

Spurious Coffee.

The steady advance in the values of green coffee and the strong statistical position of that important adjunct to the breakfast and dinner table has naturally had a material effect on the price of the roasted article, lifting it in some instances beyond the limit which a certain class of grocers were prepared to pay. Owing to that moral obliquity which prompts some manufacturers to resort at once to sophistication in order to meet the requirements of their customers, without any regard to the rights of the ultimate consumer, it was naturally expected that an adulterated article which could be sold profitably, would soon make its appearance, and this expectation has been realized with uncomfortable promptitude.

Of course these mixtures have naturally appeared first in New York where some 'roasters' are already actively engaged in preparing them and pushing them on the market, but it can only be a question of a short time before they will make their appearance in this country also, and from their superior cheapness will assuredly command considerable custom. From our New York exchanges we learn that samples of the coffee mixtures are now openly exposed in many of the salesrooms of the wholesale grocery houses in that city, but that in most instances from a lingering sense of commercial decency, they are withheld from view unless asked for by the intending purchaser. The mixtures cannot be considered novel ones and are not injurious to health in any way. They consist of Canadian peas, rye, chicory, burnt ship biscuit, and a small portion of genuine coffee thrown in to give it a flavor of the genuine berry. In one or two extreme cases ground tobacco stems are added to give it strength. The quantity of actual coffee in the composition varies in proportion to the price of the article, which ranges from a nine cent mixture which could only be considered a coffee by a vigorous stretch of the imagination; to twenty cents for a mixture which would pass with not too critical consumers for the real thing. The actual quantity of coffee present is estimated at from 20 to 40 per cent., the remaining 60 to 80 per cent. consisting of the before mentioned adulterants.

The most discouraging feature of this adulteration is the perfect openness with which it is announced and sold. The wholesaler does not attempt to disguise the nature of the compound he sells to his retail customer but openly announces it as a mixture of coffee with other substances, not of an injurious nature, but which certainly are not used by the ultimate consumer from choice. The whole deception lies with the retailer, who can hardly be expected to inform his customers that the composition he is selling them as ground coffee is really composed of other substances capable of giving a black liquid after carbonization. It is useless to point out to the customer that these mixtures are sold at a price which, at the present rates ruling for green coffee, must point out to the consumer that they cannot be genuine. The average consumer knows nothing of wholesale prices, he buys the mixture because it is given him for coffee by his grocer, and consequently the sale of it is a fraud upon the public. Were the grocer to say distinctly that

he could not sell genuine coffee at that price and that the article he was selling was a compound of heterogeneous articles flavored with a little coffee, the case would be entirely different. The buyer would then purchase at his own risk and the doctrine *caveat emptor* would apply. The fraud lies in the fact that the article is sold as coffee and purchased upon the strength of its being coffee, and therefore no arguments, however specious, can twist it into a legitimate transaction. —*Canadian Journal of Commerce.*

Grain and Milling News.

Fraser & Co, millers, Edmonton, Alberta, have received a contract for 821 sacks of flour from the Indian department.

There is some prospect of work being commenced on the proposed conversion of the grist mill at Balmoral, Man, to the roller process.

The London correspondent of the *Northwestern Miller* writes: "The acreage sown this year in the United Kingdom is reported to be slightly increased, and there are probably 2,500,000 acres under wheat, against 2,350,000 last year. Present indications point to an average yield of 28 bus per acre, against 26 9 bus last year, in which case the total product will be 70,600,000 bus, against 63,344,000 bus last year and 79,840,000 bus in 1885."

Our article upon Manitoba flour last week created considerable comment amongst the trade, and the statement that there is a growing preference given to Manitoba brands in this market over Ontario and American flour, seems to be generally recognized as correct; and from Western advices we now learn that Manitoba flour is being sent direct from the Winnipeg mills into the heart of the milling districts of Ontario and competing successfully with local millers there. It does seem that the latter are placed at too great a disadvantage in not being allowed the benefit of grinding Manitoba wheat in transit, and shipping it at the through rate from the point of production to Montreal. It cannot be disputed that Manitoba flour can be laid down in this market at cheaper prices than either Ontario patents or Minnesota strongs, and it is claimed by dealers here that Ontario millers should have equal privileges with those of Manitoba, in being allowed to buy the wheat in the Northwest and grind it in transit on the through route from points of production to this city. —*Montreal Trade Bulletin.*

A. L. CAMERON, flour and feed dealer, Medicine Hat, Assa., will move to Calgary, where he will enter business.

N. D. McDONALD, plumber, Winnipeg, has received the contracts for fitting the new C. P. R. hotel at Banff, Alberta. The contract will amount to \$18,000.

THE Calgary council recently purchased land for stock-yard purposes which they offered to lease the C. P. R. at a nominal figure. The company now claims that it was expected the lands would be decided outright to the C. P. R., but this the council refuses to do, and threatens to use the lands for other purposes. Calgary had better hold on to its lands. They may come in very useful in the future.

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