

considerable losses made at present prices holders decline concessions as much as possible; tendency, however, continues in favor of buyers."

GROCERY TRADE NOTES.

Latest advices from Japan report a firm and advancing market for new crop rice.

The market for Jordan shelled almonds is stronger according to cable advices from Malaga.

Stock of currants in London on November 30 was reported at 13,215 tons, compared with 9,955 tons in 1899.

The American Sugar Refining Company was manifesting a disposition to shade its prices on some kinds of soft sugars about the end of last week.

Advices from London, England, say that the market for dried fruits is rather quiet, with a slight upward tendency. Increased activity and higher prices are expected at the beginning of the new year.

Stocks of figs in the London market on November 30 were reported to be 11,370 packages Turkey, against 17,884 packages a year ago and 21,710 packages Faro, Greek and Malaga, against 31,150 packages on November 30, 1899.

Stocks of raisins in the London market on November 30, compared with stocks at the same time last year, were reported as follows. Valencia and Denia, 4,270 tons, against 1,830 tons; Smyrna Sultanias, 3,520 tons, against 3,065; muscatels, 250, against 319.

Mild weather has brought disaster to those speculators who have been trying to work a corner in December eggs in Minneapolis and other markets of the Northwestern States. The hens started laying vigorously and all calculations of the manipulators were upset.

Latest mail advices from Barbadoes say: "We regret to have to report a continuation of very unfavorable weather for next season's sugar crop. The past fortnight has continued to be very dry, and the canes have suffered considerably throughout the island. This will undoubtedly affect the yield and the output will most certainly not be as large as was at first anticipated, while another few weeks of similar weather will prove of great injury."

"The stagnation in the raisin trade has become very general," says The California Fruit Grower. "Eastern buyers are refusing to take delivery of goods ordered, and for no apparent cause other than that the market is off and they don't want the raisins. Arbitration is refused, other reasonable, business-like methods have been suggested, and in like manner turned down cold. The question arises with the shipper, what can we do about it?"

"The London currant market, according to mail advices," says the Hills Bros., "has passed through a most trying time. Considerable quantities purchased by outside speculators for shipment from Greece on the usual 90-day bankers' credits owing to the maturity of the bills and the inability of the receivers to meet their engagements have been sold without limits by the bankers, and enormous losses have resulted. The failure of the speculators has reacted upon consignees of various parcels of merchandise from Greece, who, seeing the market tumbling, have been forced to sell in order to realize the advances made against shipments, the demoralization appears to be complete. The market in Greece remains steady and is slightly higher than the London level."

THE HARDWARE TRADE.

METAL PRICES.

Nearly every line of metals is lower at present than it was in 1899, says the Montreal Gazette. One exception is tin which is a little over 5% higher in Great Britain than it was at the same time last year. Copper in New York also is slightly higher than it was in 1899. The following figures, taken from W. T. Russell & Co.'s circular 66 Maiden Lane, New York, will be interesting in this connection.

British prices:	1900.	1899.
Scotch warrants	£ 4 d	£ 4 d
Middlesboro, No. 3	51 9	65 9
Lead, soft Spanish	10 2 6	16 17 6
Spelter, O. M. B.	18 12 6	20 7 6
Straits tin, spot	112	106 5
Standard	71 10	72 15

	1900.	1899.
Pig iron warrants	\$10.50	\$15.50
No. 1 foundry, Pittsburg ..	15.25	22.50
Bessemer pig, Pittsburg ..	13.75	21.00
Steel billets, Pittsburg ..	19.75	32.50
Sheet steel bars, Pittsburg ..	20.75	35.50
Lead, desilverized	4.37 1/2	4.65
Spelter, western	4.25	4.70
Straits tin, spot	25.25	25.50
Copper lake, Ingot	17.00	10 1/2
Tin plates, cut, 1000b	4.00	4.65
Antimony, Cookson's	10.50	11.00
Antimony, Hallett's	9.25	9.75

HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.

On December 18th the new blast furnaces of the Canada Iron and Furnace Company, at Midland, Ontario, were officially opened by Hon. G. W. Ross, premier of the province, with fitting ceremonies. A special train from Toronto brought a crowd of visitors to join in the festivities.

Oil chain was quoted slightly higher last week in Ontario wholesale circles. Prices per 100 lb. are now as follows to the retail trade: 1/4-inch, \$8 to \$8.50, 5-16 inch, \$5.35 to \$5.85, 3/8-inch, \$4.35 to \$4.85, 7-16 inch, \$1.15 to \$1.65, 1/2-inch, \$1.05 to \$1.50, 3/4-inch, \$3.85 to \$1.35, 1-inch, \$3.80 to \$1.

The Independent Glass Company, of Pittsburg, with a capital stock of \$300,000 and representing a total capacity of 900 pots, was formally organized last week with a charter granted to the company under the laws of New Jersey. The new company will act as the selling department for practically all the independent window glass manufacturers of the country, and will come into direct competition with the American Window Glass combine in the window glass market.—Paint, Oil and Drug Reporter.

Several changes were made in the price of building paper last week in eastern markets. An advance of 10c in the price of tarred felt to \$1.70 f.o.b. Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton and London, and \$1.80 f.o.b. St. John, N. B., and Halifax, was one of the most important. An advance of 5c in the price of ready roofing in rolls was also made which brings the price to \$9c per roll for two-ply and \$10c per roll for three-ply f.o.b. Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Campbellford, Toronto, Hamilton and London, and \$5c per roll for two-ply and \$1.10 per roll for three-ply f.o.b. St. John and Halifax. Ready roofing in squares was raised to \$1.65 per square for three-ply and \$1.40 for two-ply f.o.b. Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Campbellford, Toronto, Hamilton and London.

THE IMPLEMENT TRADE.

BINDER TWINE.

The binder twine market has undergone little or no change during the last fortnight, prices remaining about the same. Sisal and standard twine is now being offered at 7 1/2 cents in small lots, but practically no sales are being made. Owing to the absence of demand, it is difficult to form any judgment as to the probable tendency of values. The present figures may be too low or they may be too high—several factors in the market conditions will have to be more developed and more clearly defined before definite conclusions can be reached—and the relative importance of these factors cannot be brought out until active buying by the retail trade gets well under way. In the meantime, it may be remarked that no material change in prices is looked for until after January 1st.—Implement Age

INCREASED USE OF FARM MACHINERY.

The increased use of farm machinery was at one time thought to be taking so much work away from the laboring class that in some places mobs burned the harvesting machinery when taken into the farming districts because it was going to take away the poor man's means of support. To-day it seems to be realized that only by the use of such machinery is the cultivation of large areas made profitable and possible, and these large tracts actually employ more labor than did the small ones which were grown in the days of hand labor. They have also helped the poor man in another way. They have increased the amount of food production, and cheapened its cost, so that we are not only obtaining our own food at less cost than thirty years ago, but are selling large amounts of it to the people of other countries, not only to the profit of the farmers, but

to the advantage of those who grow it, and those who find well-paid employment in transporting it.—American Cultivator.

IMPLEMENT MAN IN THE WEST.

A. M. Stewart, of the implement firm of Johnston & Stewart, returned to the city on Monday from an extended trip over the main line west in the interests of his firm. While away he travelled as far as Edmonton and brings back a very favorable account of the growth and progress of that northern metropolis as well as of other points in Alberta, both north and south. There is more money in circulation in the Territories than in Manitoba and a good spring order business has been done. He found a substantial increase in the number of settlers now in the far west and thinks that that country has a great future before it by reason of its proximity to the profitable markets of British Columbia. In the more easterly parts of the territories and north from Regina progress and prosperity are no less plainly in evidence. An increasing amount of implement business is being done in the Territories each year.

IMPLEMENT TRADE NOTES.

Arthur Atkinson, who has been spending several months at Racine, Wis., in the interests of his portable elevator, has returned to Winnipeg with a complete structure.

The Minneapolis correspondent of Farm Implement News says. Two of the leading twine houses have made opening prices on binder twine. They are on a basis of 7 1/2 cents for sisal and standard in less than car lots. No quotations are made on manilla. Car lots are offered at 1/4 cent off these prices. Contracts are being closed with retailers on this basis, but there are not many. The average retailer is not yet forgetful of last season's troubles and is not buying. One of the leading twine jobbing companies is not yet making prices for the reason that the managers believe twine will be considerably higher early in the year.

MINING MATTERS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Two thousand dollars worth of new machinery is being installed at the Winnipeg mine, Boundary Creek district.

W. J. Porter, formerly superintendent of the Brandon and Golden Crown Mining Company, Limited, Greenwood district, is in Brandon, Man., endeavoring to raise money for carrying on development work.

The New Denver Ledger says: The Arlington shipped 50 tons of ore last week, Bosun 20, Whitewater 443, Payne 124, Ruth 53, Last Chance 59, American Boy 37, Idaho 55, Queen Bess 22, total for the week, 625 tons.

Work on the Emma, in Summit camp, was resumed with a small force last week. The claim was located in 1891 by W. T. Smith, who with McKenzie & Mann, owns the claim. Only surface work will be attempted for the present.

Rossland Miner Yesterday at Fairview an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Fairview Corporation, Limited, was held, at which certain resolutions were passed authorizing the directors to enter into an agreement with George Gooderham, of Toronto, to, among other things, sanction an agreement dated November 24th last, between the corporation and Gooderham. The agreement states that Gooderham advances the corporation the sum of \$20,000, as a loan, at 6 per cent, per annum, in consideration for which the directors give an option upon an undivided half interest in all the lands, mines, properties and assets of the corporation at the sum of \$100,000, for a period of five months. If Mr. Gooderham elects to take up the option a new company with a capital of \$1,000,000 divided into 1,500,000 shares of the par value of \$1 per share will be formed. The shares in this new concern will be divided as follows. The Fairview Corporation will receive 500,000, George Gooderham, 510,000, and the balance, 490,000, will remain in the treasury. The Stemwinder mine is noted as having one of the largest low grade ore bodies on this continent. With the solution of an economical method of mining and treatment, this property, competent mining men say, can be

made a second Treadwell. Within 20 miles to the south of the mine are magnificent water-falls, on the Okanagan Free Gold Mines, which if secured and developed, would go a long way toward the solution of cheap power.

The Great Dane group, Sandon, consisting of the Great Dane, White Star and Fisher claims, on Crawford Bay, silver, lead and copper ores, has been bonded by a French syndicate for \$50,000. There is a 12-foot ledge on some of the claims, with assays of \$60 from the ore.

A dispatch from Windsor, Ont., dated Dec. 22, says. At a meeting of the shareholders of the British American and Detroit and Lareau Mining Companies it was decided to wind up both companies, the assets to be taken over and stockholders paid with shares in the Canadian Lareau Mining Company.

There was a good attendance of shareholders at the meeting of Golden Star held in Toronto last week, those present representing about 75 per cent of the stock. It was unanimously decided that the present company sell out to a new company to be formed with a capital of one and a half million dollars, the shareholders in the old company to have shares in the new, the stock to be 95 per cent paid up, subject to 5 per cent calls at the discretion of the directors. The first call to be of one cent, and all other calls to be spread over a period of months.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—No. 1 hard closed at 61 1/2c in store Fort William.

Flour—Local price per sack: Patent, \$1.50; \$1.20; best bakers', \$1.70.

Oatmeal—\$1.70 per 50 lb. sack to the retail trade.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$9.50; \$10.00 per ton; shorts, \$11.50; \$12.00, delivered to city dealers.

Oats—Carlots on track, new oats, 21 1/2c, according to quality.

Barley—24 1/2c per bushel for feed grades of new; 28 1/2c for malting.

Country wheat—48 1/2c per bushel, according to grade and freight rate to farmers at country points.

Corn—in carlots, 40 1/2c per bushel of 50 lb.

Flax—\$1.20 per bushel.

Butter—Dairy, 18 1/2c per lb. for best grades.

Cheese—Regular sizes, 13 1/2c to the retail trade.

Eggs—18c for Manitoba fresh.

Hides—No. 1 green hides, 7 1/2c per lb.

Wool—8 1/2c for unwashed fleece.

Seneca Root—37c per lb.

Hay—Baled, \$5.50; \$6.50 per ton on cars.

Potatoes—Choice new potatoes, 40c @ 45c per bushel.

Poultry—Turkeys, 11c per lb; chickens, 9c; ducks, 8c; and geese, 9c per lb.

Dressed Meats—Beef, 5 1/2c; mutton, 7c; lamb, 9 1/2c; hogs, 5 1/2c.

Live Stock—Cattle, 2 1/2c @ 3 1/2c, as to grade; sheep, 4c; hogs, 4 1/2c off cars, according to quality.

Fresh Fish.

W. J. Guest had a carload of salt water fresh fish in this week from Nova Scotia. The consignment consisted of a fine lot of mackerel, shad, cod, eels, sea bass, flounders, tommy cod, smelts, and brook trout. These will be much appreciated by consumers here who have learned to relish the tasty sea fish in a fresh condition.

"Well, Willie," said the minister to a four-year-old youth, "I suppose you are going to hang up your stocking Christmas eve?"

"Yes, sir," replied Willie.

"And I suppose," continued the good man, "that your papa, mamma and sister will hang up theirs also?"

"Mamma and sister will," replied the little fellow, "but pa said he expected he'd have to hang up his watch."—Chicago News.

Jimmy—What time do yer have ter get ter work?

Johnny—Oh, any time I like, as long as I ain't later than 7 o'clock.—Harper's Bazaar.

"There's one consolation about insomnia," remarked the sufferer.

"What is that?"

"While I lie awake I don't have nightmare."—Tid-Bits.

Hoax—Since you've made a lot of money I suppose your wife keeps a lot of help?

Joax—No, but she has three or four hindrances.—Philadelphia Record.