

"UNFAIR COMPETITION."

A somewhat novel problem in Board of Trade circles, came before the Council of the Quebec Board recently. This body was requested, through a petition of the brush and broom manufacturers of the city, to look after their interests. The petitioners complained that they were suffering seriously from a competition which they considered quite unfair, on the part of the Grey Nuns, of the Beauport Asylum; that the Grey Nuns were manufacturing brooms and brushes, which cost them nearly nothing, as the work was done by the inmates of the asylum, and were selling them to the trade at prices with which the regular tax-paying manufacturers of the city could not compete. The Council attempted to secure an investigation, on the part of the Provincial Government, but that body was not disposed to act. The Council then took the matter in hand, and reported as follows: It was ascertained, as accurately as it could be done under the circumstances, that the competition which the petitioners complained of, on the part of the Grey Nuns, of Beaumont Asylum, was not as serious as they had honestly represented it to be; that the brooms and brushes as manufactured by the Grey Nuns were of an inferior quality; that only a limited quantity was manufactured, and that they were sold to merchants in part payment of accounts due them by the Grey Nuns.

CALGARY'S BUSY YEAR.

Calgary just now is a very busy town. Every train brings in crowds of people. The hotels are overflowing. The sidewalks of Stephen avenue will soon need renewing. The traffic is increasing daily. The new-comers are mainly composed of two classes—Klondykers and new settlers. The immigration people say this will be a record year for new settlement in Alberta. They are coming from all parts, principally Great Britain and the United States. There is a distinct improvement in the character of this year's immigration so far. They are a moneyed class and most of them practical men, accustomed to work. The season of 1898 will be Alberta's banner year.—Calgary Herald.

IMMIGRATION BOOMING.

Commissioner McCreary, of the immigration department, received word yesterday that three large parties of settlers from Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas, had left via the "Soo" line for Northern Alberta. In Mr. McCreary's opinion the estimate of 20,000 immigrants this year will be considerably exceeded.

On an average 1,500 letters reach the department of the interior daily, from people living in all parts of the world enquiring about the Canadian West. Hon. Mr. Sifton leaves for the Old Country at the close of the session, to investigate thoroughly the agencies of the government established there to promote immigration to the Dominion.—Win. Free Press.

—"Why are you leaving here," asked the prospective settler, "if the land is so productive?"

"I'll be hones' with you stranger; I'm gittin' 'long in years an' the plain truth is that the crops here is so dog-gone big that I can't han'le 'em any more."—Detroit Free Press.

—Two milkmen were recently overheard discussing their business. Said one: "I lost three quarts and a pint last week. I don't know what ailed him," and the other said:

"Well, I lost three quarts myself, but I think I can get her back."

Milkmen speak of their customers by the amount of milk each takes.—Chicago Chronicle.

NEW YORK TRADES UNIONISM.

It is learned from a bulletin issued by the New York Bureau of Labor Statistics that the number of persons who, at the close of 1897, belonged to industrial organizations was 173,728. This, considering the vastly greater number of New York State's inhabitants who work for a living, indicates that the trades union idea has by no means as many followers as is generally supposed. The building trades supply almost three times more strength to organized labor than any other affiliation of industries for which statistics are given, the figures being 48,801. Next come the printing and bookbinding trades, with 14,157, and from this there is a rapid fall to the textile trades, with only 457. The proportion of employed to unemployed advanced steadily from the beginning to the close of the year. In the three months ending with March, the percentage of men without work was 24.8. By June 30th, this had fallen to 18.1. The September quarter lowered the ratio to 6.5, and only 5.8 per cent. of the whole number were idle in the last quarter. The earnings of men for October, November and December averaged \$174.47, and those of women, \$73.71.

DEAL TRADE DULL

Hon. J. B. Snowball says he never knew the demand for deals to be as light as this year. It is not a question of price at all—but simply a question of deals not wanted. This is not because business is dull, as business never was brisker in Europe, but because every timber broker and wood manufacturer has a big stock of deals on hand. The total shipments to Europe were enormous last year, though rather light from this port, and an enormous stock has been held over. Last year the brokers sold to the dealers all they could, and then sold to the dealers' principal customers, and then sold to small manufacturers and other customers, so that there is just now an utter absence of demand at any price.—Chatham, N.B., World.

LUMBER AND TIMBER IN LIVERPOOL

Messrs. Farnworth & Jardine's wood circular, dated Liverpool, 1st April, 1898, says:

"The arrivals from British North America during the past month have been 786 tons register, against 4,787 tons register, during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1896, 1897, and 1898 has been 43,817, 47,846 and 55,521 tons respectively. Business during the past month has been quiet and the deliveries have been unsatisfactory. Stocks generally are ample for the season of the year, and although there is little change to report in values prices are with difficulty maintained.

"CANADIAN WOODS.—Pine Timber.—Of both Waney and Square the deliveries have been fairly satisfactory, but the stock held over is too heavy though values are without change. Red Pine is seldom equired for, the stock is sufficient. Oak.—The deliveries have been small, values are steady, but the stock is sufficient. Elm has been in fair demand, prices are firm and the stock moderate. Pine Deals, Boards, &c.—The deliveries have again been disappointing and the stock exceedingly heavy; although there is little change in value to report sales are very difficult to effect.

"NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA SPRUCE AND PINE DEALS.—The import consists of a few small consignments by steamer from St. John, N. B., and Halifax, N. S., which have gone direct from the quay into consumption; the deliveries have been small and the stock is too heavy; there is no change in value to report, but contracting for the coming season is difficult. Pine Deals are dull of sale and the stock is ample.

"BIRCH.—Of logs the import consists of small shipments from Quebec, via Portland, which are going direct into consumption. The deliveries have been fairly satisfactory, and the stock is now reduced to a more moderate compass; values are steady. Of planks there has been no import; there has been more enquiry at firmer prices, but the stock is still too heavy.

"UNITED STATES OAK.—Of Mobile a small shipment has been imported; the demand is

quiet, prices continue low, and the stocks, although not heavy, are sufficient. Oak Planks have been imported largely, and the deliveries have been fairly satisfactory; stocks, however are heavy, and recent sales have been at lower rates; the total stock is about 293,000 cubic feet.

"PITCH PINE.—The arrivals during the past month have been 2 vessels, 2,594 tons, against 4 vessels, 3,351 tons, during a like period last year. Of hewn, the import consists of a parcel of about 250 logs from Mobile; there has been a good consumption, and stocks are not heavy. Of sawn, the import consists of one cargo to Manchester, and a part cargo to Liverpool; there has been a good consumption, and stocks show a considerable reduction from last month.

—Deals and boards have again come forward freely, there has been a good consumption, but the stock is far too heavy for the requirements of the trade.

"OREGON AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN PINE has not been imported; the deliveries have been more satisfactory, but prices are low and stocks heavy.

ADVERTISING FOR PROFIT.

Robert C. Ogden, head of the house of John Wanamaker, in New York, made an address before the Merchants' Association, March 16th, on "Advertising as a business force." Mr. Ogden said that the success of business depended upon three things, merchandise, service and advertising, and he looked upon the latter as the dynamic power of the business. One trouble about it was that merchants did not take it seriously enough. It was the fundamental principle of business, and should receive the attention of the head of the business. It should be made so attractive as to attract the attention of the reader whether he wished it or not. He believed that fully fifty per cent. of the money spent on advertising was wasted through being improperly placed.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, April 13th, 1898.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Closing Prices.		Average price same date 1897.
				Sellers.	Buyers.	
Montreal	239½	238	15	245	235	239
Ontario				110	102	106
Molsons	200	200	3	206	196	198
Toronto				235	225	230
Jac. Cartier				100	98	99
Merchants	177	177	2	180	176	178
Commerce	140	138½	9	140½	135	138
Union				115	108	111
M. Teleg. x d.				178	175	176
Rich. & Ont. Nav.	96	96	50	100	94	97
Mont. St. Ry.	257½	257	281	258	254	256
new do	255	255	25	255	254	254
Mon. Gas Co. x d.	186½	184½	126	184½	181	183
Can. Pac. Ry.	81½	80	340	80½	77	79
Land Grant bds				173	171	172
Bell Tele. x d.				51	48	49
N.W. Land pref.						
Mont. 4% stock						

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, April 14th, 1898.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Receipts of butter are few and prices are easing off. Dealers have kept their stocks pretty well sold up, although it has required some effort to do so. The make of creamery butter is large, as few of the factories have commenced operations for the season yet, although they look to renewed activity about May 1st. The cheese market is steady and the surplus stocks have been worked off and are now reduced within a compass which makes bright the prospects for a healthy trade in the new make. The Easter trade in eggs was very satisfactory. Supplies in the face of the operations of country picklers are not in proportion.

DRY GOODS.—The fine weather of the past few days has given a strong impetus to the assorting trade, and the volume of business is reported to be larger than usual at this season of the year. General lines are in good demand, and retailers give a favorable account of the season's prospects.