

packing boxes, but the west has held out.

Wholesalers claim that the movement will mean a large direct loss, which must be met in some way, probably by a slight advance in prices. The retail trade outside the cities will be the gainers, provided the wholesale trade do not make it up in prices charged; while the city dealer stands to lose if prices are advanced, without any advantage in any case, as goods in the cities were always delivered free and without packing boxes.

Pharmacy in Quebec.

The following amendments to the Quebec Pharmacy Act are asked for by the Grocers' Association.

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislature of Quebec, enacts as follows:

I. Article 4039 of the Revised Statutes of the province of Quebec, as replaced by chapter 46, 53 Victoria, section 12, is again replaced by the following:

4039. Nothing herein shall prevent the sale, by persons not registered in pursuance of this law, of the following articles: All patent medicines, alum, bicarbonate of soda, borax, camomile, carbonate of lime, castor oil, cochineal, cod liver oil, cream of tartar, epsom salts, flavoring extracts, ginger, sulphur, glycerine, gum arabic, hops, linseed, linseed meal, senna, tartaric acid.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the legislature which is now in session at Quebec will not stultify their former legislation by incorporating the amendment asked for.

To say nothing of vested interests, of practical experience gained by mastering the curriculum of study pursued by druggists, the public safety demands that as far as possible the sale of drugs and medicines, more especially of those containing articles which are included in the list of poisons, and the sale of which must be registered, should be kept in the hands of those who are qualified, both by experience and intelligence, to deal in such lines.

The Pharmaceutical Association of Quebec, we believe, are willing to grant that "in places where no licensed druggist is in business," the sale of simple patent medicines should be allowed by others, but they claim, and very justly, that the public interests and welfare are better served by allowing the law to remain as it is at present.

We have not yet seen any reasonable argument advanced why preparations of

the kind mentioned should be allowed to be sold elsewhere than by druggists in localities where drug stores exist. We all know that in Europe such a thing is not permitted, and certainly the public health and welfare of Canadians is every whit as important as are those of the older nations.

New Postal Decisions.

Arrangements have been made for an interchange of parcels by post between Canada and Bermuda, commencing the first of January, 1898. The postage rate to and from Bermuda will be sixteen cents per pound, and twelve cents per pound for each subsequent pound or fraction thereof.

After considerable correspondence, which has extended over a course of years, the Postmaster-General has informed the Manitoba Board of Health that the Government will allow the transmission of diseased tissue through the mail as fifth-class matter, which is to be closely packed in specially constructed double cans.

History of Saccharine.

Notwithstanding the vigorous attacks made upon the new product, it seems to be not only maintaining its position, but progressing commercially. A German paper thus decants on the development of this formidable rival to sugar: "Hydra sugar is the commercial name of the expurgated and re-crystallized form of the article which has been known for nearly twenty years or more as saccharine, which, while possessing to an intense degree the quality of sweetness, was so combined with objectionable impurities as to render it unfit, or not well adapted for more than a very limited line of uses. Hydra sugar, the purified form, which is the pure sweet, 100 per cent. pure, is a most interesting product, inasmuch as it is capable of such extended uses in the arts and manufactures, being perfectly wholesome, according to extended and thorough examinations by various experts in food products, and is therefore not open to the objection that is sometimes rightly urged against synthetic substitutes for long well-known substances. The material was first produced in the laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore about twenty years ago; and when the announcement was first made that such a substance had been produced from coal tar with such marvellous sweetness, it was received with incredulity by all, even by the renowned scientists of Europe, who jested over the matter and suggested, that according to tradition, bread had been made from stones, and that the recent discovery probably heralded the re-approach of the age of miracles. It did not take long, however, to convince the world that the sweetening power and

other good qualities of this article, when it could be obtained in a perfectly pure state had not been exaggerated. The trouble until recently has been to furnish an article free from objectionable impurities at a reasonable cost. This purely economical problem has now been solved satisfactorily, and the goods are offered under the name of hydra sugar, which is perfectly pure and 550 times sweeter than pure cane sugar. It has been tested and experimented with on human and animal life by innumerable well-known chemists, and is found to be perfectly wholesome. It has the indorsement of the German and American governments, who use it in army rations. It is frequently prescribed by physicians, and is an absolute necessity for diabetic patients, by whom it is used in tablet form as a sweetener of beverages, tea, coffee, etc. It has not to any considerable extent the food properties of sugar; but, on the other hand, it lacks some of the undesirable properties and this, taken in connection with the fact that comparative cost, relative strength considered, is considerably lower than even the now very low prices of pure cane sugar, makes it a most interesting article, not only to scientist, but to manufacturers and to the general public.

The following Ontario College of Pharmacy graduates passed very successful examinations at the last meeting of the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy, held at Fargo, N.D.: W. A. Master, '96; Fred. A. Wilson, '97; H. S. Monkman, '97. They are now registered Pharmacists according to Uncle Sam's laws.

Some pharmacists are very injudicious in their buying and selling. They buy articles which they are unlikely to sell, or buy in much larger quantities drugs which it is necessary to have fresh, that they become unsalable long before they are disposed of. Or they make the mistake in regard to drugs which keep well, of buying in too small quantities to make their sale reasonably profitable; whereas, if not able by himself to purchase in large quantities, by uniting with two or three of their fellows, they could buy in such quantities as to secure a very advantageous discount. Indiscretion in purchasing is apt to force one to indiscreet prices in selling; thus the business suffers in both respects.

Mr. John B. Curtis, who died recently in Maine, made over \$500,000 out of spruce gum. When a mere boy he originated the industry. At first he had not only to get and prepare the gum but had to teach the public to chew it.

The British Colonial Druggist is authority for the following statement that in Russia cows wear blue spectacles to protect their eyes from the glare of the snow, which produces blindness. A Moscow merchant has purchased a million pairs from an English manufacturer during the past five years.