

United States Trade Reports.

New York, Sept. 17.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade tomorrow will say: The end of the bituminous coal strike and the return of many of the men to work at advanced wages adds to the purchasing power of the people and the anthracite strike affects not a fifth as many workers. The starting of many mines and works, the enormous export of wheat and corn, the favorable news as to the crop of cotton, the fall in sterling exchange and the report showing that gold imports began in August, exceeding exports by \$2,890,587, while merchandise exports exceeded imports by \$40,953,753, have all contributed to forward the improvement in business. The replenishment of stocks cannot be half finished, though some who could see no sign of improvement a few weeks ago are now finding it so vast and rapid that they fear a reaction when the tide rises after four years of depression it does not fall again after four weeks. The iron industry shows increasing demand and an average of price nearly one per cent higher due to purchasing by consumers.

The shipments of boots and shoes from Boston are 23 per cent. larger than for the same week of September last year, which, in turn, exceeded those of any previous year. But business is mainly for quick delivery, and orders for spring goods are still very much retarded by uncertainty about future prices. While leather is held firmly in spite of increasing business, hides at Chicago have taken the turn downward, declining an average of 3.8 per cent. for the week. Actual buying of wools by mills is increasing at all markets, with the belief that foreign supplies are short.

Failures for the week have been 204 in the United States, against 317 last year, and 40 in Canada against 32 last year.

BRADSTREET'S REVIEW.

New York, Sept. 17. — Bradstreet's to-morrow will say: Notwithstanding unseasonably warm weather and the appearance of yellow fever in several gulf states checking locally the distribution of merchandise, business throughout the country has increased more than anticipated. The centre of improvement is Chicago, which furnishes the most favorable trade report within five years. Advices from Kansas City, Omaha, St. Paul, and St. Louis also reflect actively in demand among jobbers and wholesalers. There is a temporary stimulus to business at Savannah owing to the withdrawal of competition from merchants at towns cut off by the yellow fever quarantine. Chattanooga, Memphis, Atlanta, Augusta, Galveston and even St. Louis anticipate a temporary falling off in business owing to the interruption to traffic in the gulf states and adjoining territory. The practical settlement of the bituminous coal strike, a further rising tide of demand for iron and steel products, the withdrawal from the market of some manufacturers of woollen goods, activity generally among manufacturers of woollens, extraordinarily large bank clearings, and reports that mercantile collections have improved contribute the features of the week.

Prices for thirty of the more important staples continue to show pronounced strength, only seven being lower than last week—wheat for Indian corn, lard and pork, the result of a natural reaction for preceding

advances, lead and cotton, which has begun to move more freely. Unchanged prices are reported in copper, coal, print cloths, leather, hides, oats and for wool, which remains very strong with an upward tendency. Higher prices are given for sugar, rice, coffee, butter, eggs, potatoes and canned goods, among food products, for woollen goods for spring delivery, for some grades of men's shoes, whiskey, white and yellow pine lumber, iron and steel bars, southern and bessemer pig iron and for steel billets.

MINNEAPOLIS MARKETS.

Flour is 15c lower than a week ago, Corn 1c lower. Flax 21-2c higher. Barley 1c higher. Eggs 1-2c lower. Butter 1-2c higher for dairy and 1-2c to 1 1-2c higher for creamery.

Flour—Prices in barrels: First patents \$5.30 to \$5.50; second patents \$5.15 to \$5.35.

Millfeed—Shorts in bulk, \$8.50 to \$9; bran in bulk, \$7.50 to \$8.

Corn—Quoted at 26c to 28c for No. 3 and No. 4.

Oats—21 to 21 3-4c for No. 3, and No. 3 white as to quality.

Barley—New, held at 26c to 27c, as to quality, per bushel of 50 pounds. Flax seed—\$1.06 1-2 per bushel.

Eggs—10 1-2c to 11c for strictly fresh candled, the latter price including cases.

Butter—Creamery, 12 1-2c to 18c dairy, 10c to 15 1-2c.

Cheese—Choice to fancy, 6 to 9 1-2c.

Dressed meats—Mutton, 6c to 6 1-2; yearlings do., 7c; lamb, 5 1-2c to 8 1-2.

Dressed hogs—4 1-4c for heavy; choice 4 3-4c to 5c.

TORONTO LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Special to The Commercial.

Mullins & Wilson wire The Commercial the following reports of prices realized at the semi-weekly live stock market at Toronto, on Friday, Sept. 17th.

Toronto, Sept. 18.

Sixty-eight car loads were offered, including 1,800 hogs and 900 sheep and lambs.

Cattle—Exporters paid 4 to 4 1-2c. Butchers cattle sold at 2 3-4 to 3 1-2c. Bulls, 3 to 3 1-2c. Stockers, 2 1-2 to 3c. Feeders, 3 to 3 1-2c. Stock bulls, 2c.

Sheep—Export sheep brought \$3 60 per 100 pounds; bucks, 3c per lb.; lambs, 4 1-4c to 4 3-4c per lb.

Hogs—Hogs, best bacon, 57-8c per pound; thick fat, \$5 to \$5.25, and light fat, \$5.25 to \$5.50 per 100 lbs., weighed off cars.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK PRICES.

Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Sept. 18.

The only change in live stock is a lower tendency on hogs, which ranged 1-4c lower at the last market. Prices are as follows:

Cattle—Export, 4 to 4 1-4c; choice shippers, 4 1-2c; cattle, butchers, 3 to 4c.

Sheep—2 3-4 to 3 1-4c.

Hogs—4 3-4c to 5 1-2c.

Exports this week were as follows. Cattle, 3432; sheep, 2217. Total exports for the season to date: Cattle, 25,500; sheep, 39,200; horses, 6,159.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Sept. 18.

Oats have advanced 1-4 to 1-2c. Eggs are 1-2c higher. Other lines quoted are the same as a week ago.

Oats—No. 2 white in store, 29 to 29 1-2c.

Flour—Manitoba strong bakers, \$5 to \$5.50; Manitoba patents, \$5.50 to \$5.85.

Millfeed—Manitoba bran, including sacks, \$11 to \$11 50 per ton. Shorts \$12 to \$12.50.

Oatmeal—Rolled oats, \$1.60 to \$1.65 per bag.

Hides—Unchanged at 8c for No. 1 and 7c for No. 2.

Eggs—Fresh, 11c to 13c.

MONTREAL GROCERY MARKET.

Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Sept. 18.

Sugars steady and firm. Dried fruits very firm. Teas, molasses and syrups firm. Canned goods weak and irregular. Granulated sugar, 4c in lots of over 250 barrels, and 4 1-10c for 100 barrel lots, at the refineries; yellows, 3 5-16c to 3 3-4c. Barbadoes molasses, round lots, 28c; jobbing lots, 24c to 25c. Syrups, 18-4c to 2 1-2c as to quality. Valencia raisins from 5 1-2c to 6c. Coffee, Rio, 12 to 16c; Mocha and Java, 21c to 26c.

CANNED TOMATOES.

Interest in new crop canned tomatoes has increased in proportion with reports from packing centres that the output from the factories will in all probability fall much below the average of recent years and that in many cases packers are already over sold. Within the past week there has been an advance of 5c to 7 1-2c per dozen in the prices of southern goods for forward shipment and the market is still tending upward, owing it is said, in great measure to urgent demands from western packers who are compelled to buy in order to make good their contracts, their own crops being inadequate. Up to 80c has been paid within a day or two for large lines of Marylands and Delawares f.o.b. Baltimore, it is reported, to go west. Old stocks have been very closely cleaned up, the practice of retail sellers in using tomatoes as a leader at exceptionally low prices having caused a larger consumption, it is understood, than might have been the case had selling prices been based upon actual cost. Canned tomatoes have never been so cheap as during the past year or two, sellers say, but now in view of the prospective short crops in all parts of the country it seems to be expected that prices will go back to the figures which prevailed before the general depression in business and the curtailing of consumption caused by the break in quotations which inaugurated a period of exceptionally low prices. The scarcity of fruit in the producing districts and the comparatively high prices obtainable for green stock are said to be inducing the farmers to resort to subterfuges in order to avoid meeting contracts they made at the beginning of the season.—Montreal Journal of Commerce.

ITALY'S SHORT CROP.

Rome, Sept. 18.—According to the official statistics, the wheat harvest in Italy is estimated at 80,000,000 hectolitres against 51,000,000 hectolitres in 1896.

Oats were 1-4c per bushel higher at 29 1-4c to 29 1-2c in store at Montreal on Monday last.

It is reported that Hon. William Pugsley is negotiating for the construction of a railway to open the Edmonton route to the Yukon.