

safes, or making cements and paints. Asbestos has been described as "a physical paradox, a mineralogical vegetable, both fibrous and crystalline, elastic yet brittle, a floating stone, but as capable of being carded, spun and woven as flax, cotton or silk." It is apparently a connecting link between the vegetable and the mineral kingdom, possessing some of the characteristics of both. The great wonder about it is its incombustibility. Over 7,000 tons of it were shipped to the United States from Canada in 1891. A specimen sent this week from Calabogie Lake, in Renfrew county to the Ontario Mining Bureau, is uncommonly fine, the fibre being nine inches in length. It is said to exist there in large quantity.

A find of corundum has been made, it appears, in the fourteenth concession, township of Carlow, in the rear of Hastings county, eastern Ontario. This is a valuable abrasive material; it is technically described as a mixture of an oxide of aluminum with an oxide of iron, differing from emery, which is an oxide of aluminum alone. Corundum is a very hard substance, and what are known as emery wheels are sometimes made from it. The substance is found in India and other parts of Asia, and used for polishing precious stones, being apparently harder than any except the diamond. It is found, too, in Georgia and North Carolina, in the United States, where it is used for grinding and cutting plate glass, also for polishing jewels and edge tools. Among precious stones the ruby, topaz, amethyst and sapphire are regarded as varieties of corundum. The American product amounts to 1,500 or 2,000 tons a year.

AMONG DRY GOODS AND FUR STORES.

Canadian buyers are said to be operating freely in Manchester and other English textile markets.

It is said that two kinds of fur much used a generation or two ago, grebe and chinchilla, are again to be worn.

The demand for laces has not been active recently, and English lace manufacturers find it difficult to keep their plant fully employed.

A lady in London brought suit against the city for damages for the careless driving of a watercart which drew so near the sidewalk that a heliotrope-colored dress worn by her was sprinkled and spoiled. The court awarded her seven guineas.

The tariff prospects continue to be the subject of discussion in Canadian textile centres. The election of Major McKinley, as President of the United States, and the possibilities of a higher American tariff, make the situation in Canada more complicated.

The employees of the W. E. Sanford Manufacturing Company in Hamilton have been notified of a reduction of 10 per cent. in their wages, taking effect November 1st. This step, it is stated by the firm, is rendered necessary by the constantly increasing demand for cheap clothing. The cut will apply to about 150 employees.

What is noticeable about the newest fur garments is that they are usually composed of two or more furs. A very smart little coat is of mink, fastening invisibly down the front and having very short, full basques. It is fastened round the waist with ribbon. The sleeves are of brown corduroy velvet, with square epaulettes of mink, and the high collar of mink. Cuffs of the velvet are edged with a band of fur.

Business in Nottingham, according to recent advices, continues fairly active, but without much change. The millinery and lace departments are only moderately active, Valenciennes, Irish guipures, some combination laces, and Orientals being the chief of the sales. The silk department is rather quiet in laces and plain goods, and little is doing in falls and veilings, the supply being abundant. Plain cotton goods of all kinds, bobbin nets, tulles, and mosquito nets especially, sell freely, and prices are firm. Manufacturers of curtains and window blinds are doing fairly well, some large orders being in hand for future delivery. In hosiery, merino, and natural wool goods both hosiery and underwear sell well, and prices are firm.

There is trouble between Edouard Lepage and Emile Lavigne who since May 9th, 1895, have been partners in a dry goods business in Montreal, under the name of Lepage & Co. Mr. Lepage petitions the court for a judicial dissolution of the partnership, alleging that his former partner—they had mutually arranged on 28th October to dissolve—had ill-treated, injured and even assaulted him. Moreover, that Lavigne had carried on business in another part of the city, although a special clause in the partnership agreement forbade his doing so. The plaintiff complains that his ex-partner has refused to allow him to make an inventory. It is also alleged that the accounts were badly kept and in a manner prejudicial to his interests. In conclusion, the plaintiff asks that he be allotted his share of the profits, a sum somewhere in the neighborhood of \$15,000. His lawyers have secured a *saisie-conservatoire*, for the closing of Messrs. Lepage & Co.'s store. It is interesting to hear of anybody asking for, let alone getting, \$15,000 as a share of the profits of a retail dry goods shop in the French district of Montreal.

Commenting upon the recent meeting of Mr. J. D. Ivey, of Toronto, with his English creditors, the *Draper's Record*, which understands that Mr. Ivey looks forward to the day when he will be able to repay his creditors here for their generosity by remitting them the balance of the amount owing, says: "Canadian statements are, as a rule, smart documents, and that of Mr. Ivey was not deficient in this respect—quite the contrary, in fact. It is not a bad idea to sell stock at cost price amounting to £8,415 for the sum of £4,312, with the option of redeeming it within a few months; then to set out in the statement £4,312 as the realization value of the stock; and, finally, to make an offer on this basis. This valuation of the stock has, I may say, been confirmed by Mr. Robertson, the Canadian representative of Messrs. Cook, Son & Co., and by Mr. Millicham, who represents Messrs. Pawsons & Leafs. Another item in the statement to which attention was drawn at the meeting was that debts amounting to \$3,194 were estimated to realize about \$1,000 only or a little over £200. Seldom have I seen such wholesale writing down as this, but the figures were examined by the two gentlemen already referred to, both of whom have a very wide experience of the position of traders in the Dominion. That such a small proportion of the debts should be estimated as realizable, affords a startling insight into the commercial depression prevalent in Canada."

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Montreal shipments of cheese to Britain last week were large, being 111,353 boxes. Those of butter were 7,174 packages.

Hon. Mr. Davies was to meet the P. E. Island lobster packers and fishermen in Charlottetown, last Wednesday, to discuss the close season and other matters.

Japan teas, both lower and higher grades, are scarce in this country, and holders are firm. The latest London advices show a strong tea market generally, with an advance of a halfpenny in common young hysons.

A letter from a retail grocer of Didsbury, Eng., to the editor of the *California Grocer*, expresses surprise to find all through the States that the retail grocers filled their windows with proprietary goods and show cards in place of their own wares and price-tickets.

Last week, in San Francisco, there was a brisk all round business doing in dried fruits. Advances had been established in nectarines, fancy pears and large prunes, also generally in raisins. Some rain damage had been done, not only to the second but even to a portion of the first crop of raisins.

The Dominion Government intends taking charge of the new creameries in the North-West, for which \$15,000 was put in the Estimates. They are to be built by funds procured by a loan, and the patrons will be charged four cents per pound for the manufacture of the butter and one cent per pound to pay off the loan.

In their circular of the 31st ult. the Hills Bros., New York, say, regarding the position of Valencia raisins: "Steamer 'Olympia' arrived early in the week, bringing 27,000 boxes, of which some 6,000 were in transit for Canada, and of the balance a considerable portion had been sold to arrive. Stock remaining to-day is only small."

The scarcity of the lobster pack in Canada and at other points in America in recent years past has brought out offerings from remote markets, such for instance, as South Africa. A brand of lobsters packed in Cape Town, South Africa, has been brought to New York, and is said to be receiving considerable favor.

There is a movement on foot in Toronto grocery circles to revive the Dominion Wholesale Grocers' Guild. Grocers are divided in opinion as to the advisability of renewing the measures of the Guild as they have existed in the past. It is claimed that they have not resulted to the advantage of those who have adhered closely to the regulations.

The shipments of currants from Greece for the season, to September 15, as compared with last year, were, says the *N. Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce*, as follows: To London, 13,273 tons, against 17,288 tons in 1895; to Liverpool, 9,136 tons, against 11,012 tons in 1895; to outputs, 5,710 tons, against 5,295 tons in 1895; to United States, 5,895 tons, against 4,893 tons in 1895; to Canada, 380 tons, against 1,446 tons in 1895, which with shipments to other countries makes a total of 44,838 tons, against 54,435 tons in 1895.

The steamer "Bellona," which arrived at Halifax on Wednesday of last week direct from Mediterranean ports, discharged some 300 tons of her cargo, principally dried fruit, at that port, and steamed next day for Montreal, where she now lies. Her cargo included 53,344 boxes and 8,000 small packages of Valencia raisins; 795 barrels, 5,058 cases and 5,170 half-cases of currants; 7,100 boxes Malaga raisins, 2,050 sacks almonds and 3,060 boxes shelled ditto. Our Montreal market report gives further interesting particulars about cargo and about dried fruit prices.