

THE GROCERY TRADE.

NEW SOAP LIST.

Following are current quotations for leading brands of laundry soap at Winnipeg to the retail trade. Royal Crown, wrapped, \$1 per box of 100 bars; Royal Crown, unwrapped, \$1 per box of 120 bars; Royal Crown, pound bar, wrapped, \$3.75; Ivoryline, wrapped, \$3.75 per box; Peerless, \$3.50; Ilen, \$3.25, Dominion, \$2.40 per box of 60 bars; laundry, \$1.90; Royal electric, \$2.75; pure electric, \$2.75.

GROCERY TRADE NOTES.

Green Rio No. 7 coffee is up to 3¢ per pound in New York.

Burmah has 2,100,000 tons of rice for export from the new crop.

A deputation of cigarmakers will wait on the minister of customs, and request that the duty on imported cigars be increased.

Japan teas are expected to open high when the new crop comes in owing to the fact that the market has been swept bare of old stocks.

There has been a decided scarcity of wooden syrup pails in Winnipeg lately, and dealers here have not been able to fill all orders.

Both Indian and Ceylon teas are 1-4 to 1-2d. lower in London, Eng., on medium and low-grades, due to heavy offerings at auctions.

The New York market for Messina lemons have been weakening steadily for about two months, and is now in bad shape owing to the competition of the California fruit.

The New York market for coffee futures opened steady on February 8, at 5c to 10 points advance on expectedly firmer European cables and small receipts at Rio and Santos.

New Crop Barbadoes molasses is expected to open about the same figure as a year ago, favorable weather having improved the condition of the cane considerably of late. The opening price of 1899 was 12c per gallon.

The Canadian Packers' Association has decided to revise its action re prices on this year's pack of fruit and vegetables and instead of withholding quotations until June will name them some time in March.

The Empire Tobacco Co. has placed a new line or size of chewing tobacco on the market, which will be known as Currency 6s, at 40 cents. This will retail at 10 cents per plug or three for 25 cents, making it a very desirable line for the trade.

The market for raw sugar in London gained rapidly in strength last week, and prices for beet advanced 2 1-2d for the week. Cane sugar held strong throughout. In New York the situation was much the same, and accordingly Canadian factories hold their refiner article firm.

Taploca is one of the firmest articles in the grocery list at present, both here and in the east. Stocks at producing points and in London, England, which is the chief distributing centre are very tight and in America conditions are even worse. United States houses have been endeavoring to replenish their stocks by purchases in Canada, but so far have been unsuccessful.

There are thousands of retail grocers who have been in trade for many years, and yet are as ignorant to-day of the articles they sell as when they began business. They are not good buyers,

because they are content to depend on somebody else's judgment. They never test goods for themselves, therefore are unable to determine the relative value of a mark of tea, coffee, or different grades of other goods. The successful buyer is a continuous and enthusiastic student, always testing, studying, comparing, and possessed of a mind of his own.—American Grocer.

The sharp advance in the price of live and dressed hogs has forced up the price of products all round, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin of last week. Canada short cut mess pork has advanced another 50c per barrel, sales having occurred to day at \$15 to \$15.50 as to size of lot. Lard is also firm and 1-2c higher, sales of round lots being mentioned at 7 1-2c in pads, and at 7c in tiers. Compound lard has advanced to 63-4c in lots of 500 to 1,000 pails. In smoked meats hams have appreciated 1c per lb., heavy selling at 10c, medium at 11c, and light at 12c. Bacon has also gone up 1c to 12c for boneless, and 11c for Windsor. Rolled bacon 81-2c.

Coffee is one of the strongest lines on the grocery lists at present. There has been a tremendous boom in prices within the past few months, the advance since October last amounting to about 80 per cent on green Rio. This remarkable advance is based partly on the supposed shortage of 500,000 bags in the Rio crop, while the prevalence of the bubonic plague in Brazil has further tended to advance prices. No doubt, too, there is a considerable element of speculation about the advance. Other coffees are higher, in sympathy with Rio. Coffees have been selling in Winnipeg lately at less than they could be laid down for here in round lots, but jobbers have now become alarmed and have advanced prices this week.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

THE COTTON SITUATION.

New York, Feb. 8.—Price, McCo's & Co.'s, weekly cotton review, says: "The cotton market today touched the highest prices of the season thus far, and higher prices than have been reached since September 10, 1896, when the world most acutely felt the shortage in supply, resulting from the deficient crop of 1896. August contracts have sold at 337 cents per lb., and so far as the New York market is concerned the activity here has been to a certain extent transferred to the August option, in which there has been an increased volume of trading and concerning the manipulation of which rumor has been rife and suggestions numerous.

The bald facts of the situation are expressed in the following figures:—The world's visible supply, as made up by the Financial Chronicle last Friday evening, was 3,634,000 bales. This is smaller than any figure since 1891. In that year, on the corresponding date, the world's visible supply of cotton was 3,540,000 bales; and cotton sold at 91-2 cents per lb. in New York. In the year previous, viz., 1890, the visible supply for the corresponding week was 2,966,000 bales, and cotton sold in New York at 123-4 cents per lb. Since 1890 the world's consumption of cotton has increased fully 18 per cent. Since 1891 the estimated increase is about 15 per cent.

DRY GOOD TRADE NOTES.

Five hundred dollars and \$800 were offered recently by Canadian manu-

facturers for the privilege of being allowed to cancel two large orders for staple woollen goods that had been placed by an eastern firm.

The Canada Woollen Mills, Limited, is the name of the new concern which represents an amalgamation of five Ontario mills, including A. W. Brodies' at Hespeler, and the Waterloo, Maple Leaf, Lambton and Hawthorne mills. The combined capital is \$2,000,000, none of which will be offered to the public. The president of the new company is W. R. Brock, of Toronto.

Hardware Trade Notes.

Earn door hangers of United States manufacture have advanced 20 to 33 1-3 per cent at factories.

The amount of last week's advance in varnish prices at Canadian factories is from 10 to 20 per cent over old prices.

United States manufacturers have made advances in their prices of steel squares which amount to from \$2 to \$1 per dozen.

Belgium makers have advanced their prices for glass again since the first of this month to an amount which makes the cost laid down in Canada 7 1-2 to 8 per cent higher.

The advances in tin plates at eastern wholesale centres of 25c per box have not been followed by any changes in the Winnipeg market and local jobbers are still selling at old prices.

Manufacturers are selling direct to consumers in certain lines of hardware in eastern Canada, notably horseshoes, and there is friction between them and the jobbing concerns in consequence.

Linsced oil advanced 1c per gallon in eastern Canada last week. This advance is due to the generally firm position of linsced both in America and Europe, which makes it likely that seed will rule higher until another crop comes in at least.

The market for window glass in the United States is in a very unsatisfactory condition owing to the troubles between the glass trust and independent factories. The number of skilled hands available in the country is not sufficiently large to operate all the factories and competition for this help is therefore very keen. Factories are unable to fill their orders fast enough with the help they have and are very indifferent about booking anything but choice orders. Notwithstanding the cut of one-third which was recently made in glass by the trust prices are still much higher than in Canada.

"The pig-iron production is far more valuable than the gold yield of this country," says the Philadelphia Record. "If we estimate the value of the crude pig iron at \$20 a ton, we find that the total value is nearly four times that of the native gold produced in 1899. If we should attempt to estimate the value of the finished products of iron and steel the sum would be so stupendous that it would make the value of the gold appear very small by comparison, for we must remember that, with the exception of a comparatively small quantity of gold used by jewellers and in the arts, the ultimate value of native gold is not greatly enhanced by the labor expended upon it, as is the case with crude iron. And yet the yield of gold in 1899 in this country exceeded that of all former years, and the annual increase during the past three or four years, not only in the United States but in the whole world, has been enormous."