

cannot be further reduced and yet leave any margin for living. But it is something encouraging to observe the growth of a sentiment that there will be an enlargement in trade, for the sentiment must precede the actual increase in business and is the forerunner of a consummation, which has been hopefully looked for and is bound to come sometime. It may be premature as yet, but there are many indications that the better feeling is based upon something more substantial than wind.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* says: Butter receipts during the past week were 3,752 pkgs., against 3,777 pkgs., for the week previous. The market has undergone no radical change during the week, save that our fancy grocers find it more difficult to get the exact quality of fresh gilt edge creamery they have been used to, and consequently when they want a few lots of fancy late ends they have to pay a little more for them. A choice lot of last half of October creamery was sold a few days ago for the local trade at 21½c, while well kept summer goods intended for the English market have sold at 17½c. There's the difference. The production of Eastern Townships dairy is so small, that it is scarcely a factor in the trade, and the few full ends that find their way here have sold at 18c to 19c. A fancy selected tub would bring more money. Western dairy does not seem to be wanted. We quote:

Creamery, September..... 20½c to 21c per lb.
 Creamery, August..... 17½c to 19 c per lb.
 Eastern Townships dairy..... 16½c to 18 c "
 Western..... 14½c to 16 c "
 Add 1c to 2c per lb. to above for single tubs of selected.

Cheese receipts during the past week were 60,207 boxes against 51,219 for the week previous. Now that the last boats have left, a quiet time may be expected between now and the holidays, unless things turn out differently

from what they have done in former years. The French cheese at the boat on Monday sold at 9½c, that being the ruling figure, and it was quite enough considering the quality of the goods. Finest French colored Septembers are not to be had, although buyers would be ready to pay 10c for them. Finest Western Septembers could not be bought under 10½c or 10½c. Most of the cheese in the west is now out of factory-men's hands and held for shippers' account. The New York market is firmer with the Northern and Western sections of the State well cleared of stock. We quote the market here as follows:

Finest Western colored.....	10½c to 10½c
" " white.....	10½c to 10½c
" " Quebec.....	9½c to 10c
Under grades.....	9c to 9½c
Cable.....	5½s

MINING IN B. C.

Mr. Wm. Hamilton Merritt, mining engineer, of Toronto, passed through Winnipeg last week on his way east from the Okanagan district, where he has been all summer investigating the gold properties of the Strathyre Mining company, of Montreal. Mr. Merritt succeeded Mr. George Atwood, of London, as mining engineer to the company. He stated to a *Manitoba Free Press* representative that notwithstanding the black eye which has been given to silver, the mining prospects of British Columbia were never so bright as they are to-day. The great value of many of the gold, silver, copper and lead properties in the interior have instilled a quiet confidence in their owners and in other prospectors which not even hard times can shake. Inflated prices for mining claims are as a rule becoming a thing of the past and undeveloped properties can now be acquired as a rule at reasonable prices from the original owners.

Mr. Merritt said that the Strathyre company have concluded operations for this season and have leased their stamp mill for the winter to the Morning

Star people, who are quarrying out gold quartz which has yielded double figures already in the mill and which will cost them but a trifle a ton to mine for their winter's run.

With regard to the recent developments in the Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake districts, Mr. Merritt stated that he had entire confidence that with judicious mining and especially proper treatment the gold ores of these districts will pay well.

COAL AT SAN FRANCISCO.

J. W. Harrison, coal and metal broker, San Francisco, reports Nov. 24 as follows: "During the week 8,232 tons Australian coal has come to hand, and 11,740 tons from the Coast. Last week ending November 18th, 57,191 tons came into the Golden Gate; this is equal to double the amount of our average consumption, yet the total arrivals for the past three weeks are just about equal to the amount actually consumed. Dealers and large consumers have had full employment for all their teams this month; as combined with liberal arrivals, the deliveries have been large. No change of values except for English grades which have been marked up about 5 per cent., occasioned by an advance of freight rates for loading. The free arrivals from British Columbia will not permit any advance in domestic grades, still present prices are firmly sustained, and business is good. There is a vessel listed from Japan with Miike Gas Coal. This is the first charter for several months, as shipments have been prohibited by the Government. This cargo has been already engaged by our gas companies. The Australian mail just at hand adds four new names to the list loading coal. This now foots up over 80,000 tons from Newcastle."

A large number of fruit trees are going into the Similkameen for planting next year.