

of wood suitable for fuel and farm uses, which should amount to five cords each year. In what industry can the farmer obtain greater returns with the expenditure of an equal amount of labor and capital? The bulk of the maple sugar produced in Canada is consumed here. Exports were made last year amounting to about \$50,000, which is apparently about the dimensions of our foreign trade in this article. That this amount could be vastly increased by judicious business methods is the opinion of a number of those acquainted with the details of the industry. The supply is practically unlimited, as in numerous districts of Canada the farms contain land, much of it now wasted, which could be turned to good service if planted with maple trees.

We have not mentioned the usefulness of the wood of this tree for cabinet-making purposes or for interior decoration. But people in other countries admire it and value it, if we do not. Perhaps we are so far familiar with it that we have ceased to consider its worth in this aspect. Still this is another of the directions in which the maple is of value.

SOME COMMENTS ABOUT DRY GOODS.

In Huddersfield only the makers of the very highest class of woollens and worsteds are said to be well employed.

The exports of linen piece goods from Ireland for September were 50 per cent. less than those of September, 1896. Shipments to Canada show a falling off of 23.8 per cent.

A short while ago a traveling salesman expressed the result of his labors after this fashion: "A year ago I was selling thousands of dollars' worth of knit goods; this year I am selling thousands of dollars' worth of goods, *nit!*"

The precise amount of the debenture stock of the forthcoming issue of the English Sewing Cotton Company, Limited, is not yet indicated; but the *Pall Mall Gazette* understands that £750,000 to £1,000,000 is now considered likely.

It is also stated by the *Drapery World* that fourteen leading firms of thread-makers—cotton, silk, and linen—are now definitely included in the forthcoming flotation; that all the arrangements, excepting the legal formalities for the increase and alteration of the capital indicated, are now completed; and that the prospectus may be looked for at the end of the present month.

There are a number of Canadians in the textile centres of Great Britain, but the drapery journals report that their operations are, as yet, very limited. Mail advices of the 16th inst., report as the latest Transatlantic arrivals the following names:—Mr. J. Black, Robertson, Linton & Co., Montreal; Mr. J. H. Cockburn, Cockburn & Drake, Toronto; Mr. Beaudry, of Three Rivers, P.Q.; Mr. E. Hamel, J. Hamel & Co., Quebec, and G. H. Pack, G. Goulding & Son, Toronto.

"A gentleman connected with the fur trade informs me," says a contributor to the *Drapers' Record*, "that the present is the worst year it has experienced since 1887. The obvious inference is that jubilees and furs don't go well together. The present unfortunate position of affairs is not mitigated by the appearance of 'electric' seal, garments made of which are sold at excessively low prices, with a detrimental effect on the fur trade generally. My informant had not, however, lost all hope, and I was glad to hear him express the opinion that if the weather becomes seasonable, those connected with the fur trade may yet be able to celebrate Christmas with some degree of enjoyment."

As we have previously noted, the Russian blouse is the newest feature of the mantle maker's art. A writer in the *Draper's Record* says: "The origin of it is the fact that the Russian moujik—who from excessive spirit-drinking has generally got a figure like Falstaff—envelops himself in winter in a sort of voluminous dressing-gown of sheepskin, which sticks out in front in the manner aforesaid. The reasoning, in fact, is this; that because the Russian moujik has a figure like Falstaff, and because France has gone crazy about Russia, therefore, English ladies are to look as if they had figures like Falstaff too." There is little accounting for the whims of fashion, and we must become reconciled to the Russian blouse, for it is supported by the *fiat* of Dame Fashion. It is a style to which heavy rich materials such as velvet and plush readily adapt themselves, and for this reason is very popular for smart visiting wraps.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Competition has reduced the price of a large loaf of bread, in Ottawa, from 12 to 11 cents.

Advices from Smyrna state that fig shipments are still quite large, but, as packers are shutting down, exports from this time forward may be expected to show a considerable decrease in quantity.

One of the large department stores of Philadelphia has decided to

add a grocery department to their establishment. Their reason for taking this step lies in the opposition of a neighboring grocery store, which lately laid in a big supply of house-furnishing goods, and then began cutting prices at a great rate.

Contrasting the exports of cheese at the port of New York with those at Montreal, our correspondent notes that while last week's shipments from New York were 11,392 boxes, the shipments from Montreal same week were 121,618 boxes, which last is an unusual quantity. In the corresponding week of 1896 they were only 63,456 boxes.

Vancouver papers tell of the departure on October 22nd of the steamer "Tokio" for Liverpool with a cargo of 111,785 cases of canned salmon, valued at \$411,461, besides a quantity of frozen and salted salmon and British Columbia ore. In all her cargo amounts to 3,900 tons, and it is thought to be the largest ever taken in one vessel from British Columbia.

Never has been seen in Shediac so large a trade in potatoes. The streets of the town are literally blocked with wagon loads of potatoes. One can see groups of twenty to forty at the stores of Messrs. Tait, Hamilton, Melanson, Poirier and others. The farmers who have a good crop are now gathering in the money. The potatoes are selling at one dollar per barrel. There are some farmers in Barachois, Aboujagane and Cappele, who will make a clean profit of \$600 alone. It is magnificent.—*Moniteur Acadien*.

An Order-in-Council has been passed on Sir Henry Joly's recommendation, appointing the following gentlemen as a board for the selection of standard samples of flour: Messrs. David Robertson, chairman; A. E. Gagnon, H. W. Raphael and Lionel J. Smith, Montreal; William Brodie, Quebec; Wm. Galbraith, J. L. Spink, Toronto; W. G. Bailey, Hamilton; I. D. Saunby, London, Ont.; Robert Noble, Dominion Millers' Association; Robert Muir, Winnipeg. The board will meet on Friday, October 29th, in the Montreal Board of Trade building.

The S.S. "Bellona" left Patras with Mediterranean supplies for the Montreal market. She had on board 665 tons of currants for that city, the principal shippers being D. Schisas, 305 tons; D. Pasquali, 105 tons; Hancock & Wood, and Arsenis & Co., 80 tons each, and several smaller lots. The same vessel has also 95 tons of currants for Halifax, and is reported to have a very heavy cargo of Valencia raisins and other fruits, nuts, etc. She is reported as having passed Gibraltar several days ago, but having to call at Halifax, may not reach Montreal till the 12th prox., or thereabout.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Because of delay in establishing a paid fire department at San Francisco, insurance rates in that city have been raised 15 per cent.

On Monday last, the ratepayers of Tilbury voted upon a by-law to borrow \$10,000 to improve the waterworks and electric light systems. The by-law was defeated. The park by-law was also submitted at the same time, and lost by a majority of 28.

Rate cutting in marine insurance is reported from Montreal. There is alleged to have been a cut of 20 per cent. on imported goods. But, on the other hand, a rise is threatened of rates on exports, the various groundings in the St. Lawrence lending color to this. It is stated that the marine underwriters have decided to increase by twenty per cent. next spring their insurance rates on the St. Lawrence trade generally, owing to the numerous accidents this season in the channel between Quebec and Montreal.

Boston has a horseless fire engine, and Fire Commissioner Russell, of that city, gives it his endorsement as being easier to handle than any of the three-horse fire engines. They turn a sharper corner and in shorter space than the horse engine; can be stopped in their own length, all of which has been proved by tests. As to the expense, the commissioner is less positive, and says: "The point which I want the public to fully grasp is that with me it is a question not so much of cost as efficiency in the department." The saving is the price of three or four horses and their keep, off-set by the necessity of keeping up ninety pounds of steam, which is again compensated for by power to throw 1,400 gallons of water per minute, as against 900 gallons by the other engines they have in use.—*Ins. Register*.

At Milwaukee, in September of next year, the Insurance Commissioners of the United States, will hold their annual convention. Dr. W. A. Fricke, of Wisconsin, is chairman of the executive committee, and may be depended upon to have a good programme. Here is part of it. John A. McCall, of the New York Life, has promised a paper on life insurance. Then, on assessment plans of life insurance, George D. Eldridge, of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life, and L. G. Fouse, of the Fidelity Mutual, will be heard. D. Ostrander, general adjuster of