipments will not commence until about August 17th, the crop being a little later than last year. One writer says: "About quantity it is impossible to say anything certain, but if all goes well, it will be about 650,000 quintals. This year a tremendous quantity of grapes will be sent to England, to judge by the preparations in making barrels, and this also helps to reduce the quantity of raisins."

Again we find weekly shipments of cheese from Montreal, which have this year been as a rule smaller than those of 1895 at like dates, announced as "greater than same week last year." This is true of last week's exports, which amounted to 66,713 boxes, where in same week of last year they were 65,200. The bulk of last week's went to London and Bristol. We learn from our Montreal market correspondent that the total Canadian shipments of cheese to date this season are 355,228 boxes.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton, under date June 26th, say of Indian tea: "The new season's offerings comprised this week 1,510 packages, against 2,821 last week and 538 the week before, the quantity so far being hardly sufficient to test the market. Prices this week have not materially changed. A few Darjeelings made fair averages, viz.: 'Mim Tea Co.,' 1s. 1½d.; 'Dooteriah,' 1s. 1d.; 'Phoobsering,