

PAPER AND STATIONERY.

PAPER AND PAGES ADVANCE.

On Saturday last, as announced in The Commercial of that date, a telegram was received announcing the withdrawal of prices on paper and paper bags. The new lists have since been received, and show sharp advances, as was expected. Following shows the new prices on bags, compared with the old list:

Under 20,000 bags, 20 per cent. old list 27 per cent. From 20,000 to 50,000 bags, 22 1/2 per cent; old list 30 per cent. From 50,000 to 150,000 bags, 25 per cent, old list 33 1/2 per cent. From 150,000 to 500,000 bags, 30 per cent; old list 35 per cent. 500,000 bags and upward, 35 per cent, old list 35 and 5 per cent. These are prices at factories.

The new prices on paper are as follows: News print, \$3.35 per 100 lbs., in less than two ton lots; 1-4c per lb. off for two tons and upwards, and 1-2c off for twelve tons and upward.

Book papers—No. 3 book, \$4.75 per 100 lbs., No. 2 book, \$5.75; No. 1 book, \$6.75. These prices are for less than two ton lots, with the same reduction as in the case of news prints, for two tons and twelve tons lots. These prices for both news and book papers are delivered for the Ontario and Quebec trade. For the western trade, an allowance of 25 cents is made for freight to points west of Sudbury.

Wrapping papers—An advance of 1-4c has been made on brown, No. 1 manila and half moon manila.

On other lines, such as writing papers, cover papers, etc., the new list had not been fixed, but prices will be higher in proportion, no doubt. Such lines as pads, pass books, scribbling books and paper sundries will no doubt be advanced in sympathy. The Canadian paper manufacturers have formed an association and are working in unison, so that firm prices may be looked for, for some time.

PAPER COMBINE.

The paper manufacturers of the Dominion formed an association last week for the control of prices. In common with other manufacturers, they felt the general increase in prices of articles entering into the cost of production, but they were unable to advance their own prices heretofore owing to the absence of union. This difficulty has now been overcome. Eighteen out of the twenty-two paper manufacturers of the Dominion were represented at the meeting, and they agreed upon the basis of an association. The four firms unrepresented, it is expected, will also join. The first step of the new association was to order an increase of 25 per cent on all lines, newspaper, wrapping, note and every other kind of paper, in order to provide against the cutting of prices or other evasion of the agreement. The firm of Jenkins & Hardy, Toronto, were appointed secretary and treasurer. Any disputes will be referred to them, and they will have the power to impose a fine upon any member of the association breaking the agreement. It is expected that the papermakers' combine will be of the ironclad variety.

PAPER TRADE NOTES.

Winnipeg prices on paper bags, wrapping papers, etc., are comparatively lower than factory prices, since the recent sharp advances at the factories, as jobbers here have not put

the full advance into effect on stocks which they had bought before the advance at the factories.

The paper bag manufacturers some time ago stopped making up car lots for shipment to the trade. Every order is now sent out as a separate shipment, so that retailers cannot now buy to advantage from manufacturers but can buy to best advantage from the nearest jobber, so far as freights are concerned. The freight to western points on small shipments renders it unprofitable to order direct from manufacturers.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

FELT GOODS.

The position of felt footwear is very strong, as recently reported. The factories have advanced prices, but the advance has not been put into effect to the retail trade yet, though it may be enforced any time, after April 1 next. On the other hand the advance may not go into full effect until toward the beginning of the sorting season next fall. Arthur Congdon, agent for the Dolge felts, reports that these goods have been advanced at the factory about 10 per cent., but he was uncertain as to the date the advance would be put into effect here. In the meantime orders for fall trade are being booked on the basis of opening prices for the season.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE NOTES.

Eastern manufacturers are already preparing their fall samples of boots and shoes. Some factories will start their travellers out in March, but the movement will not be general until April. Spring deliveries are now being rushed.

A new rubber shoe factory has been established at Berlin, Ontario, but the new company, we understand, will not operate in the west this year. This makes six rubber shoe factories in Canada, all of which are doing business in the west except the new Berlin factory.

Nothing further has been announced yet in regard to rubber footwear, for the season which opens April 1 next, but there is an impression that there will be a further slight advance in prices, especially since the recent advance in mechanical rubber goods, as announced a couple of weeks ago.

Rubber heels are a novelty which have apparently come to stay. Improved methods of manufacture have made them a very desirable safeguard against the dangers from slippery sidewalks, etc. They look neat and are more springy than leather. Another good quality is that they wear well.

Canvas slippers for wearing inside of rubber boots are being offered by some manufacturers. They are said to keep the feet warm and dry and to make the foot conform more to the shape of the foot. The slippers are made very light and cheap and add practically no extra weight.

Dry Goods Trade Notes.

The Fall River (New York) committee has advanced the price of regular 61 square print cloths 1-8c and narrow odds in keeping therewith.

One of the fashionable things in straw hats this coming season is to be a turban with a large roll rim of felt made of fancy braid and having a projection at one side made to face with silk, apparently to take the place of a feather.

Certain lines of gingham, cottonaden and other colored goods were advanced 1-2c at New York last week to the jobbing trade, with an upward tendency.

Canadian homespun cloths are to be held in high favor this year for both ladies and gentlemen's wear. Mills have been turning out some lines which are exceedingly attractive. They are, however, so well filled up with orders already that it is doubtful if any further increase in orders could be received.

Khaki cloth is to be fashionable this year for both ladies and gentlemen's wear. It will be used mainly for outdoor purpose, such as wheeling, golfing, boating, etc. The cloth is said to be very durable and does not show dust or soiling. English manufacturers are already stocked up heavily with orders.

Canadian cotton goods have stiffened considerably in price since the recent advance in raw cottons. Last week we noted an advance of 1-4c on certain lines of cottons, such as linings, linettes, and silerias. In addition to this grey and white cotton is very firm and mills have not yet given out their prices on printed goods. British makers are very strong on all these lines.

Implement Trade Notes.

It is alleged that some sales of implements for the spring work are being made to consumers at country points, at last year's prices. This is probably an error, or a case of lying on the part of the consumers who report that they can buy implements at last year's prices. Possibly some dealers who have spring lines carried over from last year are selling them at last year's prices. If so, they are very foolish not to take the advance within their reach. It is hardly possible that new goods are being offered at last year's prices.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—No. 1 hard wheat quoted at 69 1/2 to 70c, February delivery.

Flour—Local price per sack: Patent, \$1.95; best bakers', \$1.75.

Oatmeal—\$1.95 per 80 pound sack.

Milkstuffs—Bran, \$9 per ton; shorts, \$11 delivered to city dealers.

Oats—Carlots on track, 29 to 32c.

Flaxseed—Per bushel, retail, 70 to 80c.

Barley—26 to 28c per bushel for feed grades in carlots on track. Malting barley, 28 to 30c per bushel.

Corn—In carlots, 40 to 43c per bushel of 56 lbs.

Butter—Dairy, jobbers offer 12 1/2 to 17c; fresh creamery, 22 to 23c to buyers.

Cheese—9 1/2 to 10c per pound at factories.

Eggs—Buyers offer 20c for Manitoba, fresh, lined, 15 to 16c.

Hides—No. 1 green hides, 7c; frozen stock, 6 1/2 to 8c per lb.

Wool—8 to 8 1/2 to 8 3/4 for unwashed fleece. Seneca—21c per lb.

Hay—Baled, \$6.50 to \$7.50 per ton on cars. Loose, worth \$6 to \$7.50 ton.

Potatoes—40c per bushel on the street.

Dressed Poultry—Turkeys, 10 to 12c per lb.; chickens, 10 to 12c; ducks, 10c; geese, 9c.

Gains—Rabbits, 8 1/2 to 10c each; pigeons, 20c per pair.

Dressed meats—Fresh killed beef, city dressed, 6 to 6 1/2 to 6 3/4; country frozen beef, 5 1/2 to 6; mutton, 7 to 8c; lamb, 8 to 9c; hogs, 5 1/2 to 6c; veal, 6 to 7 1/2 c.

Live Stock—Cattle, 3 1/2 to 4c butchers' stock; steckers, 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 c per lb.; sheep, 4c; hogs, 4 3/4 c off cars for selected weights.