

bigger than yours, in which case his thread will have a greater tension. Those disadvantages one must learn to counteract; but these are details. There are two methods of fighting—the *pull* method and the *loose* method. In the former, which is the quicker and more skillful of the two, you attack the enemy by leading your kite by a deep swoop under the other, and then at a judicious time pulling it so fast that your antagonist will fail to make the point where your thread touches his loose enough by letting out his thread. You have a good chance of cutting his thread then. In the other method, which is more common, and which requires great patience and watchfulness, you lead your kite either over or under his, and then let out the thread, in which he follows. One has to be careful in this kind of fight as to which of the two motions—the wheeling or the quivering—he gives to the kite at different times. The chances of winning are increased by a keener edge, a favorable breeze, or other small advantages. One might think that, everything being equal, it is a more chance that you will cut the thread of your rival. But in this, as in many other things which look simple and seem to depend on chance, a good deal of cleverness and practice go to make up a fair victory. An evenly matched fight in this method lasts a long time; I have often spent two or three hours over it. And great is the joy of winning. Sometimes the kites go so far that you can hardly see them, or it gets quite dark; in that case the fight has to end in an unsatisfactory draw. With some, kite-fighting changes from a pastime into a passion. All work, and even eating and sleeping, are abandoned in order to perfect oneself in this art. And great is the excitement which follows a good fight; sometimes (fortunately it is not common) high wagers are laid on it. In small towns there are champion kite-fighters, who devote as much time and attention to kites as some people do to boating and wrestling. In kite-flying there is no distinction of rank, or caste, or age. The young and the old—all take an equal delight in it; you do not come into close contact with other kite-fliers; and, it being an inexpensive game, anybody can indulge in it. The kite-flying season in India lasts from March to September, barring the wet months. In England the best time for it would be August and September, when the weather gets a little bit steady. All that you want is a fine steady breeze in a clear atmosphere. In India boys fly kites generally in the afternoon, when it gets a little cool, for three or four hours until it gets dark. But there are some who pursue the game at all times of the day, heedless even of the scorching heat of the noon. Others delight in watching the kite wheel up high in the heavens, as it glistens with the soft serene light of the Indian moon, which makes our nights clearer than English November middays.—*St. James' Gazette*.

A coal-box happened to get damaged a few days back in a barrack some distance from Dublin—the sort of a district, and commanded by a full colonel. It was intimated that 1s 6d. would be the cost of repairing it. But the expenditure of such a large sum of money could not be left to an individual officer, even of colonel's rank; so a board of officers was detailed to sit on the coal-box, and an officer of the Commissariat Department was ordered to proceed from Dublin as a member. The travelling expenses connected with the assembling of the board of course exceeded the value of a new coal-box.—*Broad Arrow*.

## COMMERCIAL.

The condition of the wholesale trade this week has developed but little change. Business continues to thrive in all departments, and a good, healthy volume of trade has transpired. Country orders have been liberal, and hopefulness is the prevailing feeling. Prices generally are firm, and an improvement is looked for in most lines. The return of confidence is already shown in stiffening of prices of staple goods. Payments continue to be fairly satisfactory.

In Europe the political situation is very much strained, and that fact is an important factor in making prices the world over. War rumors are rife and nearly everybody believes that hostilities with a view to making a new map of Europe, and perhaps a large portion of Asia and Northern Africa, must be inaugurated between several, if not all, of the Great Powers by next spring and possibly before.

On this side of the Atlantic there is nothing that by any probability can involve the nations in the wasteful process of fighting each other or any one else. If, therefore, the Orient chooses to indulge in that most expensive of luxuries, the Occident can calmly look on and make a handsome profit in supplying food, clothing, arms, and munitions to the belligerents.

The foolishness of some farmers in holding their produce back when fair figures are offered in the hope of realizing better prices later on, has received an admirable illustration in hops this year. In June, there was a slight boom in that article and the Ontario and Quebec raisers refused to bring their hops to market, being persuaded that they would advance to somewhere about \$1 per pound. The agents of Bavarian and New York hop-growers at once took advantage of this fact by contracting with the various brewers in Canada for full supplies at prices ranging from 32 to 35 cents on the average. Now when Canadian growers have waked up to the reality and offer their inferior hops at 40 to 50 cents, they find no one willing to buy or to even look at them. In consequence it would not be surprising to see Canadian hops drop this fall and winter to about 12 to 16 cents per pound.

To show that the buoyant feeling of the Canadian markets is not unwarranted or unsympathized with by those abroad, we place before our readers the following, which we clip from a recent issue of the *London Economist*:

"There can be no doubt that trade is now improving. From nearly all our chief industrial centres the reports are either that business is expanding that an early improvement is looked for. These reports, if true, do not

appear to harmonize with the fact that latterly the goods' receipts of our railway companies have shown a reduction as compared with the corresponding period of last year. If, however, its causes could be traced there is little doubt that this reduction would be found to be due, not to a falling off in the volume of traffic, but to the reduction of rates, which, very wisely, both in their own interest and in the interest of their customers, the companies have granted. In reality, therefore, the decline in the railway receipts is quite compatible with such a quickening of trade as is reported. And there is further encouragement in what our New York correspondent writes as to the condition of the American iron trade. If, as he says, the American makers are fully employed, we may expect the American demand to overflow to us and give a much-needed stimulus to business here. There thus seems good reason now to hope that before long trade, and the trade demand for money, will perceptibly increase, and the experience of the last week has shown that the market supplies of money are so little in excess of current requirements that it would not need much of an increase in the demand to cause rates to rise."

**IRON AND HARDWARE.**—The advance in pig iron has been quite marked during the past fortnight both in England and on this side of the ocean, and all descriptions of hardware show great firmness. Still buyers are not anxious to invest, and seem to think the advance is merely speculative and will not be maintained. We cannot agree with them. Though aware that vast quantities of iron and steel remain unsold in the hands of the producers, especially in Scotland, still several extensive strikes for hours or pay have already occurred and more are impending. These curtail the production while the demand and the consumption go on at a constantly increasing ratio. If the demands of the strikers are complied with the cost of production is enhanced. If not the output is reduced. In either case the tendency is decidedly in favor of advancing figures.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—The local markets are well supplied and we see no reason to make any alteration in our quotations at present. Still the tone of the market is weak and concessions have sometimes to be made to effect sales. Peas and other coarse grains are remarkably low in England just now, and are dull and heavy in Canada. Wheat and corn continue to meet depressed markets and there is no apparent probability of their improving in the near future.

**PROVISIONS.**—The stock of bacon is small and little is doing. New comes forward sluggishly, and the call for old is merely nominal. Hams are in fair demand and good meat ready sales. Lard prices are firm and the supply hardly equals the demand. This defect will be speedily remedied as killing progresses. Pork is quiet and prices rule steady.

**CHEESE.**—The market continues firm, but there are symptoms that some holders must break before long. Small men who have been carrying lots of from 1,000 to 5,000 boxes by the aid of their banks find a difficulty in inducing their backers to continue their advances, and if a number find themselves forced to sell out at once they must pull down prices and may bring on a disaster.

**BUTTER.**—Good butter is very firm, though prices have not dominantly advanced. The shipping demand has been larger, and this causes considerable stiffness to prevail.

**GROCERIES.**—Refined sugar shows a tendency to weaken and quotations are shaded in actual transactions where considerable quantities change hands. Molasses has been firm and is looking upwards under the influences noted in our last.

**TEA AND COFFEE.**—Yokohama cables report the tea market very firm and prices about 1 cent higher. Though our market has not changed notably, these firm cables materially aided sales and a good business has been in good request and very steady.

**FRUIT.**—Shipments of apples to Europe continue to be very large, and good prices are reported from Liverpool. Best selected and well-packed apples brought 19 to 20 shillings there recently. A cargo of dried fruit from Denia and Malaga arrived last week, but it has not as yet been put upon the market publicly. The quality is reported to be excellent.

**LIVE STOCK** is coming forward quite freely and figures are generally unchanged. Some fine heads of fatted steers from Hants and Annandale Counties were exhibited on our streets during the past week, and several considerable shipments to Great Britain have been made.

**OYSTERS.**—A shipment of 500 barrels of oysters was recently made from Miramichi to London. It is said that these bivalves bring \$6 per barrel readily there. As they cost about \$1 to \$1.25 at the beds and handling, freight, commissions, etc., will not more than double the cost there should be a good margin for profit in the transaction. If this venture proves successful it is probable that it will be followed by others.

**FISH.**—The weather has not been very favorable since our last issue for handling dry fish until the present. During the past week there have been large arrivals of dry and pickled fish from the coast, also from St. Pierre, Miqu. All the fish that arrived have been placed at about former quotations, and those from St. Pierre are selling at \$2.00 per qtl., and are said to look better than the general run of Nova Scotia Bank codfish. There is no reason why they should. If our fishermen would take a little more pains in washing out before drying it would make a vast difference. There must be a very large quantity of Bank codfish on the coast to come to market, and it is too bad that on account of not being so nicely handled as the French fish, the latter should take the preference in our market, even at the same price.

Sales of herring have been made in this market the past few days for the Montreal market, but we think this more particularly alludes to Labrador herring, which we have heard sold at \$4.87 per hbl., f. o. b. Herring are now reported to be very scarce on this coast, none being caught that we can learn of. There has been quite a large stop of herring on the American coast, but we think this is all over, and the price has advanced there.

Mackerel were reported schooling off this harbor on Monday, and several