

The opening recital of the Halifax Conservatory of Music was given in the Assembly Room of the Ladies College, on Friday, 3rd inst., under most promising auspices. The selections of the pupils had been carefully studied, and were listened to with much pleasure and interest by a numerous audience. Miss Slayter acquitted herself well, in spite of her evident nervousness in two movements of the Beethoven Concert Op 15; and Miss Smith's smooth and finished touch was heard to great advantage in the Mendelssohn Concerto, Op. 40, which was heartily applauded. The last and most enjoyable No. was the Sonata for violin and piano, by the talented director, Mr. C. H. Porter, whose works are already well known, and which when played by the composer and Herr Klungenfold, with their wonted musical skill and taste, was an artistic treat that we hope will be repeated before long in the Orpheus Hall. The success of the Conservatory is a foregone conclusion, and the recitals will tend greatly to cultivate the musical taste of Halifax.

At the Sunday concerts of Mons. Colonne at the Chatelet, in Paris, a work was given the other day which aroused the highest interest. This is Mons. Massenet's oratorio, "Marie Magdaleine." Generally Frenchmen do not compose oratorios, and this excited the more curiosity. The grace and beauty of the composition charmed every one who heard it, when it was first produced about fifteen years ago. It is hard to tell why and wherefore it was not given for the last twelve years.—*American Musician*.

### INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

**SPANISH WORLD'S FAIR.**—The first Spanish World's Fair is to be held at Barcelona in April of this year. American manufacturers are asked to exhibit the wonderful progress and achievements of this country. Steps have been taken for the establishment of a regular line of steamers between New York and the principal ports of Spain direct. Further particulars can be learned from the Spanish consuls at the different ports of the United States.

**EIFFEL TOWER.**—The 1000-foot tower in connection with the French Exhibition of 1889, and known by the name of the designer and constructor as Eiffel's tower, has now reached the height of 179 feet. The four arches of the base are now joined, and the great platform for the rooms of the first stage is about to be constructed, so that the work has passed the most laborious stage. Most of the construction will now proceed from the interior.

**FOREST PRESERVATION.**—Senator Hale has introduced a bill prepared by the American forestry congress to preserve the forests. It withdraws from entry as forest lands all the public lands of the United States more valuable for their timber than for agricultural purposes. It institutes the office of commissioner of forests, and authorizes the appointment of four assistant commissioners. The commissioner is instructed to form forest lands into what are known as forest reserves. He is given power to frame rules and regulations for the government of these reserves, and to appoint rangers to see that the rules are observed. No forest lands are to be sold, but the stumpage on them may be disposed of at the discretion of the commissioner of forests.

Do you intend to buy? Then remember that a modern house is not complete without a nice iron cresting on the roof and windows. A. Robb & Sons, Amherst, N. S., make a nice line of patterns, and turn out excellent goods.

**THE SIEMENS REGENERATIVE FURNACE CASE DECIDED IN FAVOR OF THE AMERICAN CLAIMANTS.**—A decision was rendered by the United States Supreme Court on the 14th inst., in the case of Charles W. and Frederick Siemens, appellants, against William Sellers and others. Appeal from the Circuit Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. This is a suit for alleged infringement of a patent granted to the Siemens Brothers, of England, upon their well known regenerative furnace. The defendants do not deny that Siemens Brothers were the authors of the ingenious invention covered by the patent, but they deny that they use it. Their contention is that the Siemens Brothers took out an English patent for the same invention on July 19, 1861, and that by force of the acts of 1839 and 1861 the American patent expired at the end of seventeen years from the sealing of the English patent, namely, July 19, 1878. They deny that they used the said invention before the last mentioned date, and no evidence is given that they did so. The questions to be decided, therefore, were whether the English patent was for the same invention as the American patent, and if so, whether the latter was limited to expire at the end of seventeen years from the sealing of the former. The courts holds that both of these questions must be answered in the affirmative, and it therefore sustains the decree of the Circuit Court in favor of the American users of the Siemens invention.

### COMMERCIAL.

Trade has, during the past week, continued dull, and no new features have been developed. The distribution of merchandize has been fair, though heavy snow-falls and partial thaws have made delivery rather difficult, and have tended to clog to a certain extent the course of trade. The markets, as is shown by our quotations, evince very few signs of change. Prices having remained generally steady, with only exceptional fluctuations. In most lines payments have been rather slow.

An interesting table of the trade of Halifax for the year 1887, has recently been published by the *Herald*, and we regret that our limited space

will not permit us to re-produce it. We learn therefrom, that in the last year Halifax imported free goods to the value of \$1,608,778, and of dutiable goods to the value of \$3,855,507, being a total value of imports of \$5,464,285. In the previous year, the total imports at this port were valued at \$5,564,114, which shows a falling off in 1887 of \$99,829, but the duties paid in the latter year were \$1,533,321, as against \$1,329,966 in 1886, being an increase of \$203,355. The export return shows that we sent away, in 1887, goods to the value of \$4,549,006, an increase of \$177,678 over the previous year.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—Thos. Spry, jr., pork dealer, Dartmouth, advertising business for sale; Wootton & Dexter, tinmiths, Antigonish, dissolved; Wm. Dexter retires, Frank Dexter admitted, and continues under old firm name; Alex. McKee (Bue) liquors, Middle River, C. B., assigned to Jno. A. McDonald; Jno. D. Greenaway, crockery, Halifax, assigned to Frank Ronnan; King & Ross, grist mill, Oxford, dissolved; F. J. Porter, grocer, Wolfville, sold out to E. C. Bishop; Thos. H. Pope, grocer, Pictou, reported left the country; Charles Warmundo, jeweller, Antigonish, removed to Amherst.

**DRY GOODS.**—Trade in this line has been without excitement, but orders for spring fabrics have come in fairly well. Though reports from travellers are not specially encouraging, and some complaints are made of slow delivery, owing to inclement weather, still the volume of the dry goods trade has been, on the whole, as large as was expected.

**IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.**—The local trade has had a steady tone, and prices have been well maintained. In Glasgow, warrants have declined slightly, late quotations being 40s. 10d. London cables are:—Spot tin £170. Markets quiet. G. O. B. Chili bars £76 10s. Soft English lead £14 15s. do. Spanish do. £14 10s. Best selected copper £78.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—The flour market here has continued quiet, with prices nominally unchanged, but the demand has been limited to small lots for local use, and therefore no important business has been transacted. Beer-bohm's cable says:—"Wheat and corn steady and firm. French country markets quiet but firm. Liverpool spot wheat and corn quiet." The Chicago wheat market has been decidedly weak, and has steadily declined, quotations there have been 76½c. for March, 81½c. for May, and 82½c. for June deliveries. Corn was also weak and steady, at 47½c. March, 52½c. May, and 52½c. June. Oats are there quoted at 32½c. for May. In Montreal, there has been an active enquiry for oats, and sales have there been made at 42c. to 43c. per 34 lbs. This demand is reported to be altogether from Ontario. It is believed that quite a considerable quantity is being held by farmers, who are reluctant sellers, as they are looking for still better values. It is doubtful whether it is wise not to meet the present enquiry, especially as prices show such good profits to producers. The Canadian oatmeal millers' association have advanced the price of standard oatmeal, carload lots, to \$5 80, delivered. Halifax and rolled oats to \$6.35. Beans have also advanced about 30 cents per bushel.

**POTATOES.**—The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* says:—"It is evident that the potato crop of the United States last year was a great failure, especially in Michigan, Wisconsin and New York—the three greatest potato-producing States. The crop in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and Iowa, was also far below an average, and since January 1st prices have gone up both in the Eastern and Western States. The advance on this side has induced considerable shipments from Scotland; Germany and Denmark, to New York and Chicago. Last week, a consignment was made from Rotterdam to a Chicago firm, consisting of 2,500 sacks, or between 7,000 and 8,000 bushels. They cost about 10c. to 15c. per bushel in Europe, and sold at 90c. per bushel in Chicago. In New York they have moved up to \$2 75 per bbl., wholesale. Earlier in the season considerable quantities were shipped from Manitoba and the Province of Quebec to Ontario and the Western States, but as soon as the cold weather set in, the cost of lining and heating cars, in order to keep the potatoes from freezing, increased the cost too much, and the demand fell off. Quite a number of the last shipments in the fall arrived at destination frosted, upon which considerable losses were sustained. Recently, however, further enquiries have been received from Chicago and St. Louis, and the sale of three car loads transpired this week at a station near Montreal at 70c. per bag of 90lbs. for shipment to the Western States. The crop in this Province was a good one in quality, although the quantity was a little short. Still, there is not likely to be any scarcity, and the best policy for farmers to pursue is to accept current prices as the demand develops. Carloads in this market are quoted at 70c. to 75c."

**PROVISIONS.**—A fair amount of business has been transacted, locally, in hog products, but the market has been, on the whole, quiet, and prices steady. There has been but little enquiry for green hams, flanks, and shoulders, prices of which have remained unchanged. In Liverpool lard was stronger, and advanced 3d., to 39s. 3d. Pork was steady at 67s. 6d.; bacon 39s. to 41s. 6d.; tallow 27s. Pork in Chicago was strong in the early part of the week, and advanced to \$14.55 for May. Lard was strong throughout, and late quotations are \$7.77½ March, \$7.92½ May, and \$7.97½ June.

**BUTTER.**—All the really fine qualities of both creamery and dairy butter are taken up by the jobbing trade. Lower grades are in plentiful supply, but the local demand does not run on this class of goods, only the best being wanted.

**CHEESE.**—Trade in this market is very quiet, but the Liverpool cable reports a drop of 1s. Still, no change has occurred in local prices.

**APPLES.**—There is rather a slow sale for apples on spot, which are being placed in small lots at about \$2.50 to \$4 per bbl., as to quality, a few fancy selections commanding a little more money. Several lots are being offered for sale, but buyers do not respond to the request of holders to make offers. Advices from Chicago report a better enquiry, owing to stocks there being considerably reduced by decay. Sales of car loads were made in that city a