

## THE GROCERY TRADE.

## THE CURRANT MARKETS.

Private mail advices from Liverpool just received report on the situation in currants as follows, say the Montreal Gazette: "During the first half of February the volume of business continued to be of a satisfactory nature for the time of the year, and moderate transactions took place, principally in the better growths, from 35s to 38s, with occasional parcels of choice at 38s to 40s; provincial was only moved with difficulty, owing to somewhat unattractive quality, but sales were enacted at 31s to 32s, with a little at 30s 6d. For the past fortnight a very quiet tone has prevailed, and that pressure exerted in some quarters at a time when buyers were unwilling to respond, has caused values to recede a little, the most noticeable reduction being in fruit between the prices of 35s to 37s; provincial has also suffered a slight relapse, anything over 30s being difficult to obtain unless for quality above the average.

The duty-paid clearances for the month have reached the exceptional figure of 1,081 tons, being about double the average of former years. The fear, in some quarters, of a possible advance in the duty has been partly the cause of this increase, though such an event gains little credence among the majority of the trade. It is more likely that a curtailment of fruit lying at the disposal of their customers has been removed from bond by dealers as a matter of precaution to themselves, and therefore the present unusually light stock in bond must not be altogether taken as an indication of an increased con-

There has been no alteration in the position of the currant market, only a moderate demand being experienced for all descriptions, says the London Grocer, of March 2. Fair Provincial in quarter cases is on offer at 30s, and a few parcels of Vostizza have sold at 36s. The clearances for the month have been fairly satisfactory, and with no arrivals the stock is gradually approximating to that of last year.

## Grocery Trade Notes.

A further decline of 1c per gallon for Barbadoes molasses is reported, and the prospects are that it will go much lower as present indications point to a large yield.

Mail advices from Seville, Spain, report high prices there for new crop olives. Fruit 70-80s is offered here by one house on the basis of \$1.50 per gallon, and 100-150s at 80c per gallon. Manzanilla counting 280 to 310 per kilo is offered at 45c.

The crop of California oranges during the season now drawing to a close has been large and the fruit of exceptionally good quality consequently a large business has been done. The moderate prices asked has added to the volume of business.

The salmon fishing season on the Columbia river opens by law April 15 and continues until August 15. Then there is a closed season a month after which the fall catch begins, lasting until the fish cease running about the end of November. There are no legal limits to the fishing season on Puzos Sound or in Alaska.

Refined sugar dropped 20c per 100 lbs. on the Montreal market last week. A depressing factor in the situation is the Russian sugar which is being placed on the eastern market. The quality of this sugar is very inferior to the Canadian article but the low price at which it is being offered is proving an inducement to some buyers. The New York market for refined sugar is still unsettled, and a further reduction is predicted by some. Prices are unchanged for the raw article. London cables report cane sugar as quiet and a slight decline for beet sugar.

## Dry Goods Trade Notes.

The market for all description of cotton goods continue very firm. The Canadian mills have issued their prices for a number of lines for fall delivery already, and in no instance has there been a reduction in price. Some talk is heard about fluctuations in raw cotton at New York, but in any event this could not affect values of the finished goods to be delivered during the next few weeks as the mills have already purchased their supplies of raw material. The fact should not

be lost sight of that speculators in raw cottons may be manipulating values for the purpose of loading up. An impression has also been created that there is a famine in cotton goods in Chinese markets.

It is now thought by many that prices for woollen goods have touched the bottom and will after this show a gradual improvement.

Reports from the south indicate that the movement of Swiss embroideries and Valenciennes laces have been much larger than a year ago, and all lines of white goods show a substantial increase over last season.

In the east there is a very active demand at the moment for everything gilt—gilt trimming for hats and dresses, gilt spikes for ribbon ends and buttons. Ball pearl buttons for blouses are in good demand, being popular for the coming season. There is a very fair inquiry for some lines of ribbons, mostly velvet ribbons. Taffeta ribbons in wide lines for neckwear are selling quite freely.

Weavers in all the large factories of the United States are demanding an increase in wages amounting to about 50 per cent, and if their demands are not complied with they threaten to go out on strike. There is, therefore, every prospect of a material advance shortly in the price of all grades of silk and satin ribbons. Some of the manufacturers have already met the demands of the union weavers and it is thought that this action will make it impossible for other manufacturers to hold out for very long. There has also been an advance in the price of raw silk. It is anticipated that an advance of about 40 per cent. over present prices will be made shortly.

## THE IMPLEMENT TRADE.

## THE TWINE MARKET.

The price of twine as held by a number of manufacturers—probably a majority in capacity—was advanced another 1/4 of a cent the fore part of the week. This action followed closely upon a new advance in sisal fiber but does not yet bring the price of twine up to the point justified by the current hemp market. In fact, at the new rate there is a shade less difference between the fibre quotations and the wholesale price of twine than there was at the beginning of the season, which fact strengthens the prevailing belief that another rise is imminent. Not all of the sellers have, at this writing, advanced, but it seems scarcely probable that the advanced rate will not be the universal price before the end of the week.

The amazing strength of the market has materially checked the disposition to sell and the manufacturers, as a rule, are not anxious to round up orders at the present time. The general opinion, amounting to almost positive conviction, is that twine is good property to hold. So much twine has been sold at a margin unprecedented in its meagreness, the manufacturers naturally hope for a condition that will enable them to bring the average profits up to a more satisfactory figure; and they are willing now to assume whatever risk may be involved in holding back.

Little manila twine is offered or sold. One of the largest houses recently instructed its salesmen to take up orders for the manila grades wherever possible and substitute sisal and standard. At current prices this ought not to be a difficult undertaking, since sisal and standard offer greater value yard for yard. Good manila fibre is scarce and the price high. Some of the houses are holding the manila grades 1/4 cent higher than the quotations which follow:

Sisal	.....	5 1/2
Standard	.....	5 1/4
Manila (600 foot)	.....	10
Pure manila	.....	11 1/4

Car loads 1/4 cent less. Five ton lots 1/2 cent less. Delivery Chicago and other central points. Fall terms.

—Farm Implement News.

## Implement Trade Notes.

The recent convention at Grand Forks of the North Dakota and Northern Minnesota Retail Implement Dealers' Association was a success. The attendance was large and the membership is now placed at 100 dealers in the two sections. Many matters of importance were considered during the two days' session. The convention will be held next year at Crookston, Minn.

A report from Solsgrith, Man., on Friday last, said it now looks as if the chief business of Solsgrith, in the future will be the handling and selling of farm implements, wagons, bugles, cutters, etc. By May 1 there will be no less than six or seven men engaged in the implement business, which looks very like long division for a short constituency. And in addition to the six or seven persons engaged here in the implement business, this territory is being looked after by two large well managed firms in Birtle. So if there is anything in competition our farmers should be able to purchase machinery at rock bottom prices this year.

## THE LUMBER TRADE.

## RAIL LOGGING IN THE UNITED STATES.

Within the last three or four years there has been a decided change in the policy of northern railroads in regard to hauling logs. Naturally enough they took the ground that it was good policy for them to encourage the manufacture of lumber in mills scattered through the timber rather than take the logs to central points, as thus they would be given a longer haul on lumber at a higher rate than could be charged on logs and would have a return tonnage of importance, but their policy has been changed owing to two influences. One is the building of private logging railroads, and the other is a newly developed competition with river driving. As the timber has been cut away from the logging streams, making the haul too long for economy, private logging roads have in many cases been built to take the logs from the stump to the streams. The regular lines have concluded that they might as well take the logs from these private roads or from along their own lines to the mills and thus make some business for themselves as to allow the logs to go down the streams. Consequently all through Wisconsin and Minnesota logs are being hauled by rail to mills which formerly depended entirely upon river driving for their supplies. Exclusively logging roads have greatly increased in number and mileage, while all the roads tapping the timber districts are doing a logging business. It is estimated that in those states there are at least 650 miles of standard gage track built exclusively for logging, much of it now used for general traffic; and it is also estimated that of the 750,000,000 feet of logs handled annually in the Duluth district, fully half are delivered at the river bank or the mill by rail. Minneapolis, Menominee, Merrill and many other prominent milling points now receive a considerable percentage by rail, whereas not long ago they depended entirely upon the streams.—American Lumberman.

## Lumber Trade Notes.

Sash and door manufacturers at Minneapolis report that the demand for new work is good and that a large number of estimates are being asked for.

Indications point to an exceptionally large amount of building this year throughout Canada and the United States. This is due to the prosperous condition of nearly all lines of business as well as to the fact that the high prices last year for lumber and building supplies deterred many from building.

Duluth advices indicate that the market is firm with prospects of advances. Stocks in hands of manufacturers are being picked up fast and it is estimated that there are now not more than 25,000,000 feet of dry lumber remaining on dock at the head of the lakes and these stocks are broken lots. Fully \$1 more was paid last week than was asked last fall. Weather conditions are making operators more firm if anything, and some fears are entertained for a shortage of logs.

Central Wisconsin mills have put up their prices on white pine to agree with recent advances, and shipments are reported as heavy for the season.

Capt. J. J. Campbell has secured a timber limit, comprising 3,200 acres, at the junction of the Pelly and Yukon rivers, about 200 miles from Dawson. A mill will be erected at Dawson and the logs floated down the river to that point. The timber is said to be of very fair size.

Hardwood lumber prices are not what they should be in the United States. Some of the minor grades are reported rather dull, but on the whole a stronger feeling is evident. Stocks of leaders at the mills and in consum-

ers' hands are light and the revival of the consumptive demand for hardwoods, which has been predicted for some weeks, is now showing some definiteness. A better tone is noticeable in quartered oak and the enormous stocks of off-grade quartered oak which existed last year have been pretty well worked down.

## Grain and Milling Notes.

The summer storage of grain in Quebec City from May 1st to November 15th is 1/2c per bushel for elevating into vessels, including 10 days' free storage. At Montreal it costs double that charge to put grain out of store into vessel.

The Edmonton Bulletin says: The figures of local grain men show that there have been marketed here and in Strathcona, of last summer's crop, some 712,000 bushels of oats. The average price paid, it is estimated, was 2 1/2c placing the total revenue of the district from this cereal alone at \$178,000.

An excellent Argentine authority cables that wheat estimates are being reduced and that 800,000 tons, or a little under 30,000,000 bushels, will be shipped to Europe. This implies a crop of over 62,500,000 bushels. Total exports from last crop were about 74,000,000 bushels. The late cutting down of early estimates is largely due to inferior quality of a portion of the crop, so inferior as to be unfit for breadmaking or other commercial uses. This year Argentine farmers are much better off and will hold their product firmly.

A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota State Senate providing for the assessment and taxation of wheat in elevators on May 1st of each year. The owner of the elevator will be assessed regardless of the actual ownership of the grain and will be given a lien, to the amount of the tax paid, on grain not his own. At the present time the elevator owners are taxed for the grain in store but outwardly the assessment is not made against the grain but against the real estate. The elevator men submit to this arbitrary assessment as they do not care to have it generally known that the grain is taxed fearing that knowledge of that fact might deflect shipments to other points.

## Hardware Trade Notes.

Steel plates advanced \$2 per ton in United States markets last week. The market for iron and steel is buoyant and the tendency of prices is upward. It is generally believed in the trade though that the new trust will hold things pretty well in hand as regards prices and that there will be no more violent changes in prices.

## Financial Notes.

K. D. Johnson, of the Molson's Bank, Revelstoke, B. C., has been transferred to Calgary.

Offers for purchase of \$28,000 debentures of the rural municipality of Westbourne, Manitoba, will be received until April 15, 1901. The debentures bear interest at 5 per cent., and are payable \$1,000 in each of the years 1900 to 1921, and \$1,500 in each of the years 1922 to 1931, and are the renewal of an unpaid balance of \$75,000 issued in 1881. T. L. Morton, Gladstone, Man.

John H. Wilson, manager of the branch of the Imperial Bank, at Strathcona, Alberta, has been transferred to the management of the branch at Prince Albert. J. M. Kains, accountant of the bank at Edmonton, has been promoted to the management of the Strathcona branch, and the vacancy left by the promotion of Mr. Kains will be filled by Wm. Macdonald, at present accountant of the bank's branch at Revelstoke, B. C.

The latest addition to the list of quotations on the Montreal and Toronto stock exchange is the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway, which is at present quoted at par, the asking price being 110. This compares very creditably with the Toronto street road, which is offered at 108 1/2. The capitalization of the Winnipeg Street Railway Company is \$2,000,000, of which \$768,000 is paid up common stock. The receipts for the last fiscal year were \$280,132, and the expenditure \$170,536, leaving a surplus of \$109,597.

The license commissioners of Manitoba have been asked to authorize a transfer of licence from H. W. Sloan, restaurant keeper, Winnipeg, to D. W. Pratt.