

gold miners, the candle machines being of the latest pattern. During the excavations at Pompeii, it is stated, a complete Soap-boiling establishment, and soap in a good state of preservation were discovered, but we have little doubt, were these ancient Pompeians to come to life again, we could give them points, and that a peep into a modern soap-making establishment, such as the "Justice Soap" factory on Argyle St., would make them open their eyes.

The annual meeting of the Nova Scotia sugar refinery company was held on Tuesday. It is said that the net profits of the year were \$213,000. Out of this the capital stock of the company was doubled. Twenty-five per cent was declared in dividends and bonus, and the sum of \$150,000 was carried to reserve account. The operations of the refinery were phenomenally successful this year. Two years ago the original company was a complete wreck and was wiped out of existence. The new company undertook a great risk, but it turned out a bonanza. They are to be congratulated upon their excellent management.

James Harris & Co., of St. John are building 50 flat cars for the I. C. R. and 75 flat cars, 55 box cars and 20 cattle cars for the Quebec Central railway. They are also converting 30 flat cars into box cars for the Temiscouata railway. The capacity of their works is three box cars or four flat cars daily.

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

In giving to our readers a calm and dispassionate review of parliamentary matters, we shall as in previous years endeavor to give the pith of what is said by the members on either side of the Speaker's chair, leaving to our subscribers the responsibility of judging of the relative force or weakness of either side in the discussion of any particular question.

In opening the third session of the sixth Parliament of Canada, Lord Stanley, the new Governor General, made a most pleasing impression and it is safe to predict that both he and Lady Stanley will become more and more popular as they become known to the people.

The Speech from the throne was certainly not striking in originality or startling in its propositions, and in this respect it may prove a disappointment to some Canadians, who think that unless the Dominion is extending its territory, and taking in new provinces, or building continental railways, the country must be sinking into a lethargic state, but the truth is, that with the exception of Newfoundland and Alaska, and possibly the New England States, we have all the territory we require, and that our Continental railway now being nearly completed, we must look to great oceanic steamships lines as the proper channel to give vent to that restless progressiveness which is so characteristic of us as a people.

Lord Stanley, after referring to the pleasure which it afforded him as Governor General of the Dominion to meet his Parliamentary advisors, commented on the failure of the fisheries treaty, taking the ground that Canada must now revert to the provisions of the treaty of 1818. It is not worthy that the Governor General in speaking of Canada and the United States refers to them as two nations, this is placing the Dominion in its proper position as a nation within the British Empire, and not as a mere Colonial possession or dependency of Great Britain.

Several government measures relative to changes in the electoral list, and laws as to bills of exchange, cheques, and promissory notes, etc., were made. The matter of subsidising fast steamers to connect Britain with our Atlantic coast and China and Japan with our Pacific coast, is to be considered, as also trade relations between the Dominion on the one side and Australia, South America and the West Indies on the other.

The report of the Royal Commission upon labor is to be laid before Parliament at an early day.

The address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was moved by young Mr. White of Cardwell, and seconded by Mr. LePine, the labor representative from Montreal East. The maiden Parliamentary speeches of these gentlemen are said to be creditable to them.

Hon. Wilfred Laurier, leader of the opposition, in commenting upon the Speech from the Throne, condemned the narrow policy of the Government in not seeking to extend trade relations with the United States. Taken altogether his remarks were moderate in tone.

Sir John Macdonald, in replying to Hon. Mr. Laurier, said that in view of the position taken by the United States authorities, he could not see that our desire for extended trade relations with that country was likely to produce any good results.

Up to the date of going to press, little business of importance had been transacted by the house.

Notice of numerous questions had been given, but the solid work of the Session had scarcely commenced.

It is generally believed that the Session will be one of the shortest on record.

COMMERCIAL.

That the condition of our winter trade very largely depends on the kind of winter weather with which we are favored has been fully exemplified this season. Severe frosts lasting a few hours, alternated with mild, "balmy" airs covering the major portion of the time, have characterized the season. The result has been that, practically, our great winter industries are paralyzed. No ice has been cut so far. Lumbermen have recalled their gangs of men and horses from the woods, where they have been "eating their heads off" in enforced idleness. Even the usual winter fisheries have been reduced to a minimum. This condition of affairs has prevented working people from

being in a position to purchase their ordinary supplies of food, fuel and clothing. Then, again, the fruit crop—particularly of apples—was, last summer, larger than could be profitably handled, and heavy losses were the consequence. The prospects for the next summer are not encouraging. In large sections of the Province the plum, apple, pear and other fruit trees, under the genial influence of the last two weeks of December and the first two of January, put forth "buds" which later frosts have destroyed, and it is generally anticipated that the crops of the summer of 1889 will be very light.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—Fraser Bros., machinists, New Glasgow, N. S., admitted A. F. Fraser, partner; Fox & Sutherland, sailmakers, Parrboro, Nova Scotia, dissolved, business conducted by Fox; Geo. McCabe, blacksmith, Pictou, Nova Scotia, assigned to J. J. McCabe in trust for benefit of creditors; H. T. Gilroy & Co., general store, Oxford, Nova Scotia, assigned to R. Wood and M. D. Prodell, in trust for benefit of creditors; Malcolm Matheson, tailor, Beddeck, sold out and gone to British Columbia; R. Taylor & Co., boots and shoes, Halifax, sold out retail business to T. G. A. Wilson; Lynch Bros., general store, Digby, N.S., Wm. B., Geo. H. D. and Thos. H. G. Lynch, co-partnership registered Jan. 24, '89; Chas. Fraser, general store, Spring Hill, assigned to C. D. Jones; McGregor & Knight, (estate of) stock advertised for sale by tender.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:

	Week Feb. 1.	Prev. week.	Weeks corresponding to Feb. 1.				Failures for the year to date.			
	1889	1889	1888	1887	1886		1889	1888	1887	1886
United States..	204	331	280	242	288		1606	1452	1497	1652
Canada.....	53	32	50	33	34		182	202	125	134

DRY GOODS.—In dry goods most of our wholesale houses report that they have accomplished a somewhat increased volume of business, but the complaint is general that payments are slower than expected. This is not a matter of surprise, as country merchants have had hard work to dispose of their stocks, and when they have done so it has been chiefly on credit, which is contingent upon their customers disposing of what produce they have in stock or what the coming season may bring to them. This is certainly not a satisfactory state of business, but it seems to be the best that many country merchants can do.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The pig-iron market has been without noticeable change. Only a few lots are reported to have been sold, but at steady prices. It is anticipated that the prices of Canada plates will soon make an advance, as they are alleged to be now offered at less than they can be imported at. Warrants in Glasgow are cabled at 41s. No. 3 foundry iron at Middlesbrough, 33s. 6d. to 33s. 9d. Ingot copper, Chili, G. M. B. bars, and English and Spanish soft lead are stationary in the London market. The position of the United States iron and steel market is a waiting one. Orders at present are slow, but men interested in foundries say that as soon as the spring fairly opens the demand for iron in all its shapes, especially steel rails, girder iron, and heavy work generally, will be as great as they will be able to meet.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local demand for flour continues slow and the market has ruled quiet and steady without any feature of importance to note. The volume of business transacted has been slight, there being only a small jobbing demand. Boerbohm's cable says:—"Cargoes off coast, wheat inactive, corn nil; do on passage and for prompt shipment, wheat-buyers are holding off; corn quiet but steady. California wheat, off coast, 37s. to 37s. 6d.; do promptly to be shipped, 37s. 9d.; do nearly due 37s. 3d. In Liverpool spot wheat and corn are more acquired for. No. 2 Club Calcutta wheat, ex-ship, 34s.; present and following month 33s. 9d. American mixed maize ex-ship 20s. 3d. Minneapolis straight flour 26s. 6d. Australian wheat off coast 37s. 9d.; present and following month 38s. 6d. Chilean wheat do 36s. 6d.; present and following month 36s. 9d. Walla-Walla wheat, do 36s.; present and following month 37s. French country markets slow. Flour in Paris firm. Spot wheat at Antwerp quiet." In Chicago there has been a weaker feeling in wheat. The market is quiet and trading less active, quotations being by late advices 94½c. February, 97½c. May, 89c. July. On the other hand corn was stronger and moved up to 35½c. February, 35½c. March, 36½c. May. Oats were firmer and improved to 25½c. February, 27½c. May, 27½c. June. The New York market has been faint-hearted. Reports from Europe that the port of Odessa is free of ice have had a depressing effect. However it is noticeable that the "bears" talk but do not act. The *Mark Lane Express* in its weekly review of the grain trade says: "The delivery of English wheat was heavy. Inferior grades were offered as low as 26s. and sound at 36s. Ordinary samples of 1888 corn declined 1s. Flour was 6d. lower, both for American and English. Foreign wheat dropped 1s. Corn declined 1s. The imports were heavy. They are calculated at over 150,000 quarters. Twelve cargoes of wheat arrived during the week. At Monday's market English wheats were in bad condition and declined 1s. White foreign was 1s. and red 6d. cheaper. Oats were depressed. The deliveries in London within ten days amounted to 200,000 quarters. Prices declined 3d. Corn was 3d. cheaper." It is estimated that the consumption of flour and wheat in the United Kingdom during the past week exceeded the farmers' deliveries of native wheat and the importation of foreign flour and wheat by a quantity equivalent to 929,464 bushels of wheat; consequently the supply in the United Kingdom has decreased to that extent. The amount of wheat and flour now in transit to Europe, with the visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, is equivalent to 53,403,734 bushels of wheat, against 54,065,081 bushels one year ago, and of corn, 17,083,609 bushels, against 10,205,763 bushels.

PROVISIONS.—Business in local provisions has been very quiet. In consequence trade has been of merely a jobbing character. The movement in pork was light, owing to the fact that packers generally are at present holding