

**Grocery Trade Notes.**

Cable advices on pepper report the market at primary points strong and advancing.

Cables from Malaga report a strong and slightly higher market for Jordan and Valencia almonds.

Winnipeg jobbers received notice on Monday of an advance of 5c per cwt. in the price of sugars.

Sales of this year's pack of canned salmon have already been made at New York subject to opening prices.

The New York market for raw sugar has not shown much inclination to follow the fluctuations of the London market lately. The general feeling is one of firmness and values for refined have been advancing.

The Canadian Packers' Association held its annual meeting in Toronto on the 11th and 12th of January. It was decided among other things that the 1906 prices would be fixed on June 15 and quoted on July 2.

Canadian makers of brooms have advanced their prices about 20 per cent over previous quotations. The cheapest broom now offered costs about \$5.20 per dozen. This advance is entirely due to higher cost of raw material and does not indicate much, if any, increase in the makers' profits.

A. F. McLaren & Co., cheese manufacturers, Toronto; McLaren & Thompson cheese manufacturers, Detroit; Henry Wright & Co., brokers, Toronto, and McLaren Bros., cheese exporters, Ingersoll, Ontario, have formed a combination for the purpose of controlling the manufacture and sale of the McLaren's "Imperial" cheese and carrying on the business heretofore done by the separate companies.

Regarding currants the Mills Bros. Co. say: "The market in Greece has again become quiet, and prices are ruled 3d lower. It is generally recognized that sagging market during the season has been principally caused by the limited takings of the continent, which up to the first of the year were 8,000 tons less than in the preceding season to same date; the position of the article in Germany is therefore more than usually interesting."

**THE DRY GOODS TRADE.****CARRYING OVER FURS.**

We recently stated that dealers who were obliged to carry over furs would probably find that furs for next season's trade will increase in value sufficiently to pay for carrying over stock from this winter. The sales of raw furs held in London last week indicate that this prediction will prove true, as there was a sharp advance on many classes of furs, as shown in our report of the sales given last week. Owing to the mild season, some parties looked for lower prices on furs for next winter's trade. The prospect, however, is that there will be a decided advance in manufactured furs for next winter's trade, which will make up for stock carried over on account of the present unfavorable season.

**DRY GOODS IN ENGLAND.**

F. G. Crawford, who returned this week from a trip to British markets, reports that the mills on the other side continue exceedingly busy, in consequence of which it is very difficult to get delivery of goods. The mills are practically all filled with orders for months ahead. Prices are very

firm in all lines and everywhere there is talk of further advances, cashmere hosiery, woollen dress goods, etc., being particularly firm. There have also, he says, been sharp advances in carpets.

The war in South Africa, Mr. Crawford says is beginning to exert a depressing influence upon the retail dry goods trade in some quarters. So many of the best families have lost relatives in the war, that it is having an effect upon the quantity of fashionable goods sold. The families in mourning are not attending society events and their dress is much plainer than it otherwise would be. A very much more serious view of the war is taken in England than here, as parties well known in every community have been killed.

Mr. Crawford's visit to British markets was in connection with the opening of the new jobbing house of Gault Bros. Co., in Winnipeg, stock for which will begin to arrive about the first of April.

**CANADIAN-MADE DRESS GOODS.**

For the spring it appears that Canadian homespun dress goods are getting a good bit of trade that formerly went to foreign lines. The attractiveness of these lines was written about in this column a few weeks ago, when the opinion was expressed that they would certainly increase in favor as the season advanced. That statement has been more than verified. It is impossible to get some of these goods in sufficient quantities to meet the wants of the retail trade. Goods of large conspicuous patterns that some people were chary about touching, fearing they would be regarded as a little too striking at least, if not loud, have since been selling for the early spring like hot cakes and retailers cannot get enough of them.—Toronto Globe.

**DRY GOODS TRADE NOTES.**

The failure of the Cloak Manufacturing Company of Toronto, which was recorded in The Commercial of last week, appears to have been a bad one. The liabilities are \$87,832.43 and the assets not much more than half that amount.

The Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Co. has notified jobbers of the withdrawal of several lines of each of the following classes of goods, namely: flannels, shirts, galateas, satens, stripes, dress goods, oxfords, lavas, apron gingham and bicycle suitings. It is presumed that the company is over-sold on these lines and cannot take further orders at present.

Cotton mills in both Canada and the United States are refusing to consider orders for next fall's delivery excepting subject to prices prevalent at the time, which indicates a strong position with regard to these goods. It is reported that a shortage in the cotton crop of this year is not at all unlikely, which, if true, will add further strength to the markets.

Deliveries of dry goods for the spring trade are coming forward from the Canadian factories and also from foreign makers and local warehouses are filling up rapidly. Most of these goods were bought before prices reached their present high levels and retail merchants are to receive the benefit of this. Consumers throughout Manitoba and the west will therefore have the satisfaction of wearing garments this year which cost them in many

cases but very little if anything more than than the present manufacturers' prices.

The Warehouseman and Draper, an English dry goods paper, says under date of Jan. 6: Some remarkable advances in the prices of Leicester goods have taken place during the year just ended. In 1897 two-fold extra super, used for making ladies' finest black cashmere stockings, sold in Manchester market at 2s. 3d. per pound, whereas to-day the price is 3s. 7d. per pound. Pure undyed natural cashmere for fine underclothing sold in 1897 at 1s. 11d. per pound; to-day's price is 3s. 1d. per pound. A common quality, French cashmere for common black hose and half-hose, sold in 1897 at 1s. 7d. per pound; to-day's price is 2s. 2d. per pound. Whether prices will go higher remains to be seen, but we fear it is useless to expect lower rates for some time to come.

**THE HARDWARE TRADE.****LOCAL BICYCLE SITUATION.**

The Canada Cycle & Motor Co., which combine the Brantford, Massey-Harris, Cleveland, Gendron and Welland Vale bicycles all in one company, appears to be having some trouble in appointing Winnipeg agents. It was the intention to have each bicycle represented by a separate agency, the same as last year, but so far only one or two agencies have been appointed. Jos. Maw again takes the city agency for the Massey-Harris, but it is understood that the parties who last season handled the other wheels now controlled by the Canada Cycle & Motor Co., will not handle these wheels this year. The Fairchild Co., who handled the Cleveland last year, are handling the National wheels this season. L. E. Adams, who handled the Gemron last year, has the McBurney-Beatty wheel for this season, and Turnbull & McManus, who handled the Welland Vale wheels last year, are out of the bicycle business entirely. The Brantford wheel was handled here last year directly by the manufacturers as a branch house. The National Cycle & Automobile Co., which is the Canadian end of the United States bicycle combine, has, it is said, secured agents here for all the wheels manufactured by the company.

**MONTREAL HARDWARE TRADE.**

The dominant fact in the iron and metal market is the deluge of orders for forward delivery for all kinds of material, showing that buyers are satisfied that prices are not going to react between the present time and next spring. The most striking development has been the advance of £5 on spot tin in London, and \$1.25 in New York. As a consequence of this spot prices have been advanced 1c per pound to 31c. Spot copper in London stiffened 10s on the week, but is unchanged here, while lead, which was lower abroad, reflected no change here. Spelter in London advanced £1 on the week. Tin plates are being ordered freely for April delivery, and prices on coke are 10c higher at \$4.50. Extras for N's are also advanced \$1 on the basis now being asked, instead of 50c. Canada plates have stiffened another 15c per box, making 35c in two weeks, the base price is \$3.15. Brass and copper wire has been reduced somewhat in price in sympathy with the decline in the States, and is the only line showing a tendency in a downward direc-