

WESTERN RHETORIC.

Our readers have been given opportunity of reading in our columns several times of late specimens of the poetry and philosophy of mining camps. Among the exchanges which have come to us this week is "Lowery's Claim," of Nelson, B.C.; and we give some extracts below from the front page, the sententious sayings on which we take to be Mr. Lowery's own. For example:—

Easy money generally proves a curse to the one who gets it.

Remember, sonny, that you cannot punch a hole in a bank safe with a cigarette.

In Nevada water is so scarce in some of the mining camps that saloons cannot afford to put it in the whiskey.

If you crave for the simple life in all its glory, come west and grow up with the fruit trees in the mountains around Nelson.

Hell has been thoroughly discussed in Toronto this winter, and some think that it is the cause of the mild winter back East. Strangers with a thirst can always find hell in Toronto on Sundays.

[N.B.—It was the "Golden Star" man, and not Lowery, who recently visited "Back East." Ed. M. T.]

Vice, crime and misery are almost entirely produced by environment. If poverty could be crucified by changed social and economic conditions the days of jails, parsons, and policemen would be remembered only as hideous dreams of the past.

It is only fair to say that the selections from other journals to be found in its sixteen pages are often as full of pungent humor as the editor's own nuggets. He is sometimes mildly platonic in his wisdom; sometimes carelessly profane. His paper is a good dollar's worth, any way.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, March 15, 1906.

Chemicals, Drugs, etc.—Opium and quinine, the chief staples, continue much as last reported, dull, though an improvement is to be noted of some small extent in quinine, owing to strong reports from Europe. Carbolic acid, menthol and camphor are all fairly firm. The trade being carried on at local and country points is fully up to average. Prices for the most part remain steady. From Manchester comes word that, in respect to chemicals, some good business has been done during this month, but latterly there would seem to be some slight signs of slackening. This, however, would not be surprising after the recent well-continued period of buying and selling; consumers can busy themselves in working off their purchases, and makers being well engaged can regard without concern an interval easier in new business. The general position continues sound, and the outlook appears to be not unsatisfactory.

In heavy alkalies there is really nothing new to report: values are steady all round, works are busy, and there is a fair amount of new business coming forward. In January, 1906, as compared with January, 1905, the exports of bleaching materials showed an increase of 1,335 tons, or £5,023, but it is surprising to note in soda compounds a decrease of 1,149 tons, or £14,281. In tar products there is a fair amount of trade passing, but the general tone is slightly easier. Solvent naphtha continues in good demand, and very firm, and stocks are low. Benzole has only a moderate enquiry, and any business transacted is at some little reduction on recent figures. Creosote is rather neglected at present; makers are in no way pressing, and consumers are easy, having good stocks. Crude carbolic has a good demand, and some good sales have been made at full figures.

Dry Goods.—As was anticipated last week, the trade, though by no means poor before, showed material improvement last week, owing no doubt to the presence in the city of many visitors to the millinery openings, who took advantage of their being in town to look over spring stocks and to give several sorting orders, which have greatly helped to augment the volume of business done. Apart from this there is no feature worth commenting on, except that prices keep as firm as ever for all lines of staple goods. Linens particularly are strongly held.

Flour and Grain.—Somewhat more enquiry has started up for wheat and oats, but apart from that, trade has been very dull, with few actual transactions. Bran and shorts hold their strength, and prices show no disposi-

tion to decline. The quotation bid for ninety per cent. patents is extremely low, only \$3 in buyers' sacks, and not much business is passing at such a rate.

Groceries.—Wholesale houses report a pretty good business, and this is likely to improve before the end of the month. Sugars advanced 10c. in the middle of last week, and the movement since then has been fairly brisk, with a hardness in values quite perceptible. Molasses has declined 25c., and the situation in that line is rather a quiet one. Teas are in improving demand, especially Ceylons, both greens and blacks. Coffee is a little on the weak side, with very favorable reports from Brazil as to crop. Ginger has advanced 2½c., but the demand for that and many of the spices is rather on the light side. There is a good enquiry for canned goods, especially tomatoes, which have gone up another 5c. There is considerable scarcity in this line.

Hides and Leather.—Since the decline in prices the market has been quiet, though no further change is recorded. Tallow is unchanged. Leather prices remain practically unaltered. Not a very great volume of trade is being carried on, but the undertone to the market is satisfactory.

Provisions.—Prices for choice butter are good, the quality of most of the offerings not being up to the mark. Cheese is quite firm, and advanced half a cent or so a few days ago. Deliveries of eggs have not been so heavy since the colder weather. Poultry prices are fairly firm. Beans are unchanged at \$1.75. Smoked meats are steady to firm at old prices.

Wool.—No business is being done, and prices are purely nominal.

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