

Carpets.

The carpet and house furnishing season is again at hand. In this connection the dry goods article in the *Toronto Globe* says:

Manufacturers in Great Britain have given notice that an advance of 2d per yard will take effect after March 25 on best Brussels and Wilton carpets, and on other lines of 1d. Makers have in the past been making Brussels carpets at a loss. The recent advance will enhance this season's purchases. Manufacturers are all very busy, and it is difficult to get deliveries in time. Some wealthy American, it is reported, is proposing to start a factory in Canada to manufacture Brussels and Wilton carpets. English makers, it is said, threaten if this is done, to start factories, as they do not wish to lose this market. This would have a tendency to boom Brussels and Wilton makes, which are unquestionably the best classes of carpets. Moquette and cheap Axminster are favorably considered in buying a range of carpets. Tapestry carpets remain firm but no advance is asked on them. The qualities and designs are greatly improved and approach so near to Brussels make that they can hardly be discerned from them. Kidderminster carpets are now made in this country. The domestic makers are improving their qualities and designs, which should create a better demand. A chief feature in the carpet trade is the increased call for bordered squares woven seamless. An experiment was tried to create a demand for squares made of carpet sewn together and having a border all around. This met with only partial success. Those who can afford to buy rugs generally procure the high grades to match their carpets, such as Axminster, Wilton, etc. Designs, qualities and makes remain about the same each year. The tendency for colors in carpets is towards the darker shades; there are not so many bright tints. Self colors, that is, three or four shadings of a color, are favored. Fawns, browns and greens are the favorites. Hemp carpets are having a moderate trade. The principal demand for them is in the country. The stripe designs sell well in the low prices, while the printed are the best sellers in the medium and higher grades. The patterns are each season being improved. China matting is gaining in popular favor. This is partly due to the new designs brought out. Formerly only plain and stripe grounds were offered. An advance in China matting of 15 per cent was made a short time ago. The demand is steady for coarser and napier matting, chiefly used for public buildings. The style in linoleum and floor oilcloths has undergone a change. The patterns and colorings are following the lead of the carpets in floral designs and dark shades.

Knights of the Grip Meet.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Commercial Travellers' association was held at the board of trade room, Winnipeg, on April 4. President A. S. Binns in the chair. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and adopted the report of the delegates to interview the Canadian Pacific railway officials at Montreal was presented and adopted, but as no official reply has yet been received it was impossible at the meeting to advise the members of the exact concessions which may be granted. A. S. Binns and A. L. Johnston, the delegates, spoke very fully of the treatment they had received at Montreal, not only from the railway officials but the members of the travellers' association, who did all they could to make their visit to Montreal a pleasant one.

The idea having been suggested at the convention of holding an annual convention of delegates representing each travellers' association of Canada at Montreal once a year,

Messrs. Binns and Johnston brought the matter before the meeting and after a full discussion the following motion was carried: "Moved by J. A. Lindsay, seconded by L. C. Macintyre, that this meeting fully endorse the recommendation made by the convention held at Montreal on the 9th March, viz; That an annual convention be held of delegates from all the Commercial Travellers' associations of Canada to discuss matters for their mutual benefit and that our secretary advise all associations in Canada accordingly."

After some discussion in reference to the by-laws of the association it was moved by W. Hargraves, seconded by F. J. Cox, that a committee consisting of J. A. Lindsay, F. W. Drewry, J. K. Whinnery, the secretary, with the mover and seconder, be a committee to revise the by-laws and report at the quarterly meeting to be held the first Saturday in August next.—Carried.

If any member of the association has any suggestion to make in reference to the by-laws, the above committee will be pleased to hear from such. The meeting then adjourned.

The Cheese Trade.

The wind up of the cheese trade for 1895 and 1896 has proved very unsatisfactory and this in face of the most encouraging prospects last fall when English buyers, induced by the very reasonable prices ruling, made large purchases of August, September and October make, and seemed well satisfied. These goods were put aside for a later market; but in the meantime large quantities of well kept summer goods came out of their hiding place in cold storage, and this kept the market supplied with a class of goods that suited the English trade, and were of course bought at less cost than the fall cheese. Consequently the English trade got accustomed to this cheaper class of goods, while the fall cheese were neglected; and as there were a great many more summer goods than was generally expected, the demand was satisfied thereby to the exclusion of the better and higher priced article. Only a few days ago a lot of 2,000 summer cheese was sold at Ogdensburg, N.Y., to a Montreal firm at 7c there. Advices from London, England, report a better feeling since stocks have been reduced; but prices remain about the same. In this market fall cheese has sold at 8 to 8½c, with some holders a king 8½c.—*Montreal Trade Bulletin*.

Montreal Grocery Market.

A decided improvement is reported in the demand for sugar by refiners, and in consequence a fair amount of business has been passing. The impression is that there will be considerable activity in this market during the present month, after the stagnation which has prevailed for the past three months. We quote.—Granulated at 4½c in 250 barrel lots and over; 4 11-16c in 100-barrel lots, and 4½c in smaller quantities. Yellow range from 3½c to 4½c, as to quality, at the factory. A private cable received from London to-day reported cane quiet, beet rather firmer; April, 12½d; May 12½d.

The demand for syrups has been slow and the market is quiet at 1½c to 2½c per lb., as to quality at the factory.

There has been no further change in the situation of the molasses market. Cables from the Island have been steady at last week's decline, quoting first cost 13c. On spot business is dull at 8½c to 87c for Barbadoes, and 84c to 85c Porto Rico.

In rice there is no change to note. The demand is limited and business quiet. The following quotations are what millers sell at: Japan standard, \$4.25 to \$4.40; crystal Japan, \$4.75 to \$5.00; standard B, \$3.45; English style, \$3.30; Patna, \$4.25 to \$5. and Carolina at \$6.50 to \$7.50.

The market for spices has been somewhat quiet of late, but the feeling continues steady and prices show no change. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only: Penang black pepper, 6c to 7½c, white pepper 10c to 12½c; cloves, 7½ to 9c, cassia, 8½c to 9½c; nutmegs, 60c to 90c, and Jamaica ginger, 15½c to 18½c.

There is no movement in the coffee market. The demand is principally for small lots to fill actual requirements, and prices rule about steady. We quote.—Maracaiba, 19 to 20c; Rio, 18c to 18½c; Java, 21 to 27c, Jamaica, 17½c to 18½c, and Mocha, 27½c to 30c.

During the past week the tea market has been very quiet, the demand being chiefly of a sorting up character, and, in consequence, no sales of importance have taken place. The general opinion is that a better trade will be done in the near future.—*Gazette*, April 6.

Advances in Nails.

The Iron Manufacturers' meetings, which have been going on at the Windsor, Montreal, have resulted in some changes in value. Plain and barbed wire have been continued as they were before. In wire nails however, there has been advance of almost 5 per cent., the trade discount of the list being reduced to that extent. The new discounts now are 70 and 12½ per cent. in Quebec, f.o.b. Montreal, and 70 and 7½ per cent. in Ontario, with delivery of 10 keg lots where the rate does not exceed 25c per 100 lbs. Consideration of cut nails has not yet been concluded, but it is anticipated that an advance on the \$2.60 basis will result. In screws there has been a reduction of 2½ per cent. all round. In tacks, shoe rivets have been altered as follows: Iron or soft steel wire shoe rivets, 10c; brass wire shoe 25c; duck billed 17 gauge 17c; do. 16 gauge 16, with a discount of 20 per cent. The discount on soft steel shoe nails and Swede iron shoe nails has been placed at 50 per cent.

Noxious Weeds.

The Manitoba department of agriculture has issued another pamphlet on "Noxious Weeds and How to Destroy Them," the supply of the former bulletin issued in 1893 having been exhausted. These will be distributed to the Reeves and Clerks of councils, crop correspondents and farmers institutes; all others will be supplied by the department on application to the chief clerk. The fight with the weeds will soon be at hand, and all good farmers who did not have a copy of the first issue of this pamphlet should get it at once and study it up, so as to be ready when the time comes to fight the weeds to the best advantage. A great deal of labor is lost sometimes by not knowing how to work to the best advantage to exterminate weeds.

Silver.

The silver market is virtually lifeless. There is nothing in sight to affect quotations either way, and the record of the week has been one of trifling changes in prices both in London and in this market. Silver prices on April 2 were: London 81½d; New York 68½c.

It is expected that the spring importations of lemons from the Mediterranean will be much larger than ever before known, says the *Montreal Trade Bulletin*, as it has transpired that 70,000 boxes have been bought, and at least 75,000 boxes will come forward on commission. The first fruit steamer for Montreal, *The Fremona*, left Palermo on March 30, 1896, with a cargo of 42,500 boxes of Messina lemons, 6,500 boxes Messina oranges, and 7,200 packages of Palermo oranges and lemons, making a total cargo of 56,000 boxes, and is due here about April 25th.