

bons and plumes in decorating hats and bonnets. The artificial yellow and lilac crocus is a favorite spring blower. The purple wisteria also has a prominent place. But even the sturdy Scottish thistle is utilized for trimming, and so is the dandelion, that

"Dear common flower that blooms beside the way,
Fringing the dusty road with harmless gold."

The assortment of laces both for millinery and dress trimmings is large. Among them are Russian effects, mostly black, with spots. Jet trimmings have taken the place of the gold which were worn so much last season, and ecru ribbons in all colors are a novelty which will find favor. Feathers are relatively less used than flowers this year. The only ornaments shown are pins, diamond effects being very prominent.

Ribbons are extremely pretty and in great variety, the colors usually more pronounced. For bonnet strings and ribbons moire is again in fashion, a shot moire known as *plan de gant* and shot broche being favorites; plain and double-faced satins are also popular, as well as gauze ribbons. Bonnet strings are now worn much wider. Chiffon is largely used by ladies this year in many directions and the use of lisse is reviving. In costume decorations of whatever sort it is observable that colors are bolder and more striking than heretofore, and the dull shades are rather in the background. Yellowish red tints are often seen contrasting with clear, bright bluish grays. In the new mother of pearl colors is found a genuine novelty.

CUTTING PRICES IN DRUGS AND MEDICINES.

It would appear that the associated druggists of Ontario are again endeavoring to solve the vexed question of cutting prices in drugs and patent medicines by getting the sales of these into their own hands through legal enactment. They desire to have added to Part II. of schedule A in the Pharmacy Act: "Any and all patent or proprietary medicines, of whatever nature, that contain any one or more of the poisons contained in the schedule." The report of a committee, in favor of placing on Part II. "proprietary articles" containing a poison or poisons classed in Part I., was adopted.

Something more clearly defined seems to us to be needed before the aim of the druggists can be reached. Is the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to be asked once a week or once a month to declare, on the advice of his legal advisers, assisted by the Council of Pharmacy, what patent medicines contain "poisons within the meaning of the Act"? Is there any authorized means of telling what patent medicines contain poison? It is, besides, a moot question whether more patent medicines are sold by the drug stores or by the general dealers throughout the country; and special legislation which protects the one and hampers the other is not likely to be granted—at least we cannot think it ought. It is not likely that such a move as this will cure cutting of

prices; a more reasonable plan would be to devise some means of lessening the number of shops, whether chemists' shops or general country stores. Granted that cutting prices is folly; the proposed method of overcoming it does not appear to be practical wisdom.

CANADIAN APPLES.

A paragraph has appeared in a number of English and other newspapers which, though its foundation is trivial and its conclusions absurd enough, is calculated to injure the Canadian apple trade. The complaint is therein made that our apple trees are sprayed with a solution of Paris Green, and that Canadian apples are therefore poisonous. What nonsense this is will appear when it is remembered that the spraying of the trees, which is for the purpose of getting rid of a grub or moth that attacks the apple, is done early in the year, when the fruit tree is in blossom. Granted that a weak solution of Paris Green is sprinkled in a fine spray upon the leaves and blossoms of a tree: there are the spring rains to wash it away, then the summer winds to blow it away, and the sunshine to dry it up, before the infinitesimal quantity of liquid could affect the growing fruit. The poison would have about as much evil effect upon the apple as an ounce or two of Paris Green emptied into Niagara river at Buffalo would have upon a man who drinks of the water of that river below the Falls. We question, besides, whether one apple grower in six sprays his trees as described, although some make the solution stronger than it need be when used. It is well, however, to have such erroneous and prejudicial notions dispelled as that Canadian apples contain poison taken in, so to speak, as Dickens' old cellarman took in his grog, "at the pores."

WEST COAST COMMERCE.

The commerce of the British Columbia coast may, for present purposes, be divided into two branches: Fish and Lumber. These articles, which have formed the great source of maritime provincial wealth, have already ranked British Columbia in that connection—not to mention its mineral resources—as the greatest and richest undeveloped maritime country in America. It is, however, not a little singular that the fishing industry of these provinces is of comparatively recent development.

A writer of a prize essay on the resources of New Brunswick, published some years ago, mentions this fact, but fails to account for it, though the cause is not far to seek. There is always a tendency amongst the industrial-developing class to prefer undertakings which offer the quickest and most profitable returns, and which are surrounded by the fewest restrictions.

The fishing industry of every country has always been precarious; it has often proved unprofitable as well as disastrous. Besides, it requires great experience and much skill in order that the ultimate results may be lucrative. It, too, needs a special class inured to hardships, and

many now contend that unless the business be conducted on the co-operative system success cannot be expected. It is not, therefore, surprising to find the fisheries of our west coast comparatively undeveloped, yet this comparison is in degree only. In certain parts of British Columbia development is taking wonderful strides. The observant traveller is amazed at the many evidences of a true commercial spirit that he sees. Although in its infancy, yet the infant is like the giant's child—stout and healthy, whose stature is equal to that of the ordinary man, and suggesting how great, if not illimitable, are the possibilities of British Columbia commerce. The growth of this commerce in the next few years will be marvellous.

Every month adds to the capital invested in the fishing industry of the west coast. Recently steps were taken to develop the halibut trade of those waters, and from the lengthy description of this fish which appears in the British Columbia newspapers, the halibut is regarded as a curiosity, though it is quite a familiar fish to the people of the Atlantic maritime provinces, and its qualities are fully appreciated. This fish has been exhibited in the Halifax markets weighing upwards of 400 lbs., but, of course, such a size is the exception. Dr. Dawson, writing of the fish of western waters, says:

"These banks, swept by strong tidal currents with the shore line of the inlets and fiords, constitute the feeding grounds of the halibut and other fishes, and by their exceptional extension, account for the great abundance of fish to be found in the vicinity of the islands.

"The halibut is doubtless the most important, and though it has not yet been found marketable either salted or canned, if means were adopted whereby it might be carried in a fresh state to the southern markets, an extensive fishery might be maintained.

"The dog fish is found in great abundance, and is taken for the manufacture of oil, and a small establishment was at work in this business at Skidegate at the time of my visit. Salmon of two or three species run up most of the streams in large numbers, especially in autumn.

"Herring are very abundant in some places, especially in the vicinity of Skidegate, at certain seasons. A species of pollock or coal fish is caught in large numbers on certain parts and northwest coasts of the islands. Flounders and plaice abound in some localities. A true cod, probably the same species as that for which vessels sail from San Francisco to the Ok-kotek Sea, is found. The same remark applies to the mackerel, of which a species is found.

"Smaller fish, such as the various species of rock cod, and the shell fish, which form an important item in the native dietary, it is unnecessary to particularize."

These facts, of course, are pretty well known to the Canadian business public, but now that steps are being taken to market all the valuable fish to be found on the west coast, new and increased importance must be attached to the subject. Besides there are here indications of a commerce of the future that will far exceed the busy