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Decline in Plain Wire.

During the past ten days or so the plain wire market has developed a very unsettled feeling, owing to free offers of American oiled and annealed wire in Western Ontario. These are the first since the American iron market improved last spring, and as our own makers have advanced their prices, sales agents for American houses booked quite a number of orders. The competition was felt most keenly on certain gauges of oiled and annealed and plain annealed wire. It finally culminated this week in a shading of domestic maker's prices on certain lines, and further changes may follow if low American offers are kept up. The declines so far consist of a reduction of 20c on the price list of No. 10 oiled and annealed to \$2.60, and 80c in No. 11 ditto, to \$2.60. In plain annealed wire, No. 14 has been reduced 25c, to \$3. These reductions have led to the cancelling of quite a few orders placed last week for forward delivery with American selling agents. The trade discount continues unchanged at 20 per cent. of the lists. Terms remain the same, also 4 months or three per cent. off 30 day's lots of less than 1,000 pounds f.o.b. Montreal. Toronto and Hamilton freight prepaid to points where rate does not exceed 25c per 100 pounds. —Montreal Gazette.

High Fur Price Lists.

The Commercial has often warned shippers from paying attention to high price lists of furs. The following from 'The New York Fur Trade Review,' will prove interesting in this connection:

"Warrants were issued late yesterday afternoon by United States Commissioner Graves for the arrest of Chas. H. Mosher and Chas. G. Doriot, partners in the Detroit Raw Fur Company, charging them with fraudulent use of the United States mail.

The warrants were placed in the hands of United States Post Office Inspector Eugene Parsell, who made the complaint against them, for service. The inspector left on the afternoon train on the Wabash road for Columbia City, Ind., where he placed the men under arrest.

Lyman C. Mosher, who was engaged with the men in their business in Detroit was arrested at their store, 44 Jefferson avenue, by Deputy United States Marshall Large, and taken before the commissioner, where another warrant was issued charging him with being implicated with them in their operations. In default of \$500 bail he was remanded to jail and his examination was fixed for next Thursday afternoon.

All of the defendants reside in Columbia City, Ind., where they are engaged in the same business they carried on in Detroit, the buying and selling of furs. They established

their Detroit business about three months ago.

The charge against them is that they used the United States mail for the distribution of circulars in which they promised to pay liberal prices for all furs shipped them, and that they did not fulfil their promises, thereby perpetrating a fraud.—Detroit, (Mich.), Tribune, December 29, 1895.

Charles G. Doriot, junior member of the firm of Charles H. Mosher & Co., the Indians who comprise the Detroit Raw Fur Company, came to this city this morning, appeared before Commissioner Graves and pleaded not guilty to a charge of using the mails with intent to defraud. He was released on his personal recognizance to appear for examination when notified, and Mosher, the clerk, was also released from jail on the same conditions. Mr. Doriot stated that his partner would come here for examination upon notification. The case will probably not be taken up until next week.—Detroit Journal, December 31, 1895.

Postmaster Enright received on Thursday from the postmaster-general at Washington an order declaring the business of the Detroit Raw Fur Company to be fraudulent and forbidding the delivery of all mail addressed to that company. This is the first fraud order that has been issued affecting Detroit parties in a long time.—Detroit Tribune, January 4, 1896.

Unlawful use of the United States mails is the charge against Charles G. Doriot and Charles H. Mosher, of Columbia City, Ind., partners in the Detroit Raw Fur Company, and Lyman C. Mosher, their storekeeper in this city. They are alleged to have sent out circulars soliciting the shipment of furs, with the intention of paying for the furs received below their market value. To show this alleged state of affairs, a number of witnesses were examined by assistant United States attorney Charles T. Wilkins, the examination taking place in the court room before Commissioner Graves.

The first witness was Chas. Dyer, of New Haven. He testified that he had shipped \$20 worth of furs to the Detroit Raw Fur Company early in December. On December 18 the firm sent him a cheque for \$11.60. He sent the cheque back and demanded the return of his furs, but the firm only returned the cheque, saying that was all the furs were worth, and it was impossible to send them back as they had become mixed up with the other furs. This was the same answer given all the subsequent witnesses, who had requested the return of the goods.

Geo. E. Hunt, of Flint, swore he had sent the firm a quantity of furs on December 1. for which he had been offered \$10.50 by one and \$10.77 by another buyer. The Detroit Raw Fur Company sent him a cheque for \$5.68. This he returned, with a demand for his furs,

but he got the cheque back again with the usual answer. Wm. Schroeder, of Bay City, a fur buyer for Traugott, Schmidt & Sons, of this city, swore that on December 19 he had examined the furs and offered Hunt \$10.50 for them. He stated that they could not have lost half of their value during the shipment to Detroit. Similar testimony was offered by Mark Slomon, a Detroit fur dealer, who had looked the furs over on the same day and offered \$10.77 for the lot.

Albert Kelly, of Smith Creek, shipped the firm some furs on November 27, for which he had paid \$1. He received a cheque for \$1.20, and when he wrote the firm demanding full value or his goods back he got neither. Subsequently he came to Detroit to make things hot for the firm, as he said, and then he was given \$3 more.

Edward Brenner, of Port Hope, shipped a lot of furs to Detroit in November, for which he had paid \$8.25, and which he claimed to be worth between \$13 and \$15. He received thirty-seven cents in postage stamps, which he sent back asking to return the furs. The firm sent the stamps back to him, accompanied with the usual answer. Brenner sent the stamps back again and demanded the return of his goods at once. In reply he received the thirty-seven cents again and a horse hide which he had sent with the furs. Brenner testified that he subsequently sold the horse hide to Berry Bros., of this city, for \$1.80.

Other witnesses were examined and the defendants were bound over to appear at the next term court on bail of \$1,000 each.

"The Flying Squadron" and Corned Beef.

The New York Press says: "If England's flying squadron were to attack the United States she would use United States munitions of war against Americans. The fleet is stocked with beef, canned in the United States. A day or two before the squadron was ordered to sail west, the British government bought 500,000 pounds of corned beef of a Chicago firm. The meat was already in the company's London storeroom, so that there was no need of a shipment from this port. For nearly three years the British government has bought no United States canned beef, but has depended on supplies from its colonies. This sale is taken as indicating that Australian supplies have been exhausted. United States houses, since the complications abroad have caused comment, have increased their stocks at foreign ports, and the Chicago house was able to supply the government of Great Britain at the shortest possible notice. The Chicago house has sold recently a lot of beef—2,000,000 pounds—to the French government."