

BACON.

Tons and cases have been going off steadily at former prices, but no demand seems to have been heard for car lots. Long-clear in tons and cases fairly active at 7½ to 7¾. Cumberland is active at 6¾ to 7c, and sweet pickled at 7½ to 8c. Short rolls in good demand at 8½ to 9c; bellies at 10 to 10½c, and boneless at 11c, with some old offered at 7½ to 8c, but these latter appear to be the only item in the market on which holders are disposed to concede anything.

HAMS.

Have held in good demand and prices have ruled steady at from 10½ to 11c.

LARD.

Has sold freely in small lots at 9 to 9½c for pails and 8½c for tierces. A lot of 50 pails sold at 8½c.

HOGS.

The few offering have found a ready market at \$6.00 to \$6.75.

Gill & Co., of Winnipeg have secured a patent for their smut destroying preparation, which has been highly recommended by many who have used it. To those who raise soft wheat in this country this article should be invaluable, and even in raising Red Fyfe it is often found to be very useful. We want clean wheat by all means, and smut is the most damaging kind of dirt.

The Western Canada Loan and Savings Company have moved their northwestern head offices to the Donaldson Block, where Mr. F. B. Ross, the manager, can be found in much larger quarters. Increasing business is the given reason for this move, which sounds very unlike the financial field being worked up in this province. But then Manitoba has no firmer friend in eastern financial circles than Mr. Walter Lee the general manager of this concern and the company are here to do business, and not to run a collection agency.

The State of Trade.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* do not report as encouraging a view of general trade as in the preceding week. At Chicago and Kansas City there is relatively the most active demand. But at a number of cities, at which an improvement in the movement of general merchandise was noted a week ago, there is none now. At the larger seaboard cities trade is of moderate proportions. Purchases at Chicago are still characterized as for immediate wants only. There are at least 50,000 employes on strike, against 43,000 last week, in addition to those seeking to enforce the adoption of the eight hour rule. *Bradstreet's* finds that at least 225,000 men at industrial centres are actively moving to secure fewer hours of labor daily. Of this number 6,000 are on strike, 32,000 have had demands granted, and 105,000 threaten to strike. There are 75,000 who have not yet accompanied their requests with threats of strikes. The more aggravated condition of the labor situation is primarily responsible for the noticeable depression in general trade and industrial circles throughout the country this week. Interior merchants are buying restricted lines and manufacturers are basing contracts for future delivery on the non-interference of employes. Iron markets are dull; demand is smaller, owing to labor troubles. Steel rails

are firm, and water and gas-pipe makers are doing well, but these are the exceptions among the metal industries. Anthracite coal is 25c. higher at tidewater for steam sizes. Petroleum is lower and heavy on new well production. Wool is dull and 1 to 2c. lower as compared with a month ago. Dry goods have been measurably active at jobbers' and retailers' hands, with no special change to note. Print cloths are firm at former prices. The rapid advance in the demand for refined sugars last week checked the demand, and the advance has been partly lost. Fluctuations in the rate of exchange on Rio have made coffee prices irregular. Tea is depressed by heavy stocks. Louisville reports high-grade leaf tobacco firm and advancing, medium slightly better, and lugs lower than for twenty years, owing to low quality and liberal supplies. The April cotton report to *Bradstreet's* indicates that planting is 15 days later, that the acreage is smaller in the Atlantic states and Alabama and larger in Louisiana and Texas. There will probably be a net decrease, as compared with 1885, over the cotton belt. The total failures in the United States reported to *Bradstreet's* is 172, against 175 last week and 167 in the like week in 1885, 151 in 1884, 132 in 1883 and 105 in 1882. Canada had 27, against 34 last week and 30 last year. The total from January 1 to April 30 is 3,986, against 4,646 last year, (decline of 660 in 17 weeks), 3,835 in 1884, 3,791 in 1883 and 2,567 in 1882.—*Bradstreet's*

General Notes.

The C. P. R. steamer *Alberta* was the first boat to sail from Port Arthur this season. The cargo consisted in part of 30,000 bushels of wheat.

Somebody has taken the pains to figure out that the United States produces enough lumber each year to load 1,428,531 railroad cars, each carrying 6,000 feet. It is also said that this would make a train 8,500 miles long, or about one-third around the world.

The product of cigars for March in New York City reached the large number of 68,807,000. And notwithstanding the long lockout of 10,000 employes, the product for three months was 175,600,400 cigars, as against 175,923,950 in 1885 for the same time, while the cigarettes were 144,547,560, as against 122,190,140 same time last year.

The meat canning department of P. D. Armour, Chicago, has been shut down; and between 500 and 800 men are out of employment. The move was entirely unexpected by the canners. A large number of butchers were also obliged to suspend operations. The matter has been under contemplation some weeks. The cause is an overstocked market and no demand for canned meats in England or Germany. At present Armour has \$500,000 invested in canned meats.

The Salmon Canning Industry.

The Salmon fishing industry is in a bad way on the Columbia and Puget Sound waters. The driving out of the Chinese has taken away a class of labor which was skilled in the business and capable of doing the work at a cost in keeping with the depressed state of the fish

market. "On top of this," says the *Post-Intelligencer*, "comes a demand for a higher price for catching fish. This higher price the canneries men say they are unable to pay, and will not pay in the present condition of the market. The Columbia river season begins the 1st of April. This is now the latter half of the month and no fish have yet been taken. The fishermen are idle, their boats are tied up, the canneries are locked and there is no present appearance of a change. The strike has not lasted long enough to effect the market, but that it will have an effect may be supposed if maintained much longer." On Puget Sound all the canneries will likely remain shut down. In this province where some of the difficulties met on the other side are not encountered there appears a somewhat brighter prospect for the industry this season. The necessary labor is plentiful and trouble with the fishermen on account of the price of fish is not possible as they are hired by the month. All the canneries on the Fraser are preparing to run and the majority on the northwest are doing likewise. Should there be a fair run of fish with a slightly improved market the business may prove fairly remunerative for the season of 1886.—*Victoria B. C. Standard.*

Butter Making.

The revolution which has taken place in the world's system of butter making has left Canada far behind in the race for producing a perfect article. The most unprofitable pursuit a man can follow in these days is the making of poor butter, which is now found to be unsuitable for both the home and export trade, and consequently the old dairy plan is being fast superseded by the creamery principle. For the benefit of those who are not thoroughly posted in the proper mode of making and handling butter we offer the following instructions:

Butter should be worked sufficiently to take out all the buttermilk, at the same time not overworked so as to spoil the grain and body, and care should be taken not to let the cream stand too long, while improper salting also has some effect on the keeping qualities. These points, although appearing but trifling, are more noticeable after the butter has gone through second hands. Shipments, although being forwarded perfectly sweet, sometimes, and in fact very often, arrive sour and rancid, and this fault being easily remedied, should receive proper attention. The best salt should always be used, and the trifling extra expense being amply repaid in the enhanced value.

Parties should be careful and pack butter uniform in color, and should particularly remember the fact that streaked lots—no matter how sweet and choice—cannot be brought into competition with lots running uniform in color; the latter always commanding a much quicker sale at a fair premium, and in every way compensating dealers for their extra trouble and care. Another fact not to be ignored is that tubs should be packed perfectly full, and a piece of clean, new bleached cotton cloth, dipped in brine, should be spread over the top and neatly tucked in at the edges, so that when removed it will not damage the appearance or deface the butter.—*Trade Bulletin.*