

## Bradstreet's Montreal Trade Report

Bradstreet's report on Montreal business during the past week is as follows:—

Holidays cut the week's business. In the wholesale district business is fair, city retail trade is buying cautiously, while country stores are just ordering enough to fill their immediate requirements. Everyone is anxious to get rid of his stock and they do not want to be caught with high price merchandise on hand, it being the prevailing opinion that top prices have been reached in almost all lines, and prices will eventually have to come down.

The new pack of canned fruits and vegetables comes into a bear market, but orders have not been as plentiful as heretofore. Especially the export trade, owing to the large quantities of American canned goods intended for War purposes,

being recently dumped on the markets over in Great Britain.

There is a good demand for Canadian eggs from the English markets, exporters here realizing higher prices. Butter is lower this week, cheese exports even lighter. Steamers leaving for Europe this week had some trouble getting away on their scheduled time, owing to strikes amongst the grain handlers. Our paper exports showed considerable increase during the past month.

Freight rates will be advanced on Monday next, forty per cent. in the East, and thirty-five per cent. in the West. Passenger rates will advance twenty per cent. sleeping and parlor car rates will go up fifty per cent.

Retail trade is active. Collections are good.

### About things in General

The Weekly Trade Bulletin published every week contains many notes and articles which are of interest to exporters and manufacturers. A most interesting article appears in the Bulletin of August 16 on Canadian trade relations with the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Many people will recall as their last information concerning these island neighbors of ours, that when Canada was ceded to the British, the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon were retained by France to give her a base for fishing operations on the Banks off Newfoundland. From that day to this the great majority of people have lost sight of what happened to them. In the Bulletin we learn that the fishing industry is still actively pursued but changed methods of conducting the operations have adversely affected the prosperity of the islands. In the old days fishing was conducted entirely by sailing vessels which made from four to five trips each season to the fishing grounds. As sailing vessels became old and unseaworthy they

dropped from the fleet automatically and have not been replaced. The use of steam trawlers specially suited to the work has been instituted but owing to the war the fleet is considerably depleted. At one time the population of the islands is said to have been from eight to ten thousand but it is now said to be less than four thousand. Considerable trade between Canada and the islands has always been carried on but owing to the unfavorable rate of exchange since the war they are cutting their imports to the minimum. Just at the present time large public works are being constructed and more work is under consideration in the way of docks and harbor improvements.

St. John, N.B.—Lumber shipments from this port to the United States for quarter ending June 30, 1920, were valued at \$1,467,377.14. For same period last year \$464,545.20.



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