

HARDWARE AND METAL TRADES.

London brass-workers will organize a trade union.

Manufacturers of cast iron soil pipe declare an advance in values amounting to 15 per cent.

Plumbers' supplies on country account are moving somewhat more freely, but the city trade remains dull and lifeless.

Trade with Manitoba and the North-West is fairly good, but collections from this quarter are not as prompt as they should be.

The price of galvanized pipe has advanced, and a discount of 50 per cent. alone, instead of 50 and 5, as hitherto, is now allowed off list.

Leather belting is advancing and prices have stiffened fully ten per cent. during the last fortnight. This is due to dearer raw material.

Tinware is not moving freely. The season is advancing, and it is but natural to expect a falling off in the demand for spring specialties.

It is pleasing to note advanced prices in several lines of hardware goods, and we may expect this industry to lag behind in the race toward improvement.

Trade in block iron and sheet steel has fallen off a little, although enquiries for quotations are such that there is every indication of a free movement next month.

Trade in metals is not without encouraging features. Galvanized iron, tin plate and tinned roofing are in demand, and shipments from stock are fairly large. Import orders for these goods are being freely booked.

Retail dealers on the north shore of the Georgian Bay and the Upper Lakes are sending in their orders freely now. The first boat leaves Collingwood this week, and carries large shipments from Toronto wholesale houses.

The week's trading has not, on the whole, been quite as brisk as that of the preceding week. Orders, however, are fairly satisfactory, and merchants regard the lull as but momentary, and look for renewed activity soon.

If it is possible to gauge the extent of the trade in dairy products during the coming season by the demand this spring for churns and creamery supplies, the trade will be very large. Although the spring is now well advanced, the demand continues and large shipments are being made by Toronto wholesale houses.

DRY GOODS JOTTINGS.

Berlin merchants are discussing early closing.

Hamilton tailors object to the representatives of Toronto houses seeking orders in that city.

Large consignments of American cotton goods are being forwarded via C.P.R. to Shanghai, China.

Strathroy is ambitious to have a carpet factory, and a movement is on foot to boom a concern to the extent of \$3,000.

The Port Elgin, N.S., woolen mills, which have been closed during the greater part of the winter, will soon be in operation again.

The Waterloo Knitting Company, of Waterloo, Que., has begun the erection of an ell to the factory, in which blankets will be made.

A meeting was called for last week of the Richmond Water Power and Manufacturing Company, whose affairs are said to be in need of reconstruction.

Fancy gauze, taffeta, and satin ribbons will be noticed on mid-summer gowns as belts, collars, bows, imitation box plaits on waists, plastrons, etc.—*Economist*.

The weather as we write is all that could be desired by retailers, and influenced by the warm, summer-like days, the demand for summer dry goods is day by day growing larger.

Montreal retail milliners say that 1895 has opened up badly for them, and although the last few weeks have given evidence of improvement, prospects are not of the brightest sort.

The number of buyers representing Canadian wholesale houses, says the *Draper's Record* Bradford correspondent, has been somewhat further increased on this side. Although a few are operating rather largely, fearing a further rise in prices, others are purchasing with the greatest caution, and complain of the cutting policy induced by the excessive competition in the Dominion, which will probably be heightened when the big United States jobbers start working their ground, assisted by the reduced tariff.

The returns of the Ulster linen trade published for last month give the number of yards of linen exported as 20,338,800, against an average for five preceding years in the same month of 13,966,500 yards, or equivalent to an increase of 45.6 per cent. The increase in value is not proportionate, being £364,067, compared with £320,708, or 13.5 per

cent. For the same periods there are shown to be increases to the United States, 89.7 per cent.; British America, 85.9 per cent.; France, 34.9 per cent., and Italy, 28.5 per cent. in quantity.—*Draper's Record*.

At the annual meeting of the Globe Woolen Mills Company, Montreal, held at the office of Mr. A. F. Gault on Tuesday, the annual report presented, under existing circumstances, was considered satisfactory. The year, on the whole, has not been a good one for woolen mills, and the company has suffered more or less from keen competition. The old board were re-elected as follows:—Sir Donald A. Smith, Mr. A. F. Gault, Mr. Andrew Allan, Mr. Hugh McLennan, and Mr. R. R. Stevenson. At a subsequent meeting of the directors Mr. A. F. Gault was elected president, and Mr. Hugh McLennan, vice-president.

The following Canadian arrivals in England are reported by the *Draper's Record*, April 20th: Mr. J. W. Scott (Messrs. Alexander & Anderson, Toronto), Mr. J. D. Keenleyside (Messrs. Robinson, Little & Co., London, Ontario), Mr. T. Brophy (Messrs. Brophy, Cains & Co., Montreal), Mr. E. Giguere (Messrs. McCall & Co., Quebec), Mr. A. B. Macpherson (Messrs. Lonsdale, Reid & Co., Montreal), Mr. J. N. Richardson (per "Amama"), Mr. J. H. Fleming (the Canadian buyer), Mr. J. L. Bradshaw (Toronto), Mr. N. B. Sellar and Mr. J. Alexander (Messrs. Alexander & Anderson, Toronto). Messrs. Brophy, Macpherson, Sellar and Fleming were in Manchester on Tuesday.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Advices on Japan and Formosa teas are strong in tone.

A new canning factory is being built in Fredericton, N.B.

The grocers and provision dealers of St. Stephen, N.B., talk of early closing.

The Truro, N.S., Condensed Milk Co. are extending their premises with a view to increased business.

American and Canadian brands of corned beef advanced in price again this week.

The Ogilvie Milling Co., Montreal, propose, it is said, to expend \$100,000 in elevators in Manitoba and the Territories this year.

Under the Government butter bounty of 20 cents a pound, 915 packages have so far been sent to England, 246 medium packages sold in Montreal (at more than the Government price), and 224 inferior packages rejected.

On April 24th, 1,999 crates and 26 barrels of Canadian lobsters were shipped from Yarmouth to Boston by steamer "Yarmouth." They are being sold in the American cities at prices ranging from 12 to 20 cents a pound.

That the sale of intoxicants should in every case be wholly separated from the sale of groceries or other domestic supplies, is the finding of the Royal Commission, which recently presented their report upon the liquor question to Parliament.

Recent advices from Calcutta by telegraph state that the estimates for the new season's tea crop are out, and that the aggregate is fixed at 140,000,000 lbs., of which about 126,000,000 lbs. are reckoned as disposable for shipment to the United Kingdom, as against about 118,000,000 lbs. reported at this time last year.—*N.Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce*.

A prominent Montreal milling concern issued the following to their patrons last Saturday: "We beg to advise you that, owing to the high price of Manitoba wheat, we are obliged to advance prices of flour. We quote to-day, f.o.b. Montreal, as follows: Patent Hungarian, \$4.15; strong bakers', \$4; Algoma, \$3.25; Glenwood, \$2.60; Canadiane, \$2.30."

The summer fruit season will soon be in full swing, and merchants are looking to Montreal now for the season's first arrivals. It is to be hoped that we may not experience a glut similar to that of last spring. Official manifests report 48,500 boxes as the cargoes of the first two steamers this year, as compared with 77,050 boxes in the two steamers that arrived first last year. This is a promising sign, for although Montreal may some day become a great central fruit market, at present her distributing capabilities are limited.

Just when we were thinking it strange that no one had yet this spring predicted a total failure of the peach crop, we read the following in the *Hamilton Spectator*: "It is a little early to make any forecasts of fruit harvests this year, but, as indications now point, the peach crop looks as if it will be a failure. This is by no means positive, however, as in the fall the wood matured well, but the severe frosts have been hard on the buds, and with this is the fact that there was a large crop last year. Two big crops seldom follow each other in Canada."

The maple sugar season is a time of great interest in many parts of the Eastern Townships. The present spring, however, has not been a favorable one for the industry. From Glen Sutton, Fulford, East Bolton, Abbotsford, South Stukely, accounts come to the St. John's News