

The Flour Moth.

In Ontario, says the Toronto *Globe*, a new insect has appeared, the flour moth, (*ephestia kühniella*), which threatens serious trouble and injury to millers and all others whose business it is to handle flour. The Ontario board of health has issued a pamphlet containing a description and cuts of the moth, an account of its ravages, and advice as to the best measures for its extermination. The moth, it is said, came in with milled goods imported as chilean foods from some port of the Mediterranean, of whose coast it is a dreaded scourge. Its first appearance was in the month of March, 1889, when a single moth was seen flying about near an Ontario mill. In July the moths and worms became so numerous that the mills were shut down. Later the work of taking remedial measures, however, fell to the Toronto government. Mr. Blue, the deputy minister of agriculture for Ontario, visited the mill and called in Dr. Bryce, secretary of the provincial board of health, who dealt thoroughly with the question of prevention. He advocates "a rigorous quarantine of grains coming from Mediterranean ports," and advises every miller to become thoroughly acquainted with the appearance and habits of this moth, and destroy any that he sees.

Trade at Montreal.

The weather of the past few days has rather interfered with the volume of trade for the week. In some lines merchants hoped for a moderate run of business before the holiday week, and had some prospect of doing it until the soft weather ensued. Now, however, more especially to the dry goods and fur trades, reports from their travellers are not satisfactory, and some have recalled their men before they usually do at this season. Reports concerning remittances continue of a more or less conflicting nature, but it seems on the whole that they are not as satisfactory as they should be. The movement in holiday goods has not assumed its full volume yet, but appearances indicate that it will be of the usual dimensions.

In the iron trade the tone is unaltered, both on pig and manufactured iron. Nails and horse shoes have had a temporary spurt during the week, some of the mills pushing forward the balances of orders on hand preparatory to closing down. It is expected that most of the mills will do this during the early portion of next week.

The sugar market still shows strength, and a fair business has been done all around. Yellow refined is selling at 5½ to 5¾c, and is in request at those prices. Syrups are down and quiet at 3½ to 4½c, with some sales at those prices, while Barbadoes molasses is strong and held at 45c for round lots, and 47½c for smaller quantities.

The tea market in Montreal has been dull during the week. In London teas are very low, as English houses are anxious to reduce stocks, and in consequence are offering them very cheaply.

The features of the fruit market have been the activity of currants on the part of dried fruit and oranges for green fruit. The former have advanced fractionally, and during the week there has been considerable business on the basis of 5½ to 5¾c for new, and 5c for old. Raisins steady at: Valencias 6½ to 6¾c, and

layers 7½ to 8c. For oranges, prices have been marked up all round, Jamaicas \$4.50 to \$5.50, and Florida \$2.50 to \$3.50, Valencias are quoted at \$4.50 to \$5.

Wool is a very scarce commodity, and prices are very firm at 1½ to 2½c for Cape. For Australian it would certainly cost from 20c to 26c to lay it down here, and about 24c to 25c for New Zealand.

The fur trade during the week has been quiet and the trade are preparing for the turn downwards that generally takes place after the new year. Beaver and otter are wanted locally, and good prices are paid. Bear, lynx and skunk are much neglected and prices are lowering. Other lines without change on last marks.

The upward symptoms of glass noticed a week ago are developed now and the article is very firm at an advance of 10c, the figures being \$1.60 for first and \$1.70 for second break. In New York the stock of turpentine has been rapidly increasing, and receivers are more disposed to meet buyers, and prices have receded fully 2c. — *Montreal Gazette*.

Rainfall in the West.

Speaking of the dry seasons which have prevailed in the west of recent years a writer in the *Northwest Magazine* published at St. Paul, Minn. says: "The expert climatologists know that real changes of climate are taking place on any part of the American continent. This conclusion comes from more than a century of observations in the east and from nearly half a century of observations at the military posts in the west. It is not, therefore, true, as some of the recent Dakota settlers seem to apprehend, that the climate of that region is changing for the worse. The next five or six years will bring the rain record up to the average of any period of ten or twelve years prior to 1881. The old lake beds and dry sloughs, which were fully of water within the recollection of the settlers who went into the country prior to the dry period now closing, will fill up again, and there will be abundant rain fall and snow fall for the production of heavy crops. If the climatologists are correct, this alternating series of wet and dry periods will go on indefinitely, like the rising and falling of the tides. Five or six years of such heavy harvests as were reaped prior to 1883, will pay off the farmers' debts, enable them to improve their buildings and lands, and give them a surplus to carry them over the light crop seasons. They will increase their acreage of wheat, knowing that the crop will surely be profitable. When the period of diminished rain fall begins again they will limit their wheat acreage, raise more barley and roots, sow fodder crops, rely on their land instead of on the stores for food for their families, keeping hogs and fowls and more cows — making less money, perhaps, than for heavy yields of wheat, but not running behind. The Dakota soil is so rich and supports a drouth so well that even in the driest years the wheat harvest averages better than in favorable years in the eastern states. A highly prosperous country can be built up on the basis of this rich soil and the alternating periods of more or less moisture, which are now believed to prevail as soon as the climate is thoroughly understood and the farming is made to conform to its peculiarities. The periods of abundant moisture will be periods of active development, of

heavy immigration of towns and country, and the periods of decreased moisture will be characterized by the comparative quiet, which has prevailed in Dakota during the past five years."

Ontario's Timber Reserve.

North Bay is of picturesque appearance, situated on the north shore of Lake Nipissing, a beautiful sheet of water 70 miles long and twenty to thirty wide. By some difficult portage & passage is had by French River to Georgian Bay. Lake Noshousing, nine miles to the southwest, is also a fine sheet of water and is surrounded by high mountains and green glades, forming, with Trout Lake, the head waters of the river Mattawa. From North Bay a government road has been constructed in a line due north to the head of Lake Temiscaming, a distance of 80 miles. This road, although not yet available for summer travel, opens up a large and valuable timber and agricultural country, which up to a very recent period has been a veritable *terra incognita* known only to the voyageur or the Hudson's Bay trapper. Although it can never be what may be called a good agricultural country, yet millions of productive acres lie between North Bay and Lake Temiscaming, and millions more between that and Temiscaming, where already twenty-five new townships have been surveyed by the Roman Catholic Colonization Company, and about 60 per cent. of this is said to be good land. Beginning about fifteen miles north of North Bay in a country north and west for about fifty miles is the great timber reserve of Ontario. Here are thousands of miles of pine, spruce, tamarac and hardwood yet untouched by the lumberman's axe, and here also is the home of the moose, cariboo, elk and red deer, and the otter, beaver, mink and martin. Its only inhabitants are a few Indians, a branch of the Algonquin tribe, who speak the Ojibway dialect. The climate as far north as Temiscaming lake, where vegetables and all kinds of cereals have already been cultivated, is not much colder than that of Montreal, Lake Temiscaming opens clear of ice about the first of May. The scenery around this lake, as well as many others is charming, varied by mountain peak and waterfall. As no large rivers traverse this region and the small streams are obstructed by rapids and chutes, a railroad must in the near future be constructed to convey to market the valuable timber and minerals which abound in almost inexhaustible quantities. This has already been surveyed and subsidised by the Ontario Government to the head of Lake Temiscaming with a view of its being continued to James Bay, 400 miles further north, near which large anthracite coal deposits have recently been discovered. This road will be a great boon to the lumberman on the Kippewa and Temiscaming districts, who have now to bring their supplies via the Canadian Pacific Railway to Mattawa, then by steamer to Le Clave, then a portage of three miles, then a water stretch to Les Arables, another portage, another water stretch to La Montaigne, then another portage at the Sault, and another water stretch Seven League Lake, thence by the Colonization Railway and teams, while if the North Bay branch was built, supplies could be brought direct from Toronto or any point west via the Grand Trunk, Northern & Pacific Junction. — *Canadian Lumberman*.