

of which 447,000 went to Europe. 305,000 was carried by coasting vessels down the St. Lawrence, and 71,000 barrels was taken by railway eastward, probably for consumption in the Maritime Provinces. Meal is a small item this year, the receipts being only 28,982 barrels, one half of last year's. 12,000 barrels went to Europe.

ADULTERANTS IN SPICES AND CONDIMENTS.

With the object of showing what has, however, long been plain enough, that much of the mustard sold in Canada is subject to adulteration—in fact, that it is hardly ever sold pure—the chief analyst at Ottawa publishes the results of laboratory work in 1889-90. Mr. Macfarlane says, with reference to the common assertion that so long as the mustard sold contains nothing injurious, and is marked or sold as "compound," the public has not much to complain of. That, "as in the case of coffee, spices, &c., some limit should be set to the amount of diluting substances added; and, in order that arrangements may be made for having this done, with due regard to the position of both vendor and purchaser," he submits work done, therefore, on samples of mustard collected during the last eighteen months.

Out of nearly 100 samples examined only six were found pure, and these are all put up by Colman of London or by Keen. They were found in Halifax, Windsor, N. S., Hamilton and Brantford. The other ninety samples contain, according to different analysts, wheat starch, cayenne and turmeric—mustard cake, mustard husk and turmeric—terra alba and buckwheat flour—wheat flour, cayenne and gypsum—potato starch, exhausted cake and maize starch—while one sample was found to have in it besides mustard husks, turmeric, rice and buckwheat, "a little clay." Calcium sulphate, a salt of lime, or in some states, gypsum, we find mentioned in three analyses of samples. All made in Canada; some of those from England contained "clay."

A word now as to the proportions of these foreign substances which masquerade as pure mustard. One sample is found, made by a New York concern, "adulterated with about 53 per cent. of flour," another has "36 per cent. flour and 16 per cent. gypsum;" a third is made up of "31 per cent. flour and 27 per cent. clay;" a fourth, of "40 per cent. wheat, flour, and turmeric." And so on through the list, coming down to 25 and 10 per cent. of flour and turmeric.

The four samples which are designated by the department as injurious to health, though others we judge to be scarcely less so, are all made by firms in London, Ont., and London, Eng. They contain 10 to 20 per cent. terra alba (white clay, literally), and 15 to 38 per cent. flour. The labors of the department are well expended in showing the sort of adulterants consumed under the name of one of our principal condiments. That some limit should be placed to the practice of adulteration is tolerably evident.

FANCY GROCERIES.

Guava jelly is an article the consumption of which is increasing from year to year, particularly so since a great many Florida preservers are offering the article to the trade. Guava jelly has generally been offered to the trade packed in paper or chip boxes with fancy labels. The imported article is dark, very firm in substance, and with a peculiar sweetish

bitter flavor. In the Florida article the bitter taste is not so pronounced, and the jelly is more transparent than the imported goods. It is usually packed in glass, although some brands are packed to imitate the imported goods.

In spices there is little left to guide a dealer after he leaves the realm of whole goods. The chances for substitution and adulteration in ground spices are so largely made use of by unscrupulous makers that a dealer cannot detect them by superficial examination, except in cases where the grossest kind of adulteration was practiced.

Whole allspice should consist of large, smooth and well-formed berries, uniform in size and entirely free from broken berries and stems.

Black pepper, if of the finest quality, should be very dark in color, somewhat glossy in appearance, and the berries uniform in size. It should be free from dust, broken stems and broken berries. This description applies to the finest Tellicherry shot pepper. There are other grades of whole black pepper, very fine in their way, but they lack the bright, glossy character of the Tellicherry goods.

White pepper is black pepper deprived of its cuticle or outer skin. It should be of a bright, creamy white, free from specks or brown berries.

Red peppers are of two kinds, those from Zanzibar and those from Natal. The former is a small red pod, with a bright lemon colored seed, and from these pods is ground the cayenne of commerce. The Natal peppers are a large pod from two to four inches in length, containing seeds similar to the other, but brighter and larger. They are used mostly for pickling purposes, and are not quite so fiery as the Zanzibar variety.

Jamaica ginger is the root of a plant found in the West Indies, and comes to this market in two forms—bleached and unbleached—the difference between the two being a whiteness of the former, caused by a bleaching process to which it is subjected, and the latter is of the natural grey color.—*American Grocer.*

MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The forty-fourth annual meeting of the shareholders in the Montreal Telegraph Company was held in the company's offices, Montreal, yesterday, Mr. Wm. Wainwright in the chair. The report of the directors states that the appeal in the suit entered against the company by its lessees, the Great North-Western Telegraph Company, in January last, for a reduction of its rent, has been decided in favor of the lessor in September last. Shareholders have been paid six per cent. dividend on their shares, but the additional two per cent., which the G.N.W.Co. paid to trustees under protest, has been accumulating since April, 1889, and now amounts to over \$70,000.

The financial position of the company, as stated, is: Assets in lines and cables, \$1,659,277; offices and equipments, \$212,500; real estate and buildings in four principal cities, \$279,946. Cash, accounts receivable, &c., \$158,332. Total, \$2,310,155. As against this stands, shareholders' capital, \$2,000,000; available surplus funds, for contingencies, \$45,599; surplus of property over capital, not available, \$151,824; dividend on hand, \$40,000; dividend in trustees' hands, \$70,000; and unclaimed dividends, \$2,732.

The report was adopted, and upon the election of directors being proceeded with, the gentlemen whose names follow were re-elected to form the board of directors for the ensuing

year: Andrew Allan, W. Wainwright, H. Mackenzie, Jesse Joseph, John Duncan, H. Archibald, W. Rae, Quebec.

MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA.

With respect to the financial condition of the city of Ottawa, a speech by Alderman Henderson, who is chairman of the Finance Committee of the Council, gives some particulars of its debenture debt. He divided the debenture debt into three heads: 1. Municipal debt proper, amounting to \$1,399,584. 2. Waterworks debt, \$1,397,057. 3. Local improvement debt, \$220,890. Making a total debenture debt of \$3,018,000 odd. This must be reduced by the amount in the Quebec bank, and invested in debentures to the credit of the sinking fund of \$477,300, which will leave the net debt of the city \$2,540,000. As to the material progress of the city during the last ten years, the assessed value of property in 1880 was \$10,400,000, whilst in 1890 it had risen to \$16,700,000. The city rates, exclusive of local improvement rates and school taxes, ten years ago amounted to \$156,000; last year to \$250,000, or an increase on the assessed value of city property and an increase on rates, exclusive of items mentioned, of 60 per cent.

We learn further from this address that the waterworks revenue has risen from \$85,500, in 1880, to \$151,000 in 1890; that the educational or school rates have increased from \$54,500, in 1880, to \$87,930 in 1890; and that the debenture debt has increased from \$2,100,000, in 1880, to \$3,018,000 in 1890.

The total civic expenditure for 1880 was \$113,312, whilst in 1890 it was \$210,500, an increase of 80 per cent. in ten years. Alderman Hunter dwelt on the danger the city runs of an addition to its debenture debt through the operation of the local improvement system, which is insidiously increasing its debentures some \$25,000 to \$50,000 every year.

The following figures of income and expenditure are given: The gross income of this year has been \$315,000 in round numbers, almost exactly the amount of the finance committee's estimate. The gross expenditure would be \$322,000, a deficit of \$7,000. This deficit is produced by three items: 1. Interest payment to banks in forestalment of taxes and local improvement works, \$3,000. 2. Corporation grant to Lansdowne park, not provided for by any appropriation, \$2,500. 3. Damages and legal expenses to Miss Waters, through alleged damages from defective sidewalk, \$1,150. Against the deficit are unexpended balances to the credit of several accounts amounting to \$7,900.

Thus, says the Alderman, "the exact expenditure at the end of the year will be a few hundred dollars within the receipts, a phenomenon which has not been preceded for many years, if it ever was before."

INSURANCE NOTES.

The number of fires in St. John during 1890 was one hundred and four, only two or three of them serious.

The new business done by the Equitable Life Assurance society in the year which has just closed amounted to over \$200,000,000. This is \$25,000,000 more than the same company did in 1889, and, it is claimed, is more life assurance than was ever done by any other company in a single year.

The Phoenix Fire Insurance company, of Hartford, has promptly issued its statement of the year's operations. The company shows