

Grocery Trade Notes.

Since the 31st of May beet sugar abroad advanced $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Since 1895 the demand for Ceylon teas in the United States has increased over 75 per cent, the total imports amounting to 13,768,000 pounds.

Estimates of the probable outturn of Smyrna figs this season place the quantity at 60,000 to 70,000 camel loads which is about an average crop.

A private cable received from Yokohama reported the market for Japan tea active, with a general good demand, according to the Montreal Gazette. The settlements to date were 108,000 piculs, as against 138,000 for the same period last year, showing a decrease of 30,000 piculs. The crop is said to be short; in consequence, importers here have been compelled to pay an advance of 10 per cent. over the price they paid last year for good medium grades. Locally business continues very quiet.

Dry Goods Trade Notes.

Chiffon printed in imitation of Roman scarfs is being used by the millinery trade and also as a trimming. It is called "Ladysmith" chiffon or veiling, as it is used frequently on the hats of the same name.

A movement is on foot for the establishment of a cotton mill plant at Toronto. The council of the board of trade has declared itself in favor of exempting such mills from taxation and granting a free site. Louis Simpson, late manager of the Valleyfield Cotton Mills, is pushing the scheme.

A good trade is being done in lace curtains and the market for that line is very active. Values are firm. The goods now in stock cannot be repeated for less than 15 to 20 per cent advance on the cost price. Merchants are taking advantage of the present offerings of these goods to supply future requirements, knowing that the values at which the goods are now offered are right.—Toronto Globe.

THE HARDWARE TRADE.**UNITED STATES IRON AND STEEL PRICES.**

Prices of iron and steel have yielded this week in various directions, says Iron and Steel, of Chicago. In several instances nominal quotations that had been shaded previously were marked down to about the actual figures at which business had been transacted. There is a friendly overture on the part of sellers to resume trade relations with their diffident customers. And the latter are cautiously feeling their way towards more pretentious bargainings. It is a critical period in the iron and steel trades, critical alike to buyer and seller. For while the latter is confronted by prices that are slipping away from him, the former is confronted by his own accumulating needs that are insistently demanding recognition. Both factors would find relief in a state of things that gave promise of some stability. It is recognized that the markets are in a transitory condition. The course is leading downward, and the weakness does not add to the inclination of consumers to buy. But when and where the transition will end is a question upon which no one seems willing to venture an opinion. For the three months beginning July 1, the Pittsburg and Valley manufacturers of Bessemer pig iron have made a price of \$20 per ton, the previous quotations having

been nominally \$30 to \$28. At Chicago, foundry grades of pig iron have been reduced from 50 cents to \$1 per ton. Bars are weak in thought, and sometimes, when a choice order comes along, in act also. Plates are already so weak that it is almost an insult to call further attention to the fact. Merchant steel is slipping a few cogs here and there. Sheets are putting on a smiling face, but inwardly trembling. Track supplies are irregular in their habits. Old material is experiencing the torments of the unappreciated, and metals have joined in the rout. Manufactured articles of various sorts are keeping in touch with the general decline, and a readjustment in wire and nail prices brings a slight reduction. But one of these days things may change with a sharp turn. The prevailing opinion is that a good fall trade is in prospect.

MANUFACTURERS' AGENCY.

The hardware trade of the west will be pleased to learn that James Burrige, who for many years managed the Gurney Stove and Range Company's business at Winnipeg, has launched out for himself as an independent agent here handling a number of important lines. Mr. Burrige has opened an office in the Foulds' block, on the corner of Main and Market streets, and has secured ware rooms on Princess street. After the first of the year he expects to have a fine new warehouse and office on the transfer track. Some of the lines which Mr. Burrige will handle are: Stoves and ranges of steel and cast iron; hot air furnaces; steam and hot water boilers and radiators; tin and granite ware, tin plate and Canada plate, metal siding and shingles, the Burrows, Stewart and Milne scales; Adam Hall's lumberman steel camp ranges; M. & L. Samuel Benjamin Co.'s metals, etc. He will also handle the Gurney Foundry Co.'s goods.

HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.

Castor oil advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1c at Toronto last week, the quotations now being 10 to $10\frac{1}{2}$ c for East Indian in cases.

A very large demand for all kinds of glass is reported for the Northwest States and factories are quite unable to fill all their orders.

An active foreign demand has forced up the price of steam refined seal oil at Montreal to $52\frac{1}{2}$ c per gallon wholesale, an advance of $6\frac{1}{2}$ c within a month.

The St. Louis street car strike has created a great boom in that city for bicycles and it is said that everybody who can possibly scare up a wheel has started riding. The repair shops are doing an enormous business fixing up old wheels.

Montreal jobbing prices for turpentine are now 74 to 75c per gallon; for resins, \$2.75 to \$4.50 as to brand; coal tar, \$3.25 to \$3.75; cotton waste, $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ c for colored, and 6 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ c for white, oakum, $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ c, and cotton oakum, 9c.

Cordage prices at Montreal weakened last week for much the same reason that binder twine fell off in other markets, namely, unexpectedly large receipts of manilla hemp at New York and weaker advices from consuming centres. The decline on manilla rope amounted to 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ c per pound. The demand for cordage at the Canadian factories is reported good and production very heavy. Jobbing prices for rope at Montreal

are now as follows: Manilla, $14\frac{1}{2}$ to 15c for 7-16 and up; 16c for $\frac{3}{8}$, and 16c for $\frac{1}{4}$ and 5-16. Sisal, 11 to $11\frac{1}{2}$ c for 7-16 and up; 12c for $\frac{3}{8}$, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ for $\frac{1}{4}$ and 5-16.

Canadian varnish makers at a meeting held in Toronto recently decided to adopt uniform terms and discounts. Hereafter the terms will be four months with 3 per cent off for cash. It was also decided to make a new net price list and quote a discount for all price changes.

Implement Trade Notes.

Minneapolis jobbers now quote twine as follows: Standard and sisal 11c; manilla, 60 foot, $13\frac{1}{4}$ c, and pure manilla, $14\frac{1}{2}$ c per pound, with the usual reductions for large quantities.

The Threshers Lien Act of Manitoba will be amended at the present session of the house so as to give workmen a lien upon half the earnings of a machine for wages earned when working therewith.

Twine dealers throughout the neighboring states are being warned against the twine being offered at less than the regular prices by catalogue houses, as much of this twine is of decidedly inferior quality. Some of it is twine that has been rejected at the factories by the McCormick and other companies as not being up to their standard of excellence.

Lumber Trade Notes.

Last week's rain helped the situation in the lumbering regions of Manitoba and the adjacent States considerably.

A new saw mill has commenced operation at Rapid River in the Rainy Lake region. It is owned by Clemensen.

In the larger cities of the Northwestern States labor troubles are still interrupting the lumber trade. The Chicago strike situation is almost unchanged and other cities where trouble exists are waiting to see the outcome there before settling their own disputes. A speedy settlement is predicted by some. At Kansas City the contractors have won in a building trades strike.

The Deering Harvester Company of Chicago have purchased a tract of land in the state of Missouri containing 54,000 acres, which is heavily timbered with hardwoods. On this land they intend to put a force of men whose duty it will be to scientifically handle the trees so that the company will have a perpetual supply of hardwoods for use in manufacturing their various lines of implements.

A tender has been let for the construction of the British Columbia building at the Winnipeg exhibition grounds. The amount of the tender was \$540.

Changes are to be made in the customs act of Canada, by which hereafter the statistical department will be centralized at Ottawa also and will consist of two appraisers, two members to be appointed, and the commissioner. This board will adjudicate all cases at Ottawa instead of going about from port to port. The most important change provides that after a certain date all invoices must be made out in triplicate, one copy to go to Ottawa, one to the port of entry, and the third to the consignee. This change is made for the purpose of preventing inequalities at different ports, as the Ottawa invoice will be carefully examined in the department.