

HOMICIDE.

In two recent numbers of the "North American Review," Cesare Lombroso, the Italian criminologist, gives statistics to show that the crime of homicide is more prevalent in the United States than in Germany and England, and moreover, that in the first-named country it is on the increase. A close examination of the professor's figures, however, shows that there is no great cause for alarm. The relative proportion of homicides per 100,000 inhabitants is 90 in Italy, 75 in Hungary, 58 in Spain, 25 in Portugal and Austria, 18 in France and Belgium, 13 in Sweden and Norway, 5 in Germany and England, and 12 in the United States. This country, therefore, in number of homicides compares very favorably with most European countries, and if the statement is correct that 40 per cent. of the homicides are committed by the negro population, it is clear that if it were not for the negro population the comparison would be still more favorable.—*Investigator*.

LUMBER CONDITIONS IN THE STATES.

In the New England and Middle States the lumber trade is gradually recovering from winter apathy. The wholesale trade at Tonawanda is evidently assuming fair spring proportions, as is that of Buffalo in the distributive as well as consumptive branches. Business at Albany has fairly reached spring proportions, though a flood in the river there has hindered shipment by water. The New England demand on Albany stocks gives earnest of a sizable trade in that section during the season. Affairs are reviving in the New York district, and the movement of lumber is now fairly large, with increasing interest manifested in further supplies. Philadelphia demand is stimulated by the resumption of building operations in and around the city, which call for hemlock, northern, southern and Carolina pine, as well as the hardwoods. The Baltimore business is moving on to a spring basis. Boston is a little backward this season, it being claimed there that suburban building was overdone last year. But there is a likelihood that Maine spruce will not be in as plentiful supply this year as was expected, on account of the early closure of the logging season, caused first by an enormous snowfall, and secondly by a rapid thaw, which prevented further operations. A stiffer spruce market will be a benefit to the Boston and New England trade.

As has been before indicated, a peculiar condition of the market for northern pine is becoming manifest this spring. Prices at the mills, both on dry-stock and that to be cut, are held at prices higher than prevailed last fall. As eastern and western dealers express it, the mill operators have their noses in the air, and are demanding prices without any apparent regard to those prevailing in the distributive trade. If that was their attitude before the early breaking up of the logging season, it is emphatically so now that there has been a failure to put in from 15 to 25 per cent. of the logs intended to be banked.

Dealers from the east and lake markets have already made pilgrimages among the mills for the purpose of sizing up the situation and some contracts have been made. But generally speaking the attitude of the wholesale trade, east and west, is that of waiting for further developments. The situation is made more interesting by the aspect of the lake carrying business. The newly organized Vessel Owners' Association has determined that the season shall open with the rate from Duluth to Buffalo at \$1.75 a thousand, instead of \$1.62½, as last season. The shippers are already protesting against this and taking measures to fight the combination rate.

The northern pine mill operators have some reason for demanding higher prices than last year, and holding firmly to them. Dry stocks have been sold off to such a

degree that good chances to purchase are scarce. There has been a remarkable demand for box lumber and culls, and large blocks have been sold. Dimension was not over-plentiful last fall, and the supply to come forward this spring is comparatively meagre, while wholesale and retail stocks in city and country yards are rapidly diminishing under the influence of the spring trade. There soon must be replenishment, with less than the usual amount to be drawn upon. It is probable that hemlock dimension will this year be in larger request than usual as a means of escaping the higher prices that will be demanded for Norway pine lumber.

Reports from all the yellow pine markets continue to indicate remarkable prosperity. In the Middle Gulf States orders for railroad and car factory material seem to be as plentiful as ever.—*North Western Lumberman*.

STOCKS OF GRAIN AT LAKE PORTS.

The following table, prepared from reports of the Chicago Board of Trade, shows the stocks of wheat and corn in store in regular elevators at the principal points of accumulation on the lakes, March 19, 1898:

	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.
Chicago	7,796,000	17,049,000
Duluth	3,020,000	3,084,000
Milwaukee	113,000	123,000
Detroit	109,000	17,000
Toledo	223,000	897,000
Buffalo	648,000	756,000
	11,909,000	21,926,000

As compared with a week ago, the above figures show, at the several points named, a decrease of 343,000 bushels of wheat and an increase of 88,000 bushels of corn. On the same date there was afloat at Chicago 1,693,000 bushels of wheat, 7,920,000 bushels of corn, 232,000 bushels of oats, 198,000 bushels of rye, and 93,000 bushels of barley; at Buffalo 386,000 bushels of wheat; and at Milwaukee 1,509,000 bushels of corn and 316,000 bushels of oats.

WILL COME TO YOUR HOUSE.

The beautiful Hindoo fable of Kisagotami is based upon the universality of death. She was a lovely young wife, who had just lost her first-born child, and was found by a priest on the wayside moaning bitterly over her bereavement. The priest soothed her in his simple and earnest manner, and finally promised her that if she would go from house to house and find one where death had not entered, and bring to him a certain kind of seed therefrom, he would restore her lost child to life. So Kisagotami walked up and down the land enquiring at every door for the house over whose threshold death had failed to pass. Her search was long and tedious, for nowhere was such a house to be found. After many months she returned to the priest and related her fruitless and pitiful search; but she had gained these—patience and knowledge.

This is said to have happened in Asia long ago. But there are many in our land to-day who seem to think death should not or will not happen to them. It may visit the folk afar off, and in other lands; it may even come to their neighbors, but the last thing they have in mind is that it will ever come to them. Some mental hasheesh has created this delusion, which should be thrown off. Death is certain, and the deliverance from its earthly ravage is found only in life insurance.—*The Weekly Statesman*.

—Despite the industrial depression which prevailed in England during 1897, the amount of alcoholic beverages manufactured and sold in that year shows an increase of \$17,500,000 over the figures for 1896. The inevitable conclusion seems to be that idleness is conducive to thirst.

PAY UP.

Now is the time when all owing small accounts at the stores should make it a point to call and settle up. The merchants do not get their goods for nothing, they are not doing business for the love of it, and when they are kind enough to oblige a friend by giving them his goods, that person should make it a point to pay for all the goods he got, not wait until he is dunned and dunned, and dunned, then to pay up the account, give impertinence and say mean things. The individual that will do that will do worse only for the law. Some people get credit and when repeatedly asked for the amount, say: "Just get it when you can now that you are in such a hurry; have only had your goods ten or eleven months," and they act as if the merchant does not keep books or know all about the transaction. How they promised on the honor of a man to pay at such a time, and that time has long gone past and no pay, proving beyond any doubt that their word was no good. We wish to inform all such persons that the merchants from whom they got their goods know all about them, points them out on the street. "There goes a man that owes me so much, promised to pay but did not; he is a dead beat." The merchant and everybody else knows them. Did you ever think of that, Mr. Debtor? If not, just think of it now and rush and pay up every cent you owe and be a free man.—*Wallaceburg News*.

—French post-office employees are between the devil and the deep sea. They have just received an order first forbidding them to read postal cards and next directing them not to allow insulting or libellous postal cards to pass through the mail.

—An old colored citizen, hearing the rumors of war with Spain, applied for the position of cook to the army. "What experience have you had?" he was asked. "I wuz cook in de Confedrit army, suh," he replied—"dat is, I had de position of cook, but, ter tell de truth, I didn't wuk at it." "Why?" "Dey wuzn't nuttin' ter cook, suh!"—*Atlanta Constitution*.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, March 30th, 1898.						
Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average price same date 1897.
Montreal	240	238½	20	245	235	240
Ontario				110	102	106
Molson				906	196	906
Toronto				235	237	236
Jac. Cartier	230	230	25	100	98½	100
Merchants	180	178½	33	183	179	181
Commerce	139	138	80	140½	137½	139
Union	103	103	4	115	103	107
M. Teleg.	179	179	30	179	175	177
Rich. & Ont. Nav.	97	92	465	95½	253	93
Mont. St. Ry.	259½	248	3148	256½	255	255
new do	257	252½	500	190½	190½	191
Mont. Gas Co.	192	184½	2010	8½	8½	8½
Can. Pac. Ry.	82½	78½	9815			
Land Grant bds					50	181½
N.W. Land pref.				177½	173½	175½
Bell Tele.	175	174	15			
Mont. 4% stock						
Gas	187	181½	425			184

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, March 31st, 1898.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Receipts of both dairy and creamery butter are increasing. The export demand is not much improved. Dairy and creamery men are marketing their output here in preference to the United Kingdom. Prices remain as quoted in our last issue. There is a little better outlook for cheese. Some export enquiry has come to hand, and although quotations are low, it is pleasing to know that transactions are taking place. Local quotations are 7½ to