

Drug Report.

Business during the past month has been quiet, but judging from the abundant harvest, it must soon pick up. There have been no changes of any moment. Heavy chemicals are gradually rising as predicted. Silver has taken another jump up.

Opium, no change in price, but an advance predicted.

Otto rose. A better crop is expected than was at first anticipated, but future prices are uncertain.

Barbadoes tar, almost out of the market.

Bad ipceae is again advancing in price.

Quinine is a little higher and firm.

Oil lemon is rising in price abroad as the outlook for next crop is bad.

Oil anise is firmer.

Nitrate silver has again advanced owing to advance in silver.

Castile soap, white, will likely be higher owing to an advance in olive oil.

Gum guaiac is higher.

Grains Paradis have about doubled in price.

Oil peppermint, in fact essential oils generally, have an upward tendency.

The long delayed bleaching powder trust has at length been formed, according to a despatch from Paris to the New York Times. It calls itself a chemical union. The union has a capital of \$10,000,000, and proposes the production yearly of 150,000 tons of bleaching powder, 180,000 tons of caustic soda, and 300,000 tons of other alkalis.

The chicory industry in the Canadian Northwest is being pushed forward on a large scale this year. One large company in the Northwest received an order recently from a Montreal firm for 2,000 pounds, besides making a shipment almost weekly of 300 to 500 pounds, and by next spring it is their intention to have ready for market over 3,000,000 pounds. Their principal market will be China and Japan. — *Journal of Commerce*.

An exchange says: There has been a steady advance in the prices of crude rubber since the middle of last year, and the top does not yet appear to have been reached. The rise has been due to a shortage in the supply. There is also an artificial rise owing to speculation, some large London operators having control of a large amount of stock. The world's supply of crude rubber has decreased, while there has been a large increase in the demand. This is not because the trees are giving out or that there are not enough trees to supply the demand. There are millions of trees that have never yet been tapped in South and Central America and Mexico, not to mention the extensive Congo forests discovered by Stanley. The trouble is that the natives employed to get out the rubber are indolent. Perhaps there is a scarcity of them.

In Canada the manufacturers of goods into which rubber chiefly enters have

withdrawn regular quotations. They have advanced prices in sympathy with the advance in crude, but will only quote for present sale. — *Commercial*.

The increase of duty upon American land imposed at the last session of the Canadian Parliament has had such an adverse effect upon the sale of the American product in Canada that Messrs. N. K. Fairbanks & Co., the great land packers of Chicago, have come to the conclusion to start a branch manufactory there. Accordingly premises are said to have been leased in Montreal, and are now undergoing extensive alterations, which will be soon completed in order to allow operations to be begun early in the fall. — *Drug, Oil, and Paint Reporter*.

Curious Facts about the Camphor Tree.

The new smokeless gunpowder which has been invented in Europe and a number of other articles are being manufactured from camphor. These new departures have created an unusual demand for camphor, and the camphor tree in consequence is an object of considerable interest.

The camphor tree, *C. officinarum*, from which the product is derived, is a native of Japan, China and Formosa. The tree, according to California Fruit Grower, does fully as well in California as in those countries, in fact in some sections grows much more rapidly. These fine trees are to be found in ornamental grounds and yards in nearly every part of the state, they having proven to be entirely hardy, free from insects of all sorts, and not over particular regarding culture, soil and location. The obtaining of the camphor of commerce is attended by the severe pruning of the trees.

In Japan the camphor is extracted by chopping the wood of the branches and sometimes the trunk of the tree into small fragments, which are introduced into a still with water. Heat is applied, and the resulting steam generated carries the camphor gum with it in vapor. This vapor is made to pass through fine straw, around which the camphor solidifies, and is deposited in minute grains or crystals of the general appearance of raw sugar. This accumulation is camphor in its impure state. To purify it the granules are detached from the straw and about ten pounds of the substance is introduced into a large globular glass vessel. This is heated, and the first steam that arises is allowed to escape through a small aperture. This aperture is then closed, and the camphor re-solidifies in the upper part of the vessel, forming a large cake and leaving all impurities behind. The flask is cooled and broken by throwing cold water upon it, and the camphor when taken out is ready for market.

The druggist should be able to detect any adulteration liable to occur in the medicines he sells. Ignorance is indicated by the excuse, "It was sold to me for the genuine."

A WELL-TRAVELLED PRESCRIPTION. — A dispenser tells me a prescription came under his notice a short time ago, in the course of business, that was somewhat of a curiosity. The front of the paper, which was very old and delapidated, was almost completely covered with the name stamps of the chemists who had dispensed it in almost every quarter of the globe, and the greater part of the back of the paper was stamped in a similar manner. It had been prepared in South America, the United States, Singapore, India, Maladeria, and also in several Continental cities, and some dozen different places in England.

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