

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The new pork factory at Stouffville commenced operations last week.

Indications point to a short pepper crop during the coming season, and prices are likely to make a steady advance.

The Canadian Cannery Association were last week the guests of the Atlantic Canned Goods Packers' Association, who were holding their annual session at Rochester, N.Y.

The supply of pork has become so limited, and the competition so keen in the neighborhood of Hamilton, that there is some talk of a combine among the factories, as at present they are running at only half their capacities.

The grocery clerks and drivers of Toronto have reorganized as the Grocery Clerks' Association, with the following officers: President, A. V. Bradley; vice-president, James McGrath; corresponding secretary, William Ball; recording secretary, Geo. Riley; treasurer, R. H. Hudson.

Despatches from British Columbia state that shipping men, anticipating a heavier salmon pack than was put up by provincial cannerymen last year, have already begun to engage tonnage for the transportation of the output to the English market. Three vessels have been already chartered.

Word comes from Wallaceburg that, as we noticed the other day was likely, the beet sugar factory is an assured thing for that town, a contract having been made with the Wolverine Sugar Co., of Benton Harbor, Mich., to renew their plant at Wallaceburg. The terms of the contract are not published as yet.

The Standard Pork Packing Company, Toronto, a new organization with a capital of \$40,000, which will open retail stores throughout the country in connection with the new factory at Stouffville, has elected Mr. E. Mackenzie, president, and Mr. G. Stevenson, vice-president. Messrs. S. M. Matthews, R. Lavery and Geo. Puddy are the other directors.

According to the report of the inspector of fisheries, the pack of salmon in British Columbia during the past season was 765,519 cases, or 36,744,912 pounds, an increase over the previous year of 23,642,452 pounds, though a considerable decrease compared with 1897. Of the above figures for last year 664,332 cases were sockeye, 50,000 spring, 43,337 cohoes and the balance (for the first time in the history of the British Columbia canning industry), humpback and dog salmon.

The London Times, in a review of last year's cheese trade, has the following to say about Canada: The days of "filled" cheese have passed away, and the cheese-makers of the United States, by supplying a genuine article, are again trying to get hold of our markets. Canada, however, has got such a firm footing here on account of the excellence of her cheese that she may look for a long time to come to the prospect of supplying at least half of our requirements from abroad under this head.

FOR DRY GOODS DEALERS.

All advices from the foreign linen markets report continued higher prices without any prospect for a decline.

A syndicate has been formed of practically all the collar and cuff and shirt houses in Troy, N.Y., with a capital of about \$20,000,000.

In Paris, France, quite a large number of the dressmaking establishments are having trouble with their employees, and in some strikes are taking place.

S. F. McKinnon & Co., limited, of Toronto, the well-known importers of millinery and millinery novelties, and manufacturers of mantles and costumes, have opened a branch in Montreal.

There is a lace workers' strike at Calais, France, which has now lasted nearly three months, during which time 14,000 operatives have been out of employment. Orders to the extent of over £3,000,000 for the spring season are remaining unexecuted. Some of the firms are arranging to transfer their orders to Nottingham, as they will otherwise have to be cancelled.

The loose front French corset cover has displaced the seamless or fitted garment in the United States. Another sea-

son, if the straight-front corsets are generally worn, the fitted cover will be only an incident in the line, as the new corset calls for a differently shaped covering. The bouffant, skirtless covers are the selling styles. Cheap and effective laces afford an excellent opportunity for creating the French covers, in very low-priced goods.

A despatch from Nottingham says that prices remain high for all plain goods, and machinery producing bobbin nets, light tulle and mosquito nets is well engaged. Good quantities of mechin and zephyr tulle and spotted nets are moving, and there is a fair demand for corset nets, but there is not much doing in stiff foundation nets. In the fancy millinery lace departments various kinds of allover nets and galoons are in favor.

The Montreal Cotton Company at its annual meeting held on the 12th inst., decided to increase its capital from \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000, of which some \$500,000 will be required almost immediately to meet the expenses incurred in the erection of the new mill in Valleyfield. The following gentlemen were elected directors: Messrs. A. F. Gault, Charles Garth, Jacques Grenier, Hon. J. K. Ward, R. R. Stevenson, S. H. Ewing, and Samuel Finley. At a subsequent meeting, Mr. Gault was elected president, and Mr. Garth, vice-president.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

LIST OF OFFICERS, members, committees, the council, etc., of the St. John Board of Trade. With the compliments of the secretary, 1901.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange, presented at the annual meeting in January.

REPORT OF THE CORN EXCHANGE of Montreal, submitted at the annual meeting.

A PAPER ON UNIFORMITY OF PRACTICE, by B. Hal. Brown. Read before the Insurance Institute of Montreal, 28th December, 1900.

AN INTERESTING INDUSTRY.

To watch the passage of a raw material into a finished product is always interesting; when this happens to be a food-product, a peculiar added satisfaction is felt from the consciousness of great care and cleanliness, which are so essential in this line of manufacture, besides possibly a foretaste of certain pleasures to come. These thoughts occurred to us a few days ago on a visit to the factory of the well-known cocoa and chocolate manufacturers, Cowan Co., limited, Toronto, who have done much to place this industry, a comparatively novel one for Canada, on an established basis. This company has been in existence some fifteen years, but was organized on its present footing in 1890. They have a well-equipped factory on King street west, but the growth of their business has caused some crowding, and we understand the intention is to build a large addition at the back of their present premises almost immediately. As is probably known to our readers, cocoa or chocolate is the bean or fruit of the tropical cacao tree. The first operation in its manufacture consists in roasting the seeds, whereby the aromatic substance forming its basis is retained and the starchy matter changed into dextrin. This is accomplished in large revolving cylinders, and has to be done with great care, as the flavor is impaired by either too much or too little heat. The roasted beans are then taken to the crushing or winnowing machines, by means of which they are reduced to the form of nibs, the shells or husks being separated by the action of a strong fan blast. These nibs are then subjected to another process of winnowing through sieves, by which the hard cocoa "germs" are sifted out, all discolored or otherwise imperfect fragments being removed by hand. It may here be stated parenthetically that cocoa is sometimes sold in the form of nibs, practically its purest state, but the objection in the public mind will always be their comparative insolubility. The next process is grinding, which is effected in cylinder machines, having an outer fixed casing within which revolves a drum. The nibs are fed in by a hopper on the upper part of the apparatus, and are carried round its circumference by the revolution of the drum, and come forth as a thin, pasty mass. In this process no