

Grocery Trade Notes.

The world's visible supply of coffee on February 1, 1901, was 7,217,925 bags, showing a decrease of 342,420 bags, compared with that of January 1, 1901.

The current market in London keeps very firm at the recent advance, according to The London Grocer, which says: "With continuous purchases by exporters and a fair amount of business doing for the home trade the stock is being reduced and is beginning to present a more healthy appearance than it has done for some time past."

The grocers and tobaccoists of Brandon, Man., have advanced the price of Macdonald's tobaccos to 10c per plug straight. This is a move that might be followed to advantage by sellers of tobacco generally, as there does not seem any reason why any one article, and particularly such a staple line as tobacco, should be sold at absolute cost.

With reference to rice, late advices state that the purchases of new crop Japan rice by European millers thus far this season have amounted to only about 10 per cent. of last year's takings. United States millers also have been very moderate buyers, the comparatively low prices ruling for domestic Japan holding the importations of Japan rice into the United States in check.

The tone of the market for Japan teas is very firm, owing to the fact that stocks on spot are comparatively small, as compared with previous years at this date; consequently, prices have an upward tendency. The demand is good, especially for low grades, which are scarce, and there is none to be had now under 15c, showing an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 1c per lb. during the past ten days. In Ceylons a fair business has been done, but the tone of the market for these grades is not so strong.—Montreal Gazette.

Last week we reported the opening of the Porto Rico market, and this week we have to advise our readers of the opening of the Barbadoes market for the season, which took place on January 29, at 14c first cost, and on the 31st advanced to 15c first cost. These figures are 1c lower than the opening rates of last year, which occurred several weeks later than the recent opening. Of course, the offerings are light, as usual at first, but the first cargoes are expected to be loaded for Newfoundland as small vessels are no doubt waiting at Barbadoes for return cargoes. The last quoted figure at the island, namely, 15c, means about 32c laid down here, but of course no cargoes can reach here before May next. Round lots of Barbadoes are quoted in this market at 37c to 39c, the last sale of about 300 puncheons being reported by us at 38c. Antigua is quoted at 32c to 33c in round lots. In a jobbing way Barbadoes are quoted at 40c to 41c.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

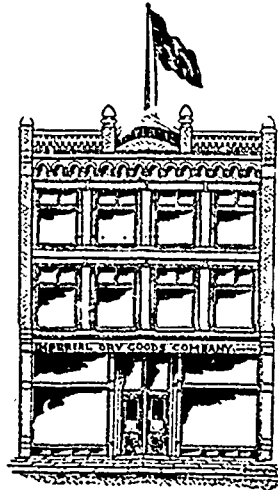
In regard to currants, latest advices from New York say: "Notwithstanding some little improvement has been noted in the demand for currants the trade continues far from active. Buying is generally limited to the hand-to-mouth requirements of local and nearby country consumers. Little business is being done in round lots, and there appears to be an absence of speculative interest unusual at this period. "The distribution from New York for the month of January," say the Hills Bros. Company, "is not over one-half of that recorded for January last year. This is disappointing to holders, who, in view of the small consumption during the fall, had expected an increase in business after the turn of the year. Mail advices from Liverpool to 17th of January report stocks at that date at 125 tons, as against 6,550 tons the previous year, with a fair business done and prices tending rather upward. As Liverpool, in the previous campaign, received several thousand tons from Greece after this date, it appears probable that that market will be able to take a fair proportion of the stocks still remaining in Patras."

It is understood that committees are being appointed in British Columbia and Washington who will make representations to the Dominion and United States governments with a view to the establishment of a hatchery on the Fraser River at the joint expense of the Canadian and United States governments.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

THE IMPERIAL DRY GOODS COMPANY.

One of the largest retail establishments in Winnipeg is the Imperial Dry Goods Company, which last fall moved into its new premises on Main street, nearly opposite the post office. The business of this company has grown wonderfully during the last three years under the management of A. E. Ham; starting out with four clerks they now employ a staff of about thirty. It soon became apparent that larger quarters were necessary and it was decided to erect a specially designed building. The block is 216x10 feet with three stories and basement, giving 126,000 square feet of floor space and in the planning of the different floors the convenience both of customers and employees was considered. One very noticeable feature is the excellent lighting system



New Store Imperial Dry Goods Co.
Main St., Winnipeg.

which shows off the goods to advantage and makes it possible for customers to see just what they are buying.

On the first floor counters run the entire length of the building on either side with a series of tables in the middle. The counters throughout are of a special design known as the "skele-ton." These recede from the top and overhang the chairs placed for the customers, thus giving space for the steam pipes along the bottom. On the right hand side are found the hosiery, gloves, corsets, underwear, etc.; on the left hand side is the dress-goods counter and in the centre are counters of small wares, stationery, confectionery, etc.

The rear portion of the first floor is elevated about three steps. Here are found dress trimmings and staples, mantle cloths, men's and boys' clothing and furnishings as well as a flower counter, where plants and cut flowers may be obtained. A waiting room for customers, the manager's office, inquiry office, cash and parcel offices are found here.

A broad staircase leads to a well lighted basement, where a large assortment of china, granite and wooden-ware and wall paper is kept. The marking rooms, where the goods are received and priced, wash rooms for male employees and a store room for reserve stock occupy the balance of this flat.

On the second floor, which can be reached by elevator is the department for mantles, furs, cloaks, blankets and house furnishings. Near the centre are lavatories for use of the public and in the rear are the dress making quarters. On this floor also a millinery department is being opened this spring under the charge of Miss Baldwin.

On the third storey is the ready-made manufactory for blouses, skirts, etc.

In all parts of the building the same fineness of finish is seen. The ceilings are of the metallic type, the radiators are gilded and the woodwork is of polished hardwood and every portion of the store is so easy of access and the goods so attractively arranged that a visit to this establishment can hardly fail to produce a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction.

DRY GOODS TRADE NOTES.

The Toronto millinery openings take place on March 4th.

Demand for prints in Canadian wholesale markets promises to be good this year. The products of our domestic mills is said to show much better quality and style than ever before especially in the mercerized goods which have become so popular.

A new line of print goods which promises to be popular in Canadian markets this year is the mercerized pongee, a very fine fabric of light weight, made in imitation of pongee silk. It comes in spots, foulard patterns and scroll effects.

A London letter says: Black is the only color displayed in the shop windows throughout the empire. The milliners' stores are filled with black bonnets, and other establishments have a funeral show of black clothes, gloves, neckties and hats. In London every Englishman who can afford it is wearing black clothes, a black necktie and black gloves. The women are all attired in black and the officers of the army and navy have crape bands on their arms. All army flags are draped with black. Naturally, there will be loss on stocks of colored goods, particularly in the case of London firms accustomed to depend on court and society business. On the other hand, dealers in black goods will be able to sell their entire stocks at a very great profit. In fact, a famine in black goods threatens the British markets and offers an opportunity for American enterprise. British orders are already exhausting the resources of the French and German manufacturers. It is said that Lyons, Dresden and other continental centres are already refusing more orders.

World's Wheat Stock Increased.

Despite slight decreases in the stocks of wheat held in this country and in Europe during January, the total world's stock of wheat showed a considerable increase during that month, says Bradstreet's. This was due chiefly to a very heavy gain in the stock held in Australia, as reported by cable, but this increasing tendency is also shared in by Argentine stocks, the crop of which has begun to move to market. These gains should occasion little surprise, because the month of January is the harvest time in both countries. Nor should the large increase in Australian stocks be taken entirely as a bear point as regards the outlook for American wheat in Europe. The bulk of the Australian surplus, which promises to be the largest for some years, will, no doubt, seek nearby markets, such as South Africa, but to just the extent that this wheat competes with American wheat in the last-named and other countries American wheat will be displaced. Last year, it may be recalled, saw some Australian wheat shipped to Europe, some coming as far as Marseilles and Barcelona. It is an interesting feature in this connection, however, that last week witnessed the shipment of some American flour from the Pacific coast to Sydney, N. S. W.

The total stock of wheat in the leading countries of the world on or about February 1 compares with preceding periods as follows:—

	[000's omitted.]		
	Feb. 1, 1901.	Jan. 1, 1901.	Feb. 1, 1900.
U. S. & Canada	95,041	96,537	96,394
Europe and Africa	70,700	71,400	66,000
Australia	10,000	2,900	7,400
Argentina	1,680	960	5,520
Totals	177,421	171,857	175,314

The total stock it will be seen, is shown to be 177,421,000 bushels, a gain of 5,511,000 bushels for the month of January, an increase of over 2,000,000 bushels as compared with February 1, a year ago and of over 50,000,000 bus. as compared with February 1, 1899. The chief gain, it will be seen, is shown in the item of Australian stocks, which increased 7,100,000 bushels during the month, while Argentine stocks gained 720,000 bushels. On the other hand, stocks in the United States and Canada decreased 1,350,000 bushels, while European stocks fell off 700,000 bushels. The stocks in this country and Canada, of course, have the most present interest, and

we therefore append the following table showing the said stocks monthly since January 1, 1900. —

	[000's omitted.]	
	East of Pacific U.S. & Rockies, coast, Canada.	Totals
Jan. 1, 1900	89,253	10,022,097
Feb. 1	87,473	9,924,396
March 1	85,570	7,814,384
April 1	79,690	7,207,897
May 1	70,704	7,059,714
June 1	57,017	6,806,413
July 1	38,523	5,903,424
Aug. 1	30,398	5,770,668
Sept. 1	26,210	7,483,723
Oct. 1	70,071	10,208,270
Nov. 1	82,238	9,883,922
Dec. 1	85,591	10,037,458
Jan. 1, 1901	97,911	8,919,607
Feb. 1, 1901	86,324	8,717,054

Stocks east of the Rockies, it will be seen, decreased 1,587,000 bushels in January, while Pacific coast stocks increased 31,000 bushels for the month. The position of American, that is, United States and Canadian, stocks on February 1 this year as compared with the same date in preceding years is shown in the following table:—

	[000's omitted.]	
	East of Pacific U.S. & Rockies, coast, Canada.	Totals
Feb. 1, 1901	86,324	8,717,054
Feb. 1, 1900	87,473	9,924,396
Feb. 1, 1899	51,618	5,039,567
Feb. 1, 1898	51,103	5,318,542
Feb. 1, 1897	48,022	3,005,74,087
Feb. 1, 1896	97,322	6,589,181
Feb. 1, 1895	100,917	13,112,035
Feb. 1, 1894	98,836	9,550,108
Feb. 1, 1893	111,905	6,457,118,362

Compared with a year ago, it will be seen, the above stocks are 1,205,000 bushels smaller, but they are 38,354,000 bushels larger than at this date two years ago and 38,618,000 bushels smaller than in 1895. They are also larger than the stocks held in 1897 by over 24,000,000 bushels, but are 8,000,000 bushels smaller than in 1896 and 25,000,000 bushels smaller than in 1895. The position of European supplies on February 1 compared with preceding months and years was as follows:—

	[00,000's omitted.]	
	1896. '97. '98. '99. 1900. '01.	
Jan.	89,872.21	61,968,271.4
Feb.	79,779.71	61,766,170.7
March	70,702.63	68,266.3
April	60,617.39	67,774.7
May	64,135.91	65,670.2
June	62,055.56	70,568.1
July	61,450.35	59,464.4
Aug.	48,048.04	63,561.9
Sept.	46,243.17	60,632.2
Oct.	58,577.37	76,067.9
Nov.	78,861.68	79,674.4
Dec.	82,270.54	71,172.4

European supplies are slightly less than they were a month ago, but are 4,600,000 bushels heavier than a year ago and 9,000,000 bushels larger than in 1899 but are smaller than in any previous year since 1894. The combined American and European stocks make the following comparison:—

	[000,000's omitted.]	
	'01. '00. '99. '98. '97. '96. '95.	
Jan. 1	109,167	117,132,150,194,203
Feb. 1	100,162	118,127,148,177,204
March 1	103,121	118,133,172,183
April 1	101,123	114,122,163,181
May 1	148,117	95,107,146,172
June 1	132,116	99,94,133,158
July 1	128,119	80,78,124,148
Aug. 1	128,116	58,64,108,140
Sept. 1	145,117	55,68,107,132
Oct. 1	154,124	67,95,127,153
Nov. 1	169,139	88,111,162,178
Dec. 1	170,160	106,127,172,185

A decrease of 3,000,000 bushels in European and American supplies is shown for January, but the gain over a year ago is 4,000,000 bushels; over 1899, 48,000,000 bushels, and over 1898, 39,000,000 bushels. It is, in fact, necessary to go back to 1896 to find a smaller combined total.

At a meeting of railway and steamboat representatives held last week in Toronto very little change was made from the summer rates in force on the great lakes last year. There are some slight increases from northern lake ports and the basis of rates to Port Arthur, Fort William, Duluth and Sault Ste. Marie were rearranged, the same rate now applying both ways.

As many as seven applications for charters for railways touching at Grand Forks, B.C., are now being made. Three of these are for roads from the coast. One of these applications is being made by the C. P. R. and another by Mackenzie & Mann. The prospects for the boundary country seem becoming well supplied with railways would appear to be very bright.