

An addition to the capacity of their office premises in Montreal is being made by the Corticelli Silk Co. Something of this kind was to be expected, for the business of the company in threads, braids and imported silk fabrics is growing steadily. They are now putting into their factory at St. John's, Que., some forty or fifty looms for the weaving of dress and other silks. The results of this new departure will be seen in a few weeks or months when the Canadian-wove piece goods will be placed upon the market. At the Toronto warehouse of the Corticelli Company marked improvements have been made during the past winter. In addition to the basement portion of the Gray Building, where they keep their braids, and the first floor, devoted to offices and silk threads, hosiery and underwear, another flat has been secured and fitted up especially for piece silks. The arrangement of this floor is very ingenious. Entering the door one sees, at first, nothing save quartered oak counters, tables and wainscot. But let him ask to see dress silks, and Presto!—what appeared to be wainscot proves to be roll-top covering of an array of shelves, which covering when raised shows piece goods galore, for tailors, haberdashers, milliners, or furriers. The very fronts of the counters may be pulled aside and discover cabinets for more silk merchandise, tight-fitting to exclude the dust. The whole place, up-stairs and down, is fitted up with much neatness and has an air of business-like activity.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A Kent canning company shipped a car of canned goods to the Klondyke.

Large shipments of cattle are being made from the Stone-wall District of Manitoba.

Forty-five lobster factories will be in operation on Prince Edward Island this season.

At the annual meeting of the Ontario Brewers and Maltsters Association, Geo. Sleeman, of Guelph, was elected president.

California reports are to the effect that the raisin market promises to be cleaned up this year, which will be the first time for many seasons that the crop has gone out clean.

From the commencement of the season to April 11th Liverpool received 449,035 packages of Sultana raisins from Smyrna, or 128,936 packages less than for the corresponding period last year.

During 1898 and for the first three months this year 115 carloads of leaf tobacco have been shipped from Leamington. On this freight rates to the amount of \$9,430 have been paid. And yet the Essex tobacco industry is only in its infancy.

The estimate of the Minister of Agriculture of Russia last fall made the outturn of wheat in fifty Governments of Russia 339,000,000 bushels, while the recent report of the Central Statistical Committee makes the crop 407,000,000 bushels in 64 Governments.

Latest reports from the peach district of Essex are not as bad as at first reported. It is now said that not more than 25 per cent. of the peach trees are killed. Some districts are damaged much worse than others. Orchards that were not cultivated, but allowed to run to weeds, escaped the severe frosts.

Prominent among the lobster factories in Prince Edward Island that are being improved is that of Mr. John Jardine, on Crown Point, who has added 1,000 new traps, besides a twenty-seven foot sloop-rigged boat and a large dory for hauling the tackle. He is also erecting a larger factory and will employ more fishermen.

The following is a statement of the cattle shipments from St. John for the year: 1,624 sheep, a falling off of 3,173 as compared with last year; 8,579 cattle, 735 more than last year; 303 horses, 88 less than last year; 2,499,605 lbs. of hay, being 186,100 lbs. more than the previous season; feed grain, 755,575 lbs., being 1,564 more than last year.

The Lobster Commission, which started work last September and took evidence at sixty-five sittings at different points in the Maritime Provinces, has completed its labors after a conference of three weeks in Ottawa. It is recommended that a reduction be made in the size limit of lobsters from nine

to seven inches, except in the Bay of Fundy and western Nova Scotia, where the nine-inch limit is retained.

About five hundred barrels of American yellow sugars have been received on this market via steamer from Boston during the last week or so, and more is to follow. This market has been quite bare of dark yellow sugars lately, and the refineries did not appear to have much to offer. It appears to be possible to import American yellows and pay the duty in competition with the Canadian product.—St. John Sun.

There is to be a condensed milk factory on Prince Edward Island, it seems, though not at Summerside as at first suggested. The Pioneer says that the enterprise will not be of an entirely local character. The company is now in process of formation and will begin operations in the spring, under contract to supply an English firm with all the product that can be turned out.

In their last circular J. C. Houghton & Co., of Liverpool, say regarding new crop Brazil nuts: "So far the quality of this season is particularly satisfactory, and ought to lead to a large consumption. The demand continues strong, and a good trade was done during the past week at 18s. 6d. to 20s. for Para and 23s. to 26s. Manaos. Arrivals from commencement of season to date are 1,024 tons; to same date last year, 1,008 tons."

The Amherstburg Echo pertinently says: "Aylmer and Dunnville are talking of starting beet sugar factories, and large areas of sugar beets will be planted. It is just possible the beets will be fed to the cattle. It takes \$250,000 to start an up-to-date beet sugar factory, and without aid or a bounty no capitalist will put up his money. It would require forty factories with a capital of a quarter of a million each to supply Canada with sugar."

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Some of our newer life companies are showing marked interest in Manitoba as a promising field for risks. The manager of the Excelsior Life, Mr. S. M. Kenny, has been in Winnipeg appointing agents in the persons of C. P. McQueen, E. C. Bagshaw and W. Scott. And we hear also of the opening of an office in Winnipeg by the Dominion Life Company, which lately secured a license to do business in the Prairie province. Mr. S. G. Chamberlain is local agent in Winnipeg.

By reason of the resignation by Mr. W. J. McMurtry of Toronto of the position of manager for Ontario of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, that position has been conferred upon Mr. W. J. Murray. As manager of that company in Nova Scotia Mr. Murray conducted its affairs with noteworthy vigor. In the larger field of Ontario he will have opportunity to exercise those business methods and social qualities which he is said to possess.

As we have already stated, the farmers around Truro and Pictou—and some who are not farmers—have been talking of getting insurance done on the municipal plan. Some of them have not seen any reason why a town or township council should not assume all the fire risks in it. We now observe that a meeting was called at the town hall, Pictou, for "Saturday, April 29th, at 1 o'clock," "for the purpose of taking preliminary steps towards organizing a Farmers' Fire Insurance Association, under Chap. 57 of the Acts of Nova Scotia for 1886. All interested farmers throughout the county are cordially invited to attend." We shall see what comes of it.

When we hear of a life policy of unusual amount being taken out in Canada, it is placed, three times out of four, with one of the large American companies. We do not say why this is the case, still less do we say that it should be the case; we merely state what we believe to be a fact. The St. John Telegraph stated the other day that a general agent of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and Hon. Robert Marshall, cashier of St. John office of that old company, secured a \$100,000 application on the life of Mr. Harry R. McLellan. This makes \$120,000 he has in this company and brings his total insurance up to \$257,000.

The annual convention of the National Association of Fire Agents is to be held in Buffalo on August 9th to 12th. As now outlined, the convention will open on Wednesday with an excursion to Chautauqua. Returning to Buffalo, a meeting