

Grocery Trade Notes.

A Toronto report says: There has been a steady movement in low grade teas of Indian and Ceylon growth. Low grade China green teas are wanted, but there are none to be had. Fine green teas are in moderate supply, but there is a scarcity in the finest grade, and it has been found necessary to import some from New York and pay the 10 per cent duty.

A Montreal report says: The market for Barbadoes molasses is very firm, the trade price for jobbing lots being 28c. One wholesale grocer who was out of stock and could not secure any Barbadoes here has brought in a few car lots from the lower ports, costing \$21.2c to 23c f.o.b. Halifax and about 25c laid down here.

Very strong cables on rice come from Europe, where advancing markets are reported. As to crop conditions abroad, it is said that Burmah promises a large yield, with the prospect of a good portion of the crop being absorbed by the Japan market, which it is thought will take up quite as much as was taken by India last year. It is said that the shortage in Japan is greater than the surplus in Burmah, although it may be that a portion of the shortage in Japan may be met by imports of rice from localities other than Burmah or from the substitution of other products.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: Now that the United States has effectually stopped the importation of bounty fed German refined sugar by imposing a duty upon it equal to the amount of the bounty, German refiners are making desperate efforts to gain a foothold in Canada, and it seems that they are succeeding more effectually than it was at one time thought possible. The protection which Canadian refiners are afforded is so very small and the bounty granted German refiners so large that it is feared it will be no difficult matter in time for the latter to completely destroy our sugar industry. It is about time that some steps were taken to check the serious inroads which the German refiners are making in Canada.

Petitions have reached the inland revenue department from some of the eastern boards of trade that the law respecting canned goods should be amended by requiring the packer to place in clear lettering on each can the net weight of the contents, and the date when the goods were packed. The department will ask the views of boards of trade throughout the country on this request. Some years ago similar petitions were presented to the department, but were so strongly opposed by the canners that the matter was not pressed. The contention of the canners is that if the goods are put up properly it matters not whether they are one year or ten years old, but that the stamping of the date on the can prejudices purchasers.

Hardware and Paint Trade

The recent cutting in prices of refined petroleum has apparently ceased in the East. Reports from Montreal say Canadian refined has advanced 1-2 to 1c, to 11 1-2c in car lots.

Purified green has ruled strong at Montreal, where prices have advanced 11-2c per lb. to 14 to 15c. The stronger feeling in linseed oil is maintained and still higher figures are looked for in the near future.

Dry Goods Trade.

The London auction sale of wool opened January 18 at 5 per cent, advances for merinos over closing rates of last sale, and since the opening a further advance of 5 per cent is noted.

The prosperity now being enjoyed in the dry goods trade in Eastern Canada, is reflected in the activity at the textile mills. Six mills closed down for about two years, at the town of Almonte, Ont., are now running full time, and many mills are running over time.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: Prices here on all lines remain quite firm; in one or two instances a slight advance has taken place. Remittances are fully up to the mark for the season, and despite the present temporary depression all look forward to a general improvement this year.

Cotton goods continue low in price in the United States, and most New England manufacturers have reduced wages to meet the low prices for goods. It now looks as though a long strike has started, as many mills accepting the reduction will be struck if the employees see any chance to win.

Grain and Milling News.

The Union Elevator at East St. Louis, Missouri, was burned on January 26, with 3,000,000 bushels of grain, mostly corn.

J. G. Ratray, Jas. Lothian, Wm. Lothian Robt. Forke and James L. Mann are forming a joint stock company to build an elevator at Pipestone, Man.

Thompson, Sons & Co., grain commission merchants, of Fort William, have moved to Winnipeg, and will hereafter make their headquarters here, though an agency will be maintained at the lake port. Mr. Thompson says that they find after a trial, that the grain trade can be handled to better advantage at Winnipeg than at any other point. Mr. Thompson senior, has been connected with the Manitoba grain trade practically since the beginning of our export business, having first been interested in the grain business at Brandon in the early eighties.

The Lumber Trade.

I. N. Kendall, millwright, of Ottawa, has gone to the F. W. W. Nest Pass, where he will construct a saw-mill for the Canadian Pacific railway.

In a personal letter to the editor of the Farmers' Advocate, Manager Whyte, of the Canadian Pacific railway, says: "I am considering the suggestion made by you to grant a reduced rate on lumber used in the erection of barns; but even if the company were disposed to grant a reduction there would be great difficulty in keeping a proper check and preventing the abuse of the privilege."

Business in Brandon.

The western city continues to hold a fair measure of trade although there is not nearly the rush of business since the holiday season has passed. Most of the large retail houses are taking stock and preparing for the coming busy season that all indications point to. Nowhere in the west are there finer retail stores than those of Nation & Shewan, the A. C.

Fraser Co., Wilson & Rankin and the Strömberg-Whyte Co. The two large wholesale harness firms, Adams Bros., and S. & H. Borbridge report a good trade for the past season.

The Brandon felt factory has been turning out quite a quantity of good felt slices, the first in the province. They have also been making a line of wool felt horse-blankets, with a jute interlining, a strong and serviceable covering. Latterly they have been turning out a felt sleeping bag and a felt lined duck coat for Klondike travellers. This is an institution that will be a big thing yet among local industries.

The aerated water factory of Cleverly and Ferguson is kept busy filling orders even in the winter season and when spring opens they will require considerable extension to meet the demand. It is expected that a good deal of building will go on this coming summer. Among proposed buildings, F. Nation is said to contemplate erecting a large block on Rosser avenue, corner of 8th street, opposite the Fleming block. The hospital board have also under consideration the addition of another wing to the building, as it is much needed. Business property on Rosser avenue continues to be valuable, and will continue, as premises are all occupied and are still in demand. Hotel property and business in Brandon during the past year has been a veritable Klondike for the landlords. The full capacity has been taxed nearly all the time. The Grandview continues to hold the commercial trade though a rival is said to be coming on the scene. The Palace hotel passed into the capable management of D. W. Beaubier last summer and he has made it a most popular house. It is a first-class building and is now the best furnished house in the city. The Langham hotel has been purchased by R. H. Shore, of the Mills House, Manitou, who is to take possession in June.

This week Brandonites have been entertaining visiting curlers at the annual bonspiel.

Trade Returns

Ottawa, Jan. 25.—Trade and commerce seem to have received an enormous impetus by the change of government judging by the official figures of Canada's foreign trade for the calendar year 1897, which show an increase over 1896 of \$62,115,000. The record for 1897 is unprecedented in the history of Canada. The total exports and imports entered for consumption reached the enormous total of \$271,501,000, compared with \$219,388,000 in the calendar year of 1896, or an increase of over \$52,000,000. The exports exceeded the imports by over \$17,000,000. The total exports were \$154,675,000, against \$117,795,000 in 1896, an increase of nearly \$37,000,000. The imports, including only those entered for consumption were \$116,826,000, compared with \$101,591,000 in 1896, an increase of over \$15,000,000. The duty collected in 1897 was \$20,532,000, compared with \$19,879,000 in 1896. These returns are not for the fiscal year, but for the calendar years ending Dec. 31st.

London Wool Sales

There has been sharp competition at the present series of wool sales in London. United States buyers have bought greasy merinos freely at 10 per cent above the close of the last sales, for best stock.