

A New Haven, Conn., grocer has had lots of trouble with his apples. He bought a large stock early in the fall, and put them down cellar. Recently he had been selling a large number of apples, but barrel after barrel and bushel after bushel have been returned to him. They all had a nasty taste, and what caused it appeared a mystery. The grocer finally found that there had been an escape of illuminating gas in the cellar near where the apples were stored, and the odor had permeated the fruit.

The failure of Ferdinand Schumacher, president and principal stockholder in the American Cereal Company, is announced, with liabilities of \$1,000,000. This is a serious failure. The company named is a combination composed of four mills—Douglass & Stewart, Akron Mills, Chicago Mills, and Cedar Rapid Mills, which produce "Avena," and "Quaker Oats," etc., etc. The aggregate output is about 2,500 barrels of rolled oats per day. The extent to which President Schumacher's personal affairs are involved with those of the American Cereal Company is now unknown.

A well-known cigar man of the South was sitting in his office the other day when a drummer came in and offered him chewing tobacco at a very seductive price. Queries how this came about elicited the fact that the tobacco was manufactured by two brothers, one of whom superintended the factory, and the other sold the product, riding from place to place on a bicycle (covering just then) 150 miles in three days, and claiming to incur only fifty cents per day expenses by boarding in outskirts where people wanted to make a little. The cigar man figured that the total production of the factory could not exceed more than \$18,000 per year, and that there would not be more than \$3,000 for the two brothers. The traveler was bright, and could readily have made much more by working for a live large house. This is a sample of the progressive South we hear so much about these days.—*Tobacco*.

FOR THE DRY GOODS DEALER.

Belfast reports state that trade with Canada in linen goods has not been encouraging for a number of weeks past.

The *Drapers' Record* is officially informed that the whole of the first issue of preference shares in Messrs. Swan and Edgar, Limited, has been readily subscribed.

Long white gloves with black points in 12, 16 and 20 button lengths are among the lines that are selling well just now, in both metropolitan and out-of-town departments.

The recent beautifully fine weather has given Bradford mohairs a fair start. They are popular in warm weather, and will probably create a still greater demand in 1897.

In the flannel trade of Britain makers are busy getting their orders through. The prices of flannel wools at the London sales are stationary, so that the trade is kept fairly firm.

For the winter trade of 1896 Leeds woolen manufacturers are making meltons, beavers, cheviots, strong worsteds and naps. Prices are apparently satisfactory to both buyers and sellers.

Broad satin ribbon belts, called ceintures, amount to a craze in Paris, where they were lately reintroduced by the actress Mlle. Bartet. They are usually of black ribbon from five to eight inches wide.

The Ayrshire lace industry continues in an active state. Some of the manufacturers, of course, could increase their production; but, on the whole, the trade of the district is in a satisfactory condition.

In Huddersfield there is a quieter feeling, low wools and suitings for the making up trade excepted. There appears to be no revival in the demand from the United States for either plain or fancy worsted coatings.

In Nottingham good quantities of Valenciennes laces are moving, and Point de Paris and Malines are also selling for special markets. Fashion still favors butter shades and combinations of butter and black in art silks and cotton.

Good reports are current with reference to the linoleum, floorcloth and linen manufacturers of Kirkcaldy, Scotland. This and the next month are popular furnishing months, and there is always an extra demand for these textile productions.

Mr. William Ogilvie, who joined the well-known Glasgow firm of Arthur & Co., on the solicitation of Mr. James Arthur, in the year 1860, and who has retired from business a few months ago, is to be presented by 450 of the employees with an address, the terms of which are very cordial. The address is on exhibition in a silver casket.

More reassuring reports are to hand this week (16th May) concerning the South of Scotland tweed trade. While most of the makers are fairly well employed, a number of looms are idle, and these will probably not be put into work this season. The prospects for next season are considered good. There is a steady inquiry for worsteds and fine cheviots.

Forty years ago raw silk was produced only in Italy, France, Spain, Greece and Syria, but the production of these countries now only amounts to one-fifth of the production of the world. China and Japan are the great producers of silk and the regulators of prices, and owing to the immense production of these countries raw silk will never bring the same price as it did years ago.—*Record*.

A change has taken place in the western agency of McMaster & Co., wholesale dry goods, of Toronto. Mr. Wetmore, who has represented the firm in the west for some years, has been succeeded by J. J. Thorley. The latter gentleman arrived in Winnipeg from Toronto last week, with full lines of fall samples, and will proceed to work the country as far as Victoria, B.C.—*Winnipeg Commercial*.

In the heavy woolen trade of Bradford business is reported to be quieter in all departments except the production of fancy mixed goods and low cheap batting goods. Good trade in medium serges and tweeds. The blanket trade is fairly good, and there is a satisfactory demand for rugs for the East. Trade continues to open out well in fancy upholstery tinted goods and printed art serges, and prospects for the season are good.

Arrivals in the British markets up to 16th instant include the following merchants or buyers: Mr. R. C. Struthers, Messrs. R. C. Struthers & Co., London, Ont.; Mr. J. Fisher, Messrs. Wyld, Grasett & Darling, Toronto. The following gentlemen were in the northern markets the previous week: Messrs. J. A. Seybold, Ottawa; J. R. Gordon, Montreal; Hy. Marx, Cincinnati; Colin Cockburn, Toronto; J. W. Woods, Toronto; C. Mitens, New York, and W. E. Webb, New York. Mr. L. Bracher, New York, Mr. H. R. Taylor, Philadelphia, and Mr. A. J. Meharg, Montreal, have been in Manchester during the week.

What is termed by the *Dry Goods Economist*, of New York, "An extreme novelty" (and no wonder) in dress material is Russian crash and kitchen towelling. It is not for charity balls either, on which occasions some rich folks make a pretence of dressing cheaply for charity's sake. These are summer costumes, and we are told "the goods must be very fine and choice or stylishly common." The fabrics just mentioned decidedly belong to the latter list, therefore they are a success and can hardly be supplied fast enough to fashionable dames. The *Economist* says the suits are simple in make; laundries do not spoil them; they are cool and make comfortable outing suits for a short trip on a torrid day. The skirt is faced 7 to 10 inches deep and is 5 to 6 yards in width. The jacket is a reefer, blazer, or, jauntier still, has Eton fronts and a fluted back. In any case it is very short, unlined, and has large sleeves and generally revers and a rolling collar.

HIDES AND LEATHER.

Stocks of hides, all kinds, at the port of Antwerp, reported as 224,338 at end April, had increased to 248,126 hides by 2nd May.

A Chicago concern of recent establishment, the Porpoise Lace Company, is said to get orders for its colored laces from Europe as well as the States.

A French shoemaker is the inventor of a new style of shoe, a combination of lace and congress, which according to report, is specially adapted for army purposes.

Shipments of boots and shoes from Haverhill for the week ending May 14th, were 8,919 cases, as against 10,360 cases for the like week last year. Shipments during the same weeks of the nine preceding years, 1886 to 1894, ranged from 4,000 to 9,700 cases, the largest being in 1893.

Leather belts are asserting themselves. From articles of plain utility they have advanced to the dignity of being used for decoration. Belts are even given for wedding presents nowadays, and there are special kinds brought out for mourning wear. Souvenir belts are quite the thing, and collections of them have taken the place of posters or fans—*Hides and Leather*.

At a meeting of the Philadelphia Shoe Exchange, held last week, the Exchange was dissolved and the Philadelphia Shoe and Leather Exchange formed, the new organization to take in all dealers or manufacturers of shoes, leather and findings; and all members of the cognate branches of the trade. The object of the change was to widen the scope of the association, and also to create a fraternal feeling among the various interests so closely allied, thus brought together. The old officers were retired and new officers elected as follows: President, George S. Lott; vice-president, Henry Burk; secretary and treasurer, Howard L. Townsend.

A corporation has been organized in Newark, N.J., it is reported, with a capital of \$600,000, "which promises to revolutionize the leather industry." An extensive plant is to be built at a cost of \$200,000 which may furnish employment for about 400 hands. The new corporation is officered thus: E. J. Berwind, of New York, presi-