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A. O. KITTREDGE, F.I.A.,C.P.A., Editor contains information on office topics

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## The Mercantile Adjuster,

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150 Nassau Street New York
strong market in Japan for common and medium grades is another. Sultana raisins have been restored to former rates. Some importers, who held large stocks, having reduced prices two or three months ago, in expectation that there would be a surplus this year. find that the outlook is exactly the other way. Definite news has been received that the greater portion of the growing crop is a failure. A blight is reported on the prune crop from some parts of California, but dealers do not appear very apt to give the report much attention.

Hardware.-In heavy goods, iron and steel, there has been a decided downward tendency. though iron is somewhat steadier now. In shelf hardware, business is very good for this time of the year. though, as travellers are away, many of them for their summer holidays, it is mostly of a letter-order character. The pofits continue to hold up fairly well, and, except where buyers have bought too heavily at high prices.. on the strength of "prosperous times." business results have been satisfactory. Meral prices have probably reached their lowest limits now. The present low state of the market is, to a certain extent, due to the methods of the Americans, who are greatly given to plunging. Often, under their system, a rise to the top limit is followed by slump, and this is what we have seen the results of. In copper, the feeling is very strong, and a material advance is probable. The production is heavy, but the demand is heavier still. Tin is very scarce, and is high in price. A fair business for this time of year is being done in metals.

Hides and Skins.-The market is very quiet. and little business is doing. Several cars of cured hides sold at 81/4c. For sheepskins, prices are nominal. Lambskins are in fair supply, with a fair demand, and the market is steady at 35 c . Calfskins remain about the same, 9c. being quoted for No. I. Tallow keeps steady, local dealers offering $41 / 2 c$., and for cake 5 c .: the askings being $51 / 2$ to 6 c .
Provisions.-The demand for butter continues languid, the persistent rainy weather throughout the province having considerably benefited the pastures, with the result that there has been an increased supply of this article. Cheese remains quiet, though fairly steady in price; Old Country markets are easy. Eggs remain unchanged with fuller supplies entering the market. In hog products, there is an active jobbing trade at unchanged quotations. Dressed hogs are coming in in small quantities. as buyers do not feel particularly anxious for them during this warm weather. At farmers' wagons. choice dressed bring from $\$ 7.50$ to $\$ 8$, for butchers' use. On the whole, provision stocks are moving satisfactorily. and there is nothing of any importance to be added, quotations being practically inchanged.

Wool.-Considerable quantities of wool are being offered on the market. but the dealers appear indisposed to pay the prices asked, so the market continues dull. Country buyers have in many cases paid more than the situation justifies. In fleeces, plenty are being offered by these dealers, but. as stated. buyers and sellers have divergent views. For washed. local dealers quote 16 c .. and roc. for unwashed. Holders ask 17c. to 18c. for washed. Pulled are likewise dull. extras being quoted at 20 to 2 ic ., and supers at i8 or Icc.
-The directors of the McKay Milling Company. who lost all their property at Ottawa in the disast:ous fire of April ath. have receiv an advantageons offer
fom the town of Frescott which will give a free site and excmption from taxation if the compary will agres to basace there

## BRITISH MARKETS.

Messrs. Gillespie \& Co.'s Prices Current, dated Liverpool, July 6th, 1900, say: Sugar.-The market is firm, and prices have not altered since our last.

Rice.-Prices are keeping steady, and there has been a good demand for the lower qualities lately.

Chemicals keep quiet but steady. The only important changes consist of chlorate of potash and blue copperas, both of which are easier.
Oils.-Linseed is scarce at slightly higher prices. Palm has gone up $£ 23$ ios. to $£ 23$ I5s. for Bonny. There is a good enquiry for olives which are dearer at $£ 34$ Ios to $f(35$ Ios. Castor oil is quiet, and the price for Calcutta ex-quay, is $35-8 \mathrm{~d}$.

## CHANGES IN FACTORY LIFE IN

 NEW ENGLAND.A change is gradually taking place in the nationality of cotton mill employees in
New England says the New York Post. New England, says the New York Post. This has become more noticeable with the recent increased activity of the mills. In some Connecticut and Rhode Island mills Greeks are being hired, while in many Fall River mills preference is being given to Portuguese and Polanders, .who have been arriving there quite rapidly in the last twelve months. Russians were quite acceptable at one time, but it was found that they sought work outside of the mills as soon as they had saved a little money. The influx of French-Canadians has long ceased to be a subject of comment. Of all the foreign elements manufacturers say the Portuguese are the most docile and faithful. The Canadian element is a much more independent one to handle, and is more mercurial in its movings from mill to mill. The Poles find it difficult to get beyond the more simple operations until they have made some attempt at mastering the English language. But the change in the nationality of the help in the mills is not quite so striking as the substitution for women and young girls of men varying in age from twenty-one to forty-five years. This is more noticeable in the "country mills," but there are many examples of it in Fall River.

## UNITED STATES POLITICS.

The United States presidential contest has some curious features. Mr. Bryan is the candidate of the Democrats. the Fusion Populists and the Silver Republicans. The Middle-of-the-Road Populists have nominated Wharton Baker. The United Christians have put Rev. S. C. Swallow in the field, and Mr. John G. Wooley for vice-president. Mr. Wooley is also the presidential candidate of the Prohibitionists. The Socialists have three men up, the labor wing, Mr. Job Harriman, the Democrat section, Mr. Eugene V. Debs, and the De Leons, Mr. Joseph F. Mo'oney. Mr. McKinley has one nomiration, that of the Republicans, a section of whom are out for Bryan. The cranks will have plenty of room for showing their various crankinesses.-Gazette.
-According to Faith Fenton's special to the Globe, the Government sale of mining claims and fractions was held on July 2nd, as advertised. About three hundred and eighty properties were sold, the total amount realized being twentysix thousand dollars. Prices were good only where the properties were known. One 40 -foct fraction brought $\$ 16,000$.
--"What was Coldfar's idea in going to the Thousand Islands on his summer vacation this year?" "I don't think he had an: idea on earth. exce'vt to count them and see if there are really a th:ousand."-Chicago Tribune.

