

## THE GROCERY TRADE.

## NEW VERSUS OLD CHEESE.

In speaking of the digestibility and wholesomeness of certain foods the Dietetic Magazine brings up an interesting question affecting the virtues of new cheese as compared with old. All analysis and food tubs agree as to the nutritious protein and hydocarbons are sufficient to account for this. But do we eat it at a proper stage. It has come to be the belief that cheese, in order to be pleasant to the palate, has got to be curdled. In other words we keep it long enough to cause the butyric acid to undergo fermentation. Certain brands sell at enormous prices simply because, as this writer puts it, they represent ideal degrees of "rankness"—in other words putridity.

Years ago, when all the small dairymen made a little cheese for their own use, if not for the market, they began to eat it before it was a fortnight old, ate it as freely as they did bread, and never thought of it being difficult of digestion. Nor was it. To put such compressed caseln before a lover of Limburger, however, would be to offer him an unpardonable insult. And yet, from a health standpoint it is the only cheese that can be approved. Of the semi-putrid, rank smelling and acrid tasting stuff now sold for cheese many persons cannot partake with impunity; and those who do eat it are compelled to be very sparing in their indulgence, making it a relish or condiment rather than a food.

If the creameries would try the experiment of making little "cheeses," weighing from two to five pounds each, and send them to market as soon as they will hold shape—say not to exceed two to four weeks from the press—the opinion is ventured that it would not take long to create a market for their product that would grow to untold proportions, because people would learn to eat cheese at every meal, and as freely as they now devour cake or crackers. In time the taste for butyric acid and putrid caseln would be superseded, and the market for this major item of dairy products multiplied a hundred-fold.

## GROCERY TRADE NOTES.

Last week's cable advices from Barbadoes quoted molasses at 15c per gallon first cost, not including charges, with offerings light.

Advices from China report that North China Congou teas are down to 5c for United States standard.

London advices on cocoa report that at the auction sale the market was quiet, and for Grenadas prices declined 1s per cwt.

At Chatham, the bean centre of Ontario, an advance of 25c per bushel was made last week in the price of hand-picked and prime. The former grade is now quoted at \$1.50 per bushel, and the latter at \$1.40.

The stock of mild coffee in the United States is 390,000 bags, including 233,971 bags at New York, 98,260 bags at San Francisco and 6,775 bags at New Orleans; last week the stock was 391,681 bags; last year 404,501 bags.

Salmon is reported reviving in the London market under the influence of better consumption and easier prices. "Purchases can now be made," say mail advices, "at a moderate percentage over prices ruling in May last year and an active trade seems probable."

The London Grocer of June 1 states that very satisfactory reports have been received of the prospects for the growing current crop. "Should no unforeseen disaster occur," says that publication, "a yield of about 130,000 tons is expected to be realized, so that it would appear that the damage done to the vines last season was not of a permanent character."

Referring to raisins The California Fruit Grower says: "The outlook for the growing crop continues good, but the yield will fall considerably short of that of last season. The association is about to further the sale of seeded stock by supplying the trade with small packages to be given away by retail dealers. There are several hundred cars of carry-over stock on hand and some effort must be made to move them before new crop comes in hand."

On currants, Hills Bros. says: "Market at the moment shows an advancing tendency, holders being reluctant to part with any quantity of spot goods at present prices, but would no

doubt sell ex Alsatia, which is due, and brings about 2,500 barrels, the bulk of which comes into strong hands. England and the Continent continue as buyers in Greece, but the quantity of merchantable fruit available there is considerably reduced. Our friends in London write that it is expected that the stock there on June 1 will not be more than 4,000 tons, and that their market is experiencing a large demand from Liverpool, as well as trade which is usually supplied by that market. The Continent is also a buyer in London, and as that market at present holds the bulk of the supplies, it is sure to be drawn on to a more or less extent during the balance of the season. The English market at present is on a higher basis than our own, and, in view of the moderate supplies there, holders are expecting a further advance."

Smith, Baker & Co., writing from Yokohama, under date of May 22, say of Japan teas: "A large and steady business has been transacted since the 2nd instant, the demand continuing general and active. Receipts have been on a fairly liberal scale; prices have ruled very firm throughout the interval, and the native merchants, taking advantage of this, have been free sellers. At Higo since the opening of the market, there has been a steady business accomplished, the general conditions there showing no important variation from ours. Yokohama—Arrivals, 59,795 pels; settlements, 55,867 do.; stock, 3,928 do. Higo—Arrivals, 18,243 pels; settlements, 14,613 do.; stock, 3,450 do. Arrivals at both ports, 78,038 pels., against 66,377 do. same time last year, and \$3,149 do. in 1899; settlements at both ports, 70,480 pels., against 59,375 do. same time last year, and 74,555 in 1899.

In regard to Barbadoes molasses the Montreal Gazette says a cable was received via New York quoting the first cost price at 15c, not including charges and noted that the offerings were light. It is doubtful if the above is correct as a cable was received here on Wednesday, June 12th, reporting the market firm at 11c, and stated that they were open to buy at this figure, but as buyers here have filled their wants pretty well for the season no new orders were reported, and besides this, if they wanted molasses they can buy new crop goods on spot, in any quantity at 27c, which is 1/2c per gallon cheaper than it can be laid down at. The local jobbing price has been reduced 1c per gallon to 28c for car lots, and 2 1/2c for smaller quantities. Mail advices from Barbadoes under date of May 25th, say that the weather has been intensely hot and dry, and although some showers have fallen in some parts of the island heavy soaking rains are badly wanted. Reaping has been pushed forward as fast as possible, and operations should be finished earlier than usual. Suitable size vessels for molasses are scarce and wanted.

Wisner & Co., writing from Shanghai, under date of May 18, say of teas: "Black teas—Our Hankow advices extend to the 14th inst. Musters of new crop Kiukiang teas were shown on the 7th instant, Hankow teas now being displayed till the 10th instant. The market was not opened until the 9th, when the more attractive Keemuns were taken from prices ranging from 40 to 55 taels per picul; all the desirable teas have since been sold. The market for Hankow teas has been a dragging one, and prices paid have been considerably under the range of last year's early figures. As regards quality the Keemuns are hardly as good as last year's; they are, perhaps, stronger in cup, but are rather lacking in Pekoe flavor, and are, on the whole, of poorer style; these teas are, however, certainly the best of the crop, and have found ready buyers. The Ningchows are very indifferent, and very few teas with any pretensions to quality are amongst them. The Hankow teas generally are of a lower standard than of late years, and the prices paid show this to be the general opinion held concerning them. The lowest price, so far as we are able to learn, at which anything has yet been sold is 12 taels. Most of the business so far done has been for Russian account."

The total number of failures in Canada last week was 22, against 20 last week and 21 this week last year.

Conflicting reports are coming to hand regarding the condition of the Ontario apple crops. Some say that the prospects are poor, while others predict a good average.

## THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

## AMERICAN COTTONS IN CANADA.

There was an American agent in the city market this week with samples of American grey cottons, says the Toronto Globe. The goods were a little different from the home goods, but on the whole the Canadian cottons compared well with the imported. The prices of the American goods are practically the same as the Canadian, but the American agent had, in order to meet the Canadian prices, to make a price to overcome the duty of 25 per cent. It is understood that this agent was not successful in placing any considerable quantity of the goods in this market. The Canadian mills still cut their list prices on cotton goods, and they are determined to make some sacrifice to keep out imported goods. The following report on the position of the American cotton markets made this week by The New York Commercial is interesting:—

Active trade in bleached cotton is checked by expected price revisions in fine counts, but the delay in naming open prices on fancy prints is not affecting trade in other lines. The price and stock position of nearly all other varieties of cottons is such as to stimulate active trading by buyers, who fully understand the situation. A moderate improvement in buying will eliminate the few weak spots that remain. Buyers are impressed with the strong position in which most lines have been placed by large export sales and would take forward deliveries more freely at a price. They appear to overlook the fact that four-year and allied goods are strengthened by the export sales of heavy goods almost as much as the latter goods themselves. There is far from being a scarcity of four-year and lighter sheetings, but they are not accumulating as they were a few months ago, and prices are correspondingly firmer.

It is reported that stocks of cotton goods at Shanghai have been very materially reduced and that it is on the strength of this that purchases are being made here for delivery to the end of September. Some houses expect to have their "go downs" entirely emptied by the time shipments leaving here about September 1 arrive there, and they will need later shipments to meet demands of the local or nearby trade. Shipments leaving here later than September 10 cannot reach China before navigation in northern China closes.

It has been noted recently that demand for bleached cottons of the Fruit, Lonsdale and Hope class in the United States was nearly if not fully equal to production, and that buyers who are expecting a reduction in prices might be disappointed. There is now good ground for the assertion that prices of the particular goods mentioned will be higher before they are lower.

## DRY GOODS TRADE NOTES.

Last week Canadian manufacturers of floor oil cloths reported a reduction of 5 per cent. in their prices. It is reported that this is to meet outside competition.

A Hawick letter of June 1 says:—A decided improvement has taken place in the south of Scotland woollen trade during the last few weeks. Manufacturers are well employed either in tweeds, worsteds, costume cloths or war office contracts. The opening season for the spring trade is now in full swing in London, and buyers are reported to be making larger selections than has been the case for several seasons. Wheels are creeping steadily up, and a firm advance has been recorded in fine merinos. Buyers will have to pay more for their worsteds again. Crossbreds are in abundance, and are also rising, but home cheviot wools are at a low ebb.

Mrs. Patterson is opening a fruit, confectionery and ice cream parlor at Dauphin, Man.

Potatoes are scarce and dear at Toronto, selling as high as 75c per bag. Large shipments have been made to New York.

The Toronto Type Foundry Company has favored The Commercial with a calendar giving dates for the balance of this year and until the end of 1902. The design is an old one and should make it a favorite.

## The Chemical Trade.

Messrs. Sacre & Co., of Manchester, review the chemical trade as follows for the month of May:—It cannot be reported that the chemical markets have established any pronounced improvement during May. The tendency was distinctly towards greater quietness and the forthcoming holidays had an adverse influence, while this month the usual stocktaking operation will necessarily cause restricted buying and thus further intensify the position. There are a few slight signs, however, which may develop as time goes on for the common good. The policy of manufacturers latterly in keeping a tight hold over production has largely cleared works from stocks, and they can be consistently firm in their quotations. Then while complaints of dullness in nearly all branches are very loud, there is a growing feeling that the worst is past, and with a more healthy tone prevailing, any little increase in legitimate demand would be of undoubted value and be made the most of. The difficulty is to diagnose whence a demand is to come, seeing the shipping season is practically over. Much, however, may be hoped from a return to peace, enabling developments in various parts of the world, thus securing the confidence of the great commercial community. The latest monthly export figures are anything but cheerful reading. The value of exports fell from £892,007 to £812,745, and the quantities from 5,602 tons to 3,337 tons, while the imports show an increase of £126,779 in value. To be satisfactory the figures should be largely reversed. As they are, they show that year by year countries hitherto dependent upon us for their supplies can either provide for themselves or our competitors can be more liberal with them and thus secure their trade. Caustic soda has well sustained its position. Makers of all strengths find a steady business, while there has been no tendency to weakness in prices. Bleaching powder, on the other hand, is in rather a precarious position. The demand itself is undoubtedly slack, and the exigencies of some makers to find buyers have tempted them to a mistake in tactics, which can only result in quite unnecessary loss. Alkali is unchanged, and second-hand parcels are very scarce. Sulphate of copper has again weakened after some vain attempt at a spurt, and closes neglected. Nitrate of soda now shows more signs of establishing a stronger position, "bears" having been brought out. Acids generally have only a slight interest for buyers, and, as a rule, concessions have to be made. Arsenic remains neglected, but there is less disposition to slaughter values.

## The Textile Trade.

New York, June 15.—There is at last a very marked improvement noticeable in the textile trade both here and in Great Britain, while an active demand for China is again reported. The crop is unusually late, and our advices do not indicate that it is making satisfactory progress in catching up. The condition is low, as is also the price.

While we will probably carry over twice as much cotton as last year, it will be only a moderate supply after all. Buyers of raw material as well as the finished product have pursued the hand to mouth policy for so long that it is now reasonable to suppose, and indeed it is quite generally reported, that stocks are very low, and the gain in the visible supply figures will probably be made at the expense of the invisible stocks.

During May the total freight passed through the canals at the Sault amounted to 2,245,500 net tons. Of this total 1,693,301 tons were east-bound and 552,199 tons west-bound. The Canadian canal carried 150,051 tons, or under 7 per cent. of the total. In May, 1900, the canals carried 4,092,391 tons, 3,267,500 tons being east-bound. The Canadian canal carried 381,626 tons. The reduction in May, 1901, was 1,846,897 tons, divided into \$1,635,352 tons reduction in the amount passed through the United States canal and 211,575 tons reduction for the Canadian canal. The decrease in the freight carried by the United States canal was 44 per cent. and by the Canadian canal 60 per cent.