

## Visible Supply Reports.

As we have frequently stated before, the visible supply reports are not extensive enough to answer the purpose for which they are compiled, and as given to the public by the daily press are very deceptive. Instead of giving out the totals as the visible supply of grain in the United States the compilers should announce that it is a report of some of the grain stored at 18 American and 2 Canadian points.

The Canadian points included are insignificant as points of accumulation when compared with Ft. William, Port Arthur, Winnipeg and Prescott, yet no effort has been made to have their stocks included. There are also a number of points on the American side which are of far more importance as accumulative grain centers than some of those which are included. Why markets like Erie, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Louisville, Newport News, Richmond, Nashville, St. Louis, Galveston, Omaha, Denver and Ogdensburg have been denied admission to the sacred pale, has never been satisfactorily explained.

The old claim that the admission of these markets and the private elevators would destroy the comparative value of the reports is all bosh, for everyone who knows anything regarding the grain business knows that the capacities of the houses included in the report are continually being increased as well as the number of elevators.—American Elevator and Grain Trade.

## Industrial Progress of Japan.

A correspondent of the London Times sends an account of the Kioto Industrial Exhibition, which he visited along with a crowd of whom nearly every third man was armed with a note-book. The Japanese, he says, "are rapid writers, and seem to take as copious notes of what they observe in their own country as they have been doing in Europe and America these thirty years past. The exhibition is national and periodical, being held every fourth year, for the express purpose of stimulating progress in arts and manufactures, and their success in this direction has not been small. The charge for admission is 5 sen, equal at present exchange to 1½d. On Saturdays the fee is reduced to 3d, and on Sundays it is raised to 2½d. For the custody of an umbrella the charge is ½d, and so on, farthings, or less, for pennies throughout. What the exhibition has to show of progress in the various branches of manufacture could not be adequately described, even by an expert hand. As a whole, the useful preponderates over the ornamental. The variety of new fabrics, the wealth of new designs, and the audacity of new adaptations of material to the wants of life are all so impressive that one cannot resist peering into the not distant future when yet greater developments of the creative energy of Japan will be revealed, possibly to the consternation of the West of the Christian world. It would be superfluous to dwell at this time of day on the supersession of Lancashire which has already taken place. Osaka, with its forest of chimneys—as many as there are churches in Moscow, 868—speaks eloquently to the world on this theme. But what Lancashire may possibly be still a little slow to realize is that Japan will not content herself with ceasing to import English cottons, but will not rest till she has carried the war into her rival's territories and has supplanted Lancashire in China as well as in Japan. Everything favors this evolution. One does not need to be a bimetalist to perceive how laborers' wages at six silver yen per month, or say, 8s 8d per week, with other expenses in proportion, must tell in competition with European charges. And Japan is extending her conquests in many directions of textile manufacture. Woolen fabrics—to which the war has imparted a wonderful stimulus—

canvases and the heavier cotton goods, cordage of all descriptions, carpets of cotton and hemp, in which already a large export to the United States has been established, are all well represented in this great sample bazaar. The multiplicity of small articles now made by the Japanese is bewildering, and one turns from them with the irrefragable reflection that there is nothing within the range of human ingenuity which in course of time they will not fabricate, and whatever they make at all they will make well, and to undersell the whole world. Perhaps the most striking, though not the most important, productions of Japanese ingenuity are their professional and scientific instruments. When one comes upon complete sets of the most beautifully finished surgical instruments, fitting into exquisite cases, one sees it is no child's play the Japanese are engaged in.

"The Japanese are keen learners and anxious to accommodate—two most important qualities in a manufacturer, and qualities in which the universal experience of alien mankind pronounces the English manufacturer to be conspicuously deficient. The hats made by the Japanese and universally worn by them may not be equal to Lincoln & Bennett's, but they look well, and I am informed, wear well, and so serve every practical purpose one wants of a head covering. These hats, in felt, hard or soft, cost 8s 6d in Japan and could not be bought in the cheapest shop in London under 8s 6d, generally 10s 6d, and I suspect the superior finish of Sackville street would run the price up to 15s.

"Boots and shoes I can vouch for from personal experience, whether made by the Japanese or the Chinese, I have worn them in London, and had them valued by London bootmakers at just double what they actually cost. Eye-glasses and spectacles, again, may not be equal as to either lens or frame to Carpenter & Westley's make, but it would take an expert to tell the difference by inspection. In donning the western dress the Japanese do not, as might have been a priori expected, seek the cheap and nasty; it would have been repugnant to their nature to do so. They never go shabby, and they show a decided penchant for black cloth and white linen. I generally find my Japanese friends better dressed than myself. Neatness in dress and cleanliness in person, house, street, boat or carriage are instinctive with these people—it is an instinct of perfection and order, and rightly considered, it is undoubtedly the key to the Japanese secret."

## The Dry Goods Trade.

High collars are still very fashionable, 2½ and 2¾ inches being the most popular. Collars to meeting front seem to have the preference, although the turned points are in good demand. The new style next year will be the high turn down with a wide band. The same style is being brought out in cuffs to match for links.

Imported serges, in navy and black, and worsteds, in blacks, blues and colors, are having their usual demand for the spring trade. Fine lines in Scotch and English suitings and fine trouserings are in active request. Fancy vestings, for which there was more than the ordinary call during the past fall, are again a strong feature of the trade. A class of goods of not very desirable character in Canadian tweeds turned out by some of the mills consisting chiefly of shoddy, have been superseded by a fabric equally cheap, made of cotton and wool, which is far more durable and will be an advantage to the Canadian trade.

A new departure in negligé shirts this season, which is bound to give great satisfaction has a soft body, no collars and attached cuffs. White collars can be worn with these goods, which make this line a much more desirable

one than the old neg-ge, as a clean white collar can be put on each day. This is a sensible idea and is likely to come more into favor every day. It will also be of great benefit to the retail trade, as it will curtail the sales of white collars. These collarless negligé shirts are shown in the usual hair-line patterns and in small designs on blue grounds. This line has had a large run in the States.

It is not at all necessary that a dress material be made in England, France or Germany in order to ensure popularity. There is a demand in London and New York just now for genuine Canadian hand-made Halifax tweed. A commission has been sent by a London firm to a local house here instructing them to procure all they can get of this fabric. The production is limited and very little can be obtained. This demand has been caused through the London public taking freely to Harris, skye and other Scotch homespuns or tweeds. This class of goods was formerly manufactured exclusively near the river Tweed, Scotland. The London people are buying the Halifax tweed so as to enable them to show a novelty that will compete with the Scotch tweeds. The Canadian habitants who make these goods have orders at a considerable advance, which will keep them busy for some months. These homespuns are brought out to great advantage in Norfolk jackets. The skirts to go with these are rather short. They are especially adapted to golf playing and other outdoor exercises. This suit has a rough Scotch tweed appearance. In domestic mill goods there are shown a very large range of homespuns, equally suitable for gentlemen's suits or ladies' costumes. The colorings are principally on the light shades. In point of quality they are not to be excelled, only the best grades of wool being used. These lines are expected to be a leading feature for the summer trade.—Toronto Globe.

Employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway company who had their salaries reduced 5 to 10 per cent. last April have received notice that salaries will be restored.

Owing to the continued mild weather and the liberal receipts of dressed hogs, the Montreal market was weak on Saturday, December 21, and sales of fifteen and twenty-five bunch lots old at \$1.50.

"Your factory belongs to the union, doesn't it?" asked this inquisitive person.

"Yes, it does," answered Mr. Manufacturer grimly. "I used to have a fool notion that it belonged to me, but I got over that."

The demand for dressed beef has been very slow during the week, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin of Dec. 20, front quarters selling from 2½ to 3c, while hind quarters brought 1 to 5c per lb. Manitoba dressed beef in car lots sold at 5c.

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