

though the presumption is that they will be shipped to New York by one of the first steamers.

Trade in Canadian wholesale grocery centres is quiet. The weather has been, in many districts, unfavorable to a large consumption, and the orders received have been limited and confined, for the most part, to small lots.

Owing to the very low price of Barbadoes molasses, says an eastern exchange, a great deal has been bought for distilling purposes on the island, and one Montreal sugar refinery has bought between 3,000 and 4,000 puncheons to convert into sugar. Molasses sold as low as 5½c. in Barbadoes, but has since advanced a little.

There has been some smart trading done in potatoes this week. Supplies are scarce, and prices have advanced about 10 cents per bag during the past fortnight. The season, however, is too far advanced to permit of much speculation in the value of potatoes. Supplies of new potatoes should come forward freely from the South within the next few weeks.

The New Westminster *Colonist* of June 2nd says that Northern canneries have commenced packing spring salmon. Fishermen are scarce, and cannerymen have to come up with the price for salmon. On the Skeena, 25 cents apiece is offered for spring salmon, while from seven to ten cents each is the price for sockeyes. On the Skeena and Naas Rivers and Lowe Inlet, the canneries are preparing to put up 200,000 cases of fish.

Frogs' legs are a delicacy, we know, and restaurant keepers are eager for them at certain seasons. The humorous and philosophical Smiff, of the *Bobcaygeon Independent*, describing the night-and day efforts of Messrs. Billy Nott and Albert Brown, of Chemong village, in "frogging it," says it is the bull frog with open countenance and deep basso profundo voice, that they are after. When caught they are retained alive in an inclosure until a suitable time for shipment, when they are killed and the hind-quarters sent away to the States. The catchers realize about 23 cents a pound, and make very good wages. Next week will be a special season, when by going in a canoe with a strong lantern the frogs will flock to the light and are easily taken. The fishing is being carried on to a very large extent along the Trent waters, and, says the philosopher, the question of protecting the frogs during the spawning season is one that might be given some consideration. It will not be difficult to exterminate the animals [fancy the extermination of frogs!], whilst with some reasonable regulations the fishing might be made a continuous source of profit.

ABOUT DRY GOODS.

The season is developing slowly. Trade in summer goods has been restrained by the cold weather and frequent rains.

It is calculated that the area under flax in Ireland will not much exceed 50,000 acres, a great falling off from the previous year.

Light goods are in better demand all round, in Leicester, Eng., while the prospect of higher prices has stimulated the inquiries for heavy woolen fabrics for home, Canadian, and Australian markets.

Roman stripes, according to the *N.Y. Journal and Bulletin*, promise to figure prominently in the demand for silks for the new season. The almost endless variety of combinations affords a wide array for choice. These will, to a large extent, take the place of glace taffetas and changeables, and will be largely employed for linings, skirt and waist purposes.

A moderate trade is being done in most British textile centres on Canadian account. There are however, only a few buyers at work in the markets. The *Drapery World*, May 29th, notes the following names as among the latest Transatlantic arrivals:—Mr. J. C. Green, J. C. Green & Co., London, Ont.; Mr. H. C. Fletcher, The R. Simpson Co., Ltd., Toronto; Mr. S. F. McKinnon, S. F. McKinnon & Co., Toronto; Mr. J. B. Grafton, Grafton & Co., Dundas, Ont.; Mr. J. G. Mackenzie, J. G. Mackenzie & Co., Montreal.

A prominent firm of cotton brokers in the United States estimates the total acreage devoted to cotton in the Southern States at 23,320,000 acres, as compared with 22,341,000 acres the previous year. The total acreage increase in the United States is estimated at 979,000 acres, or 4.4 per cent. larger than the acreage last year, and the average planting of the crop is some three weeks later than last year. The condition of the crop is reported less promising at this date than for many years. Texas is the only State where normal conditions have generally prevailed. In all the other cotton States unseasonably cool weather, poor stands and great damage from cut worms have been the rule. The overflow of a vast area of the most productive cotton lands in the States of Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, will necessarily lessen the acreage in these sections, and planting has been done under discouraging circumstances, five to eight weeks later than last year.

ONTARIO CHEESE MARKETS.

The excellent condition of the pastures has naturally led to the expectation of an unusually large production of cheese in Canada and the United States during the present year. Salesmen are uncertain as to the future of the market. During the week ending June 9th we have received reports of 15 cheese board meetings, at which 28,254 boxes of cheese were boarded. Last week, at fourteen Ontario boards, 27,446 boxes were offered. The bulk of the transactions this week were made at a fraction less than the ruling prices a week ago. The total cheese shipments from Montreal for the week ending June 5th, according to the compilation of Messrs. Cunningham and Lemessurier, were 42,149 boxes, as compared with 36,856 boxes for the corresponding week last year. The total cheese shipments to date have been 125,793 boxes, as compared with 122,928 boxes to like date, 1896. The following table contains the details of the Ontario Cheese Board meetings for the week ending June 9th:—

Boards.	Date of meeting.	No. of factories.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price. Cts.	Date next meeting.
Kingston	June 3	..	1,750	726	8-8½	.....
Brockville.....	3	..	3,768	2,443	8½-8½	.....
Chesterville.....	3	..	480	....	8½	.....
Perth.....	4	..	1,400	....	8½	.....
Brantford.....	4	24	3,000	2,719	8-8½	.....
Iroquois.....	4	..	930	..	8½-8½	.....
London.....	5	29	3,953	3,772	8-8½	.....
Ingersoll.....	8	..	1,758	255	8½-8½	.....
Belleville.....	8	..	2,557	1,400	8-8½	.....
Madoc.....	8	13	795	690	8-8½	.....
Campbellford.....	8	..	1,025	776	8½-8½	June 15
Peterborough.....	9	..	3,960	3,960	8½-8½	.....
Woodstock.....	9	11	1,353	699	8½-8½	.....
Napanee.....	9	..	755	655	8½	.....
Tweed.....	9	..	760	760	8½	.....

AN ERA OF ADULTERATION.

Is human nature any wickeder now than it was a generation or two ago, or is it that the struggle of rival manufacturers for subsistence—a struggle made the fiercer by extreme and increasing competition—leads them or rather compels them to dishonest methods in order to keep up in the race? Adulteration of materials, food stuffs included, appears to be on the increase, although there has never been a time within our recollection when it was not complained of. In a single issue of a well-informed New York journal, the *Shipping List*, we find mention of three articles of commerce of which the adulteration has become serious.

One is olive oil, the material used to adulterate which is castor oil, and it said that the Italian Government is about to take legislative action to break up the practice. The suggestion is made that a simple test will suffice to detect this falsification, since castor oil will dissolve in absolute or high grade alcohol. The next objectionable process to be employed of late in this connection is the use of salicylic acid as a preservative in fruit syrups for soda fountains, and this practice is causing trouble in England, where artificial flavors largely take the place of the natural fruit pulp used at the best of American fountains. Prosecutions are being instituted in England against druggists using syrups containing the salicylic acid, and prosecutions in England generally bring wrong-doers to trial, too.

So reckless are some people in their pursuit of a profit in business that they care nothing if human life itself is sacrificed by the adulteration of drugs or food products. As an example of this, there was received not long ago at Rotterdam, Holland, a consignment of goods in which were three bales of aniseed which, upon examination, showed the presence of 10 per cent. of hemlock fruits. The sale of the aniseed was forbidden in Holland, so it was sent to Germany, where it has been lost sight of. This is a particularly dangerous adulteration, and druggists should be on their guard against it.

CONVENTIONS FOR 1897.

National Railroad Blacksmiths' Association—Sept. 7th.

Train Dispatchers' Association of America—June 22nd, at Detroit, Mich.

National Association of Car Service Managers—June 16th, at Boston, Mass.

American Academy of Railway Surgeons—September —, at Chicago, Ill.

American Association of General Baggage Agents—October 13th, at Denver, Col.

Road Masters' Association of America—September 14th, at Old Point Comfort, Va.