

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

Through freight rates from west and north of Stratford, Ontario, to Glasgow and Liverpool are quoted at 28c per 100 pounds on oats and 21c per 100 pounds on heavy grain. For spring shipment from this port to Glasgow, 2s is asked for heavy grain.

The Chicago *Daily Trade Bulletin* of Feb. 11, says: "The railroads were blocked to a considerable extent during the past week by the cold weather following the thaw, making it difficult to switch cars. Rates to New York remained steady at 25c per 100 pounds for flour and grain, 30c for provisions. Through rates to Liverpool were firmer with a fair demand. Flour rates were 31 to 32½c; grain, 32 to 32½c per 100 pounds, and provisions, 30½ to 41½c. Lake freights were firmer with a little business done to Buffalo at 4½c for wheat and 4c for corn."

The new west bound tariff which, after a month's session, the transcontinental railway conference formulated, has been given out and changes the entire complexion of trans-continental rates. The new rates went into effect Feb. 15th. The tariff is issued jointly by the Union Pacific, Northern Pacific and the Great Northern, and covers the entire territory penetrated by these systems west from Chicago to the Pacific coast. It has been the avowed purpose in making these rates to build up the country through which the roads run, and all classes of freight have been noted on and are included in the schedules. There is an average reduction of 20 per cent. on all freight rates from St. Paul to Spokane, a reduction of 12 to 16 per cent. on coast rates, and of from 2 to 7 on rates to Montana, while the only east bound reduction is 5 cents on lumber, from 55 to 50, and the eastbound lumber rate to Chicago and St. Louis remains at 60 and 77½ respectively. Reductions of Spokane are the result of an appeal by that city to the inter state commerce committee and the rates are better than ordered by the commissioner. The reduction to Montana are a concession to its commercial development. One or two factors enter into the situation which give it an additional interest. The present agreement embraces only three roads instead of ten, the number subject to the old arrangement. The new tariff extends no further east than Chicago, while the one it superseded provides for transcontinental business. It is a notable fact that while only four roads have joined in the new tariff all the transcontinental roads were represented during the early days of the conference. Why they withdrew is not known, but no complications are expected from that quarter. The railways to the south will be compelled to reduce their rates to the Pacific coast points if they intend to carry any trans-continental business at all. It is understood that the Canadian Pacific while not directly appearing in the agreement, will coincide in the result. The new tariff directly applies to the northwestern tier of states and the Northern Pacific points. Its influence on other territory will be indirect.

The Breath.

It is feared that too many of us attach too little importance to the quality of the air which we emit from our mouths. This for some unaccountable reason seems to be particularly true of business employees, and was partially the reason that my spring shopping brought me unusual annoyance this year. Out of dozens of clerks and saleswomen who waited on me there was scarcely one whose breath was not insupportable. In the milliner stores it was even worse, for the girls and women there came into closer contact with one than elsewhere. The process of trying on bonnets, adjusted by the milliner herself on the head of the customer, necessarily brings the two almost mouth to mouth. In some cases the ordeal was a fearful one; and not less than three times was I compelled to leave the shop hastily without any decision, because not only was the odor unbearable to the

nostrils, but it induced a severe nervous headache, which subsided immediately on my regaining the outer air.

It is perhaps not sufficiently well known that those who suffer from nervous debility—and among the milliners and dry goods customers their name is legion—are extremely sensitive to vitiated air. And what a humiliation to discover that any emanation from a person is capable of inflicting disease on our fellow-men who approach us for only a few minutes. Saleswomen who are employed to wait on ladies are compelled in honor of their customers to dress themselves neatly and comport themselves so as to please. Is it not time that merchants were realizing the fact that, however eager a customer is to buy, the praise of the wares which at every syllable wafts infection to his nostrils can but drive him in disgust from the spot? One's patience with such neglect is only aggravated when one reflects that it might be so easily remedied.

If one's income does not permit the filling of teeth as soon as cavities are formed, one can at least buy harmless antiseptic liquids, dissolve them in water, and gargle the mouth night and morning, and three or four times during the day. Sometimes the stomach is the cause of the trouble, in which case the antiseptic dilutions will answer the purpose equally well. Five cents worth of pure carbolic acid will last half a year for this use, and two drops in a half glass of water is sufficient. When the patient has gargled his mouth and throat with a little of it he can pour the remainder in a bottle, which, tightly corked, can be put in the pocket and carried everywhere, to be used when needed. Borax, which costs nearly nothing, can be used in the same way. When nothing else can be had two drops of ammonia in a glass of water will disinfect the mouth well. There is no excuse for a bad breath.—*The House-keeper.*

The Tallest Trees.

The *Kew Bulletin* tells us that "the tallest gum trees and the tallest trees in the world are found in the gullies of Victoria, several trees having been measured that were 400 feet high, and the highest was 471 feet." Visitors to the Indo-Colonial Exhibition will remember the size and beauty of other Australian woods, especially of the specimens exhibited in the Queensland court. The finest tree in the world is said to be the Agassiz, one of the *Sequoia gigantea*, 31 feet in diameter, nearly 300 feet in height, and of remarkable symmetry. At the Paris Exhibition of 1878 there were shown no fewer than 2,530 specimens of wood from India, belonging to 906 species and 432 genera. And a more recent exhibition, that held in Edinburgh in 1884, made us acquainted with the glories of the Japanese woods, and those of the Adamau and Nicobar Islands.

Go to the East India docks and you will see the huge logs of padowk (*Pterocarpus Indicus*), a tree rivaling mahogany in the depth of the color of its wood and the density of its texture. Here, too, the stinkwood, the *Oreodaphne bulbata* of South Africa, vies, in spite of its ill-chosen name, with the teak (*Tectona grandis*) of Burmah and malabar. Or, if you prefer to see growing timber, cross over to Germany and note the massive beach trees of Hesse Nassau, whose branchless stems contain no less than 19,525 cubic feet per hectare, or nearly 8,000 cubic feet of timber per acre.

Grain and Milling.

It is proposed to grant Peter Powell a bonus of \$3000 to establish a 100 barrel flour mill at Melita, Man. A vote will be taken upon the by-law.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company, says the *Portage Review*, paid \$5,587 this season up to date. It has always contracted for 1,600 cords more, which will make the total at the end of the season amount to over \$9,000.

This money is all paid to people living near the Portage, and most of it is spent in town.

The Lake of the Woods Co. has collected over sixty samples of grain, a bushel each, which the company intend sending to the World's Fair.

A large mill is to be established in Montreal this year by the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. Geo. Hastings, superintendent of buildings and manufacturing department of the company, who was in Winnipeg the first of the week, was asked as to the truth of the report, which THE COMMERCIAL first learned from another source, and he did not deny it. THE COMMERCIAL feels warranted in saying that the mill will be built.

The millers of Minnesota, or several of them, says a Minneapolis telegram, do not deny that there is on foot a movement looking to the formation of an association of all prominent millers in the spring wheat belt, but they do deny that the organization will have anything to do with controlling prices. A minimum price may be agreed upon, but no maximum. The idea is to have prices open, so that every miller in the association may know what every other miller is getting for his goods. In this way the millers will unite against the buyer who is responsible for the cuts in prices.

The announcement concerning canal tolls, says a Montreal telegram, has been received with great dissatisfaction by grain and shipping trades, who claim that the extra tolls will seriously affect the trade of this port. Under the new regulations, grain to Montreal for export will pay just eight cents per ton, or a quarter of a cent per bushel, more than last season, while grain through Welland, for export, via Ogdensburg, will pay ten cents per ton less than last year. The corn exchange is to take the matter up, and an agitation will be at once started to make the canals entirely free.

A meeting of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange was held on Wednesday. The clause of the by-law of the constitution relating to membership fees was so modified that after January 1st, 1894, the annual fee will be raised to \$20, and providing that should exigencies so demand, the council may make one or more special assessments upon members to meet the ordinary current expenses or any deficiency in the management of the ordinary current affairs of the Exchange; such special assessment shall be payable at such time and in such manner as said council shall direct; provided also that such special assessments shall not exceed in the aggregate the sum of \$10 per each member for any one year. All entrance fees to be funded and not to be used by the council in payment of the ordinary current expenses connected with the management of the affairs of the Exchange. The committee appointed to interview the C. P. R. authorities re free carriage of seed grain reported favorably. Such seed grain is to be equal to samples provided by the Dominion grain inspector. The words seed grain includes barley and oats. A gentleman has requested the Exchange to furnish him with five bushel samples of frosted and other low grades of wheat for the purpose of securing a test as to the value of these grains for distilling purposes, with a view to securing better prices for these grades than is now received when it is utilized only for feed. For the purpose of making the test a special permit has been obtained from the Inland Revenue Department at Ottawa. The members of the Exchange are all favorably impressed with the idea and will furnish the samples provided.

The attention of the Toronto *Empire* has been called to the fact that a Canadian canned goods packer was placing soaked peas on the market without labelling them as such, and with the fictitious name of a company as packers. There are two direct infractions of the law in this, for each of which the offenders are liable to a penalty of not less than \$2 per tin for not putting the word "Soaked" on, and the same for a fictitious name,