

## THE TIMBER TRADE.

In London the pine business is nearly all confined to goods on the spot, says the *Timber Trades' Journal*, April 3rd. At present importers are making sales, and though orders are as yet rather small, inquiries are coming forward more freely than they were a few weeks ago, and prices are still on a remunerative basis. Cabinetmakers are well supplied, but the stock of seasoned goods in dealers' hands is very small, and prices likely to be higher later on. The offers from the Upper St. Lawrence are entirely confined to the new season's cut, and at present buyers are somewhat shy, waiting the tide of events. Spruce prices are strong, though the stock here is large, but while demand keeps at its present level the probabilities are that it will be considerably depleted before the new shipments arrive. In both pine and spruce the heavy clearance of oddments by public auction has not apparently affected values of regular goods, and whatever influence it may have had has now disappeared; it is hoped, however, that the heavy sacrifices entailed in these summary methods of realization will prevent any more goods of similar grades and sizes being sent to this market.

## BRITISH TEXTILE CENTRES.

There is a fairly active trade passing in the textile centres of the United Kingdom. Costume coatings and crepons have had a fair run in Manchester, and, as a rule, it may be observed that bright colors will be in demand in these and similar goods this season. Many of the cloths offered are dyed in variations of the royal purple shade, which has been applied with some success to dress goods. It has also been extended to men's neckwear, and will very likely be overdone. Ladies' striped hose is in fair demand, and in gloves black and colored points have a good deal of support. Skirt manufacturers are using fair quantities of cream-colored cloths and batistes. Beaver cloths have been used by some of the leading manufacturers of capes, and the making-up trade generally is brisk. In the linen sections there is now a considerable business passing. There is not much doing in some of the cheaper goods. The silk trade is very brisk, but a large percentage of the goods offered consists of foreign makes, French houses having recently made heavy shipments to Great Britain.

The new month has opened well in Bradford, so far as the American trade is concerned. In the home trade there is, perhaps, a little more inquiry from users, who are afraid that stocks in holders' hands may be getting low. As a rule, however, users observe the greatest caution, and their transactions are limited to the smallest possible purchases.

Many patterns of winter goods have been out at Leeds for some time, and more are in preparation. In the overcoating line not much that is new has yet been shown. Standard fabrics, such as presidents, naps, reversibles, beavers and meltons, are going off very well among shippers. Canada is looked to as one of the best customers in this line. At the present time large quantities are quietly being sent on consignment to the United States by way of forestalling the new tariff.

Carpet manufacturers in the Kidderminster district are fairly well employed, but do not find any excessive demand. An average season, however, will probably be experienced, although the trade has been later than usual.

In Nottingham, Valenciennes, point de Paris and Malines take the lead in millinery laces. A fair quantity of Oriental laces is selling, but many of these are foreign made. Bretonnes, Maltese and Brabants sell moderately. Embroideries and trimmings are slow of sale. Makers-up of fancy goods are busy, ruchings, aprons, caps, blouses, and so forth, being in good demand. Plain goods sell well, and bobbin nets are dearer; Brussels, Mechlin and zephyr tulle sell well. There is only a slow call for stiff nets. In silk, Mechlin and Chantilly nets sell freely.

Late mail advices, dated April 3rd, note the arrival in Great Britain of the following Canadian dry goods buyers: Mr. A. Crawford (W. R. Brock & Co.), Toronto; Mr. I. B. Laliberte, of Quebec; Mr. J. H. Cockburn (Cockburn, Drake & Rea), Toronto; Mr. J. G. Whytlaw (R. J. Whitla & Co.), Winnipeg; Mr. G. H. Pack (G. Goulding & Son), Toronto; Mr. R. H. M. Bremner (Hodgson, Sumner & Co.), Montreal; Mr. W. R. McArthur (Stobart, Sons & Co.), Winnipeg; and Mr. H. M. Belcher (Galt Bros. Co., Ltd.), Montreal.

## COTTON GOODS.

The Canadian manufacturers' agents have completed their orders for the autumn supplies of printed and colored cotton goods. As was to be expected from the tariff uncertainties, the volume of trade placed this season is far lighter than that of previous years. All orders have been placed subject to the risk of lower duties. The wholesale mer-

chants have in consequence restricted their orders almost entirely to requirements for the purposes of samples. A number of wholesale houses have already received their samples and others hope to complete their sample goods this week. As the tariff measure is promised for Thursday, April 22nd, it is expected that the trade horizon will then be cleared and the travellers will be able to take up their different routes at once. The manufacturers are apparently not expecting any radical reduction in the amount of protection they now enjoy. Should the present duties be continued they expect large repeat orders from the wholesale interests at once. Stocks of goods in the hands of both jobbers and retailers are said to be very low. Tariff uncertainty has been hanging over the trade for some months and stocks have been allowed to decline within the minimum trade requirements.

## FODDER CHEESE.

The attraction of high prices in the cheese market has placed too great a temptation in the way of dairymen. Everyone knows that the reputation of Canadian cheese must suffer from the production of an inferior article, and fodder cheese is, at the best, a poor commodity. Toronto merchants are quoting fodder cheese at 9½ cents per lb in the jobbing trade, and prices throughout the country are unusually high. In view of these values there is a strong inducement to the individual factoryman to look no further than at present gains. If the marketing of this inferior product were confined to the local market, then the evil results of the trade might not be serious. The mischief is caused in the export trade. The British consumer is an expert in cheese. He knows good cheese from bad cheese. Although slow in forming new tastes, he is quick in his prejudices. It is not likely that the public of Great Britain will make any discrimination between grass made cheese and fodder cheese. In Canada we know that this product is but a temporary feature of the industry; in Great Britain all Canadian cheese is judged by one standard. The name "Canadian" must be responsible for all the faults of the cheese exported from this country, just as it wins merit from the many excellent qualities of that product.

Mr. Alex. W. Grant, of Montreal, who is now in England, has cabled to Canada advising the farmers not to open their factories before May. He says: "Canadian fodder cheese are being offered by thousands for future delivery on the English market at a price equal to 3½d. in Montreal, thus causing great demoralization in the trade. If farmers will persist in making fodders, they will ruin the price of grass cheese, and also destroy the confidence in the future of the market." All this is thoroughly sound advice. Mr. Grant adds: "Filled cheese are being imported from America in defiance of the law, being double bandaged, and having the branding smudged in order to evade the regulation of the revenue department." Such practices as this deserve the severest penalties enacted by the laws. Canada has built up a world-famed trade in cheese, and this can be maintained only by continued industry, care and honesty in the manufacture and marketing of dairy products.

## THE BUTTER TRADE.

There is only a moderate activity in the butter trade. All receipts of choice dairy on the local market meet with a ready demand. Creamery butter is in more liberal supply. A number of Ontario factories are putting in creamery plants, although it is late in the spring, and will make butter until the cheese season opens up. Moderate shipments of creamery are being made to the British markets. Messrs. W. Weddel & Co., London, report the importations of Canadian butter during March as follows, the dates indicating the close of the week: March 6th, 351 cwts.; March 13th, 119 cwts.; March 20th, 122 cwts.; March 27th, 48 cwts. As will be seen from these figures, the shipments have been very irregular and variable in quantity from week to week. Messrs. W. Weddel & Co. report of the London butter trade April 2nd:

"The butters from Sydney show that the temperature has been too high for the production of a perfect article. This deterioration is very conspicuous in some makes, especially in the dairy butters that are worked over again on the agents' tables and repacked as if they were actually creamery or factory butters. Genuine factory butter still shows negligence in transit between the refrigerating rooms of the factory and the cold chambers of the vessel. In several brands the butter has been so soft that it has worked up from the bottom of the box in folds three or four inches high and half an inch thick under the parchment paper in which it is packed. The Copenhagen committee has reduced the official quotation from 92s. and 98s. 6d. to 84s. and 95s., which shows the maximum has fallen 3s. 6d. and the minimum 8s. This unexpected fall is due to the slow and dragging markets all over the North of England and the South of Scotland during the past week. Considerable interest is being excited about the Queensland butter which is on board the 'Jumna,' and which is expected will be on the market early next week."