

doubt be extended due west from Lethbridge, via Macleod, to the Crow's Nest pass, and thence on to Nelson, British Columbia, where it will connect with the Columbia and Kootenay railway, thus making a direct line of railway from the Canadian Pacific Railway main line at Danmore right through to the Columbia river. Besides the fabulous wealth in gold, silver and other minerals, of the West Kootenay region, the railway will open up the now almost inaccessible portions of East Kootenay, which is also believed to be a rich mineral country. Coal and petroleum is understood to exist in the Crow's Nest pass, the former particularly being in large quantity and of good quality. The road will prove of great advantage to the wholesale trade of Winnipeg, in opening a short and direct route to the great Kootenay country, which already draws a considerable portion of its supplies from the Winnipeg market. Since writing the preceding lines, it is learned from Ottawa that the resolution to grant the loan has been dropped.

The Dry Goods Trade

The Toronto Globe's last dry goods article says: "Bicycle suits are very effective when made from very light grey or drab in plain or mottled homespuns. The mottled lines are the nobbiest. Tweed suitings are the leading fashion for spring. Worsteds have been the best and surest lines for retailers to handle in the past. There will always be a good trade done in these lines. Fancy worsteds in the fine twill, in small, neat effects of blue grey, grey, drab, etc., are having their usual call. Plain vicunas and clay twills, in black and blue for coats and vests, are good. Dark mixed worsted and light weight meltons are being bought for overcoats. The colorings in worsteds for spring are on the dark shades, while the Scotch lines have the light tints. Cloths suitable for golf and bicycle suits are having an increased sale. Among these lines may be mentioned Scotch and Canadian homespuns in colorings of grey, brown, bronze, green, etc. Cricket worsted sarges are shown in neat half-inch stripes of blue, etc., on cream ground. Flannel suitings are seen in similar effects. The prospects are for a good trade in flannel suitings. There is a good demand for a first-class article in sun proof serge. Cheviot sarges in black and blue for suitings and overcoats are having their usual sale. The Campbell or hard finish serge has its admirers. Black sarges are better sellers than blue sarges. The majority of lines in trouserings are in small neat effects. Narrow hairline stripes and black and blue medium stripes are good. There is a fair demand for Sheppard checks for summer wear. The call for low price cotton-black trouserings is good. This makes a leader that helps to draw trade. Better grades are more favorably looked upon. Scotch tweed, stripes and Cheviots are wanted by the best trade."

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "In our last issue we referred to the cutting in prices going on between two large woolen mills and now we learn of a third mill falling into line by offering a still further cut, which it is presumed the others will have to meet in order to keep their respective customers."

Scotch tweeds and bannockburns for suitings have sold more freely than for some time, taking to some extent the place of the fancy worsteds. The leading shades are brown and grey mixes, olive greens, etc., in standard checks, with visible and invisible overchecks. Homespuns are important lines or suitings.

Textile buckskin is the newest line in vestings. It is embroidered in green, red and blue in small figures. Balford cord vestings are taking the place of corduroy which ruled in the winter.

A Toronto report says: "Business for the spring sorting trade shows scarcely any spirit yet. Velvetous have been specially active for the past few weeks. Velvetous in good qualities, suitable for capes are in demand. Black and colored ladies' cloth or costume cloths have received an impulse. Bicycle sarges in black, navy, brown and myrtle, especially in the black are now moving. Crinkles in low and medium grades and imitations of crepons in better lines are selling. Cotton shirtings are coming into favor again. Cottonades are in demand. Cotton hosiery has received a start. Double-faced satin ribbons in black and colors are in active request. Jet trimmings and tinsel effects are going well. Chemisettes are shown in considerable quantities for the summer trade. Detached collars and cuffs are considered the correct caper for shirtwaists. Black laces are commencing to move. Valenciennes laces are selling freely. Organdies, muslins and lappet effects are looked upon with much favor for the summer."

Grocery Trade Notes.

Letters received from Bordeaux, says the Trade Bulletin, state that owing to severe competition and very limited demand, some very heavy losses have been made on prunes, business in 1895 crop being reported at 4½¢ cost and freight New York. A number of Bordeaux speculators are said to have lost fortunes through the tremendous shrinkage in the prices of prunes. The fruit which recently sold at 4½¢ laid down in New York, originally cost 60s to 90s in Bordeaux, so that one can easily figure out the big decline that has taken place.

The United States visible supply of coffee is 40,330 bags less than it was a year ago and 68,439 bags less than two years ago.

An Amsterdam cable states that the Dutch coffee sale went off at about 1c above brokers' valuations, with the market firm. Good ordinary Java 52c.

A Montreal report says the tea market is very quiet. Some dealers complaining of the great difficulty in placing goods. Stocks of Japans are large both here and in the States, and now that the new season is about to open on a fairly good crop a continuation of low prices is expected.

A cablegram reports another advance in Sultana raisins and they are now up 3c from the low point. The cause of the advance reported is frost damage.

Cash Grocery System.

It is not often that we quote the arguments of advertisers as news matter for our readers, but the following extract from a letter we have to hand from the Computing Scale Co., of Dayton, Ohio, one of our patrons, contains some hints worthy of the careful consideration of our retail merchants, and we therefore quote it, and leave our readers to make their own comments.

"No better argument for the adoption of the cash system can be advanced than the statement made by an English newspaper that 'half of the failures in the Dominion of Canada are caused by excessively long credits.' It is stated that the average credit granted there is from three to six months. The percentage lost through wasted interest by this means naturally helps to make a big hole in the profits. In all these cases the presumption is that dealers are compelled to grant these long credits or they would not do so. That this logic needs no demonstration, and that this condition of affairs is worse than in Ameri-

can rural districts, contains a small crumb of comfort for dealers in these sections. Consider, one half the failures of a country resulting from the evils of credit, what an excellent argument for the introduction of the cash system.

There is no question being considered by the general trade to-day of more importance than the system of placing and conducting their business on the basis of a cash system. The recent hard times and the prevailing close margins have made merchants conservative. In selling their goods thousands have changed from a credit to a cash basis, thereby increasing their profits. Still there is room for improvement.

In reasoning on this matter you will find that your goods form the basis on which you do business and merit as much, if not more, close attention and watchful consideration as your cash drawer. If you give out more goods than you take in money there is a steady loss, and you do not know it until the annual invoice or stock taking time. So that a system of always keeping a check upon your goods, of measuring them into their exact money value, is of more importance than any other system you could possibly employ in your business. With a system of this character, when you take in one dollar, you are positive that just 100 cents worth of goods and no more have been given in return."

Silver.

The silver market has been comparatively featureless. The most noticeable fact is that the decline which set in during March, following the speculative rise in the early part of that month, seems to have culminated by the decline of the London quotation for bars, on Tuesday, to 30 13-16d in London, the New York commercial quotation touching 67½¢. Silver prices on April 17 were: London 31d, New York 67½¢.

Cheap Mutton.

It is entirely superfluous to say that the feeder of sheep, like the feeder of cattle, has found the present season a very disappointing one. He has had to contend with relatively high priced feeding stock and low priced fat stock, and this is usually a bad combination, no matter what the price of feed may be. The prices of fat sheep during the past winter have been the lowest on record, and the improvement which is usually expected during the late winter months has been realized only in a slight degree. Aside from the low prices the most notable feature of the season's trade has been ready absorption of the enormous supplies. The American people are evidently learning to appreciate good mutton, and although its cheapness has stimulated consumption to some extent it has many more permanent friends in this country than it ever had before. All this will be in favor of the mutton producer when the heavy supplies are no longer in the way of better values. -Chicago National Stockman.

The Chester Seed Co., Winnipeg, have received their stock. As this is a new concern they have no old seed carried over from past years, so that all their stock is fresh.

It is understood that the British house of commons committee appointed to inquire into the adulteration of food have virtually agreed upon a report which will cause much stir in the trading world. The majority propose the appointment of a government board of chemists to establish and maintain a standard of purity for articles of food home raised or imported, and that adulterators on their second conviction will be sent to prison, as in ancient days. Certain parts of the report are directed against American food stuffs, including lard, and customs officers will be authorized to take samples at the port of entry.