

## Hardware and Paint Trade.

## APPRECIATION OF METALS.

The iron and metal market continues to show remarkable firmness, and there appears to be no top to prices in many leading lines. A comparison of values, at prominent cities, recently makes this fact perfectly clear, the rise since the beginning of the present month being quite sharp. Pig iron in Great Britain for instance has moved up from 49s 6d on the 3rd of January to 51s 11d, and in the same interval No. 1 foundry iron at Pittsburg has risen 50c per ton to \$11.50. Lead spelter, copper and tin are all higher. In London lead is almost 9s per ton higher, being quoted at £13 11s 8d, and in New York \$1.25 per 100 pounds is asked for it, against \$3.95 on the first of the month. Naturally this strength is reflected on spot, and though round lots have been sold at \$3.75, lately, it is doubtful if they could be repeated at the same price. For spring importation \$3.57 1-2 has been asked, whereas last fall deliveries were made on the basis of \$3.35 to importers here. This rise in lead and an appreciation of 5s in dry white lead is apt to have an important bearing on the paint and color market, and the anxiety of Canadian color grinders to contract for supplies of dry white lead for spring shipment shows pretty clearly that they are aware of the fact. It does not seem likely, therefore, that buyers of ground white lead would gain anything by holding back their orders.

Spelter since the beginning of the month has risen 25c per 100 lbs., at New York, being quoted at \$5.35 on the 17th, and in Great Britain, it is 12s 6d per ton higher, at £24 12s 6d. The appreciation in the value of copper has been even more remarkable, as it has advanced \$1.00 per 100 lbs. at New York. Lake ingot being quoted there at \$14.25. In London the quotation has risen from £52 2s 6d to £62 15s. On spot, holders are very firm, and it is doubtful if a round lot could be obtained under 14c per pound. Tin is equally strong, having advanced \$2.15 per 100 pounds, in New York, since the first of the month, while in Great Britain the appreciation has almost been £10 the ton. On spot, accordingly, prices are much higher than they were, and bids of 23c were refused this week, for straits, 23 1-2c being asked. Montreal prices are: Summerlee pig \$18.25 to \$19.00; Fehlington, 16" Carnbro, \$15.50; No. 1. Hamilton \$15.25 to \$15.50; No. 2. do., \$14.50; Ferrona, \$15.00 to \$15.50; wrought scrap. No. 1. \$12.00 to \$12.50; bar iron \$1.40; tin plates, cokes, \$2.95 to \$3.00; I. C. charcoal, \$3.25 to \$3.55; Canada plates, \$2.15 to \$2.25;terne plates, \$5.95 to \$6.25; galvanized iron, 4 1-4c to 4 3-4c, as to brand; copper, 14c to 14 1-2c; ingot tin, 23c to 23 1-2c; lead, \$3.90 to \$4; and spelter at 5 1-2c to 5 3-4c; iron pipe, \$4 to \$4.25.—Montreal Gazette.

## HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.

Foreign advices are very strong on cement, and makers are sold largely ahead.

It is reported from Toronto that, "All the kerosene oil business in the Dominion has been absorbed by the Imperial Oil company, which is the Canadian end of the Standard Oil trust of the United States. The refining and manufacturing at Petrolia

and Sarnia will in future be done by the new trust, which will also deal direct with the trade."

A United States trade paper says: In hardware and kindred lines there is more activity in the way of advancing prices than perhaps any other branch of trade at this time. Pig lead has lately advanced \$1 a ton, affecting babbitt metal, solder, and the long line of lead products. Pig tin has advanced 2 cents a pound and affects a large range of articles always in demand. Lake copper has scored an advance of 1c a pound. Spelter has advanced 1-4c a pound, and will affect zinc. Steel billets have advanced 50c a ton. Wire nails have advanced 15c a keg. The general tone of the market is firm. Higher prices are looked for as a result of the general advance in metals.

## Grocery Trade Notes.

The cranberry situation is very strong. Eastern markets have advanced 25c to 50c a barrel.

An advance in canned salmon is predicted when the spring demand sets in. A combine of Columbia river packers is in progress.

The possibility of a duty being placed on teas this year is causing a feeling of anxiety on the part of buyers, who do not know exactly how to act.

The season is now so far advanced, says the Louisiana Planter that it has become thoroughly manifest that the Louisiana sugar crop this season will fall from 25 to 40 per cent below the anticipated yield.

A movement has been begun by the Farmers' club at San Jose, California, having for its subject the creation of a great association of interest to control the dried prune output on that coast. The enterprise is to be along the lines of the wine-growers' association, and the citrus combine at Fresno.

There has been a stronger feeling in the market for dried fruit in Denia, and prices for selected stock have advanced fully 2s. A Montreal firm cabled an offer of 17s for a round lot of selected, but the reply was that nothing was obtainable under 19s, which figure is equivalent to 51-4c Montreal.

A couple of weeks ago we reported a decline in sulphur matches in the east. Later the price list for the western market on Eddy's matches has been reduced. The reduction is 40c per case. Prices are now as follows: Telegraph, \$3.45, telephone \$3.25, tiger \$3.10 per case. Other lines are not changed.

A Montreal report says: There is a strong feeling in the market for Barbadoes molasses, owing to the very small stock held, consequently higher prices are anticipated in the near future. There has been considerable enquiry of late from wholesale grocers for round lots, and sales of 25 and 50 puncheon lots have taken place at 31c, which figure is an advance of 1c per gallon over previous transactions.

A Toronto report says: There is some talk of a further advance of one farthing in low grade Indian teas. Advices which have been received from India state that there is no possibility of prices going lower this season. Everyone here is asking for Indian and Ceylon Pekoe Souchong teas in the neighborhood of 13c, but there are none to be had under 13 1-2c, and there are practically no teas of the desirable class offered. Good flavory Ceylon

teas at from 17c to 18c are also scarce. There has been some inquiry for Japan teas at about 16c, but they are scarce.

## Mining Notes.

The Alice C. (Ontario) is alleged to have shipped a \$2,000 brick.

The Golden Star (Ontario) has declared a dividend of 1 per cent per share.

The F. Diamond Reef Co. have decided to increase the battery to forty stamps.

The rush to the Atlin gold fields in northern British Columbia has commenced. Two vessels left Vancouver on Jan. 21 with over a hundred passengers.

Ninety and a fraction ounces of gold from 94.45 tons of ore is the alleged return of that quantity of rock from the Bad mine, Northwestern Ontario. The ore was crushed by the Koeewatin Reduction company.

The only change to be made in the royalty clause of the Yukon regulations will be to raise from \$2,500 to \$5,000 the amount of the output from each claim to be exempted from the 10 per cent royalty.

Leases for 2,410 acres of Indian reserve 38B have been issued to the New Sabaskong Gold Mining Co., of Ontario, Limited, which is incorporated with a capital of 125,000 shares of \$1 each.

Jas. Hammond, managing director of the Hammond Gold Reef mine, Saw Bill district, Northwestern Ontario, says it is the intention to do work on a much larger scale this year on these properties. Electrical power is to be added and the stamp mill increased to eighty stamps.

Alex. M. Hay has lately returned from the old country, where he made arrangements to open up the Rabbit Mountain silver mine, Port Arthur district. Although this mine has been closed for several years it has always been considered a good property.

A syndicate headed by A. B. Upton of Duluth, has secured the Dominion Reduction Works at Rat Portage. The syndicate has also acquired the Gold Hill mine, with its 10-stamp mill the Black Jack, the Sultana Jr., located near the Gold Hill, and D217, adjoining the Mikado mine. These properties have shafts from 40 to 200 feet deep.

## Dry Goods Trade.

In the United States printed fabrics for spring are going very freely both with agents and jobbers, the strong tone of the gray cottons inducing very free buying to stock up. Gray cottons continue very firm in price, and are costing above the parity of the finished goods. Print cloths are again full of strength, the surplus having been worked out of the way, and the market is on a profitable basis. Ginghams are sold ahead and are firm. Men's wear woollens are quiet. Prices thus far have been 5 to 10 per cent below last year on some goods and unchanged on others.

The second day of the wool auction sales in London opened with a good attendance. The continental buyers were especially eager to secure wool suitable for their wants, and the home trade operated strongly and purchased goods 5 to 10 per cent above the December sales.