

**Grocery Trade Notes.**

Latest advices from Japan report an advance in rice of 6d in prices ruling there.

Current rumor states that the remaining stock of loose muscatel raisins on the coast has been concentrated in the hands of two or three operators.

Toronto, London and Hamilton capitalists have organized a company with \$200,000 capital, to erect a corn starch factory at either Kingston, Prescott or Quebec.

Owing to adverse conditions in producing countries the price of lime fruit juice has sharply advanced in all markets. Prices are now about double what they were at the opening of last year. It is difficult to get large orders placed.

The total sales of coffee on the New York Coffee Exchange last year were 4,420,000 bags, as compared with 4,213,000 bags in 1898, an increase over last year of 207,000 bags. The highest quotation on spot Rio No. 7 was 7 cents in November, the lowest being 57-16 cents in September. The highest price for futures was reached in December, when October deliveries for 1900 sold at 6.65 cents, and the lowest in September, when October deliveries for 1900 sold at 4.10 cents.

**Dry Goods Trade Notes.**

Tooth brushes with an initial letter on the handle are not new, but the idea is a good one nevertheless, as a means of identification.

In 1899 the printcloth mills of Fall River produced some 12,000,000 pieces. The average price of printcloth at New York market for the year was 2.6551 cents.

Coates' and Clarke's thread has been advanced 15c per dozen to 55c, less 7 and 2 per cent. The extraordinary export business in the cheaper grades of cotton goods and the probable shortage of the cotton crop of 1900 is assigned as the reason.

The mild season has left dealers with a large quantity of heavy winter goods on hand, and as a result several slaughter sales have been announced, though it is not an unusual thing to have clearing sales advertised after the first of January in any year.

During the year 1899 raw silk to the value of \$41,193,209 was imported into the United States. In 1898 the imports amounted to \$27,639,955. The average price of raw silk is now \$5.00 per pound as against \$4.15 last year and \$3 the year before.

There has been another advance in the prices of English high-class cashmere goods of 10 per cent. This is the fourth advance since September. Even at these higher prices manufacturers will not book orders for fall delivery except subject to any changes that may take place in the market before the goods are shipped.

There has been a stiff advance in the prices of ribbons lately, all lines with any quantity of silk in them having been affected. The advance was from 71-2 to 121-2 per cent. The makes affected by the advance are Swiss, French and German goods. When spring garments are beginning to be shown the demand for ribbons will increase.

A letter from Basle (Switzerland) ribbon manufacturers to English buyers says: "The stocks of silk at old prices

in manufacturers' hands have been used up during the spring of 1899, and under actual circumstances the continuation of present prices in ribbons has become an impossibility and an immediate advance on all prices for spring orders is to be formally required from this day. It is an absolute necessity."

**THE HARDWARE TRADE****THE YEAR'S METAL MARKET.**

The New York Journal of Commerce reviews the American market for metals at length in a recent issue, and among other things says:

"In the metal market more than ordinary fluctuations in values have taken place during the year, due mostly to natural trade conditions, but in part to speculation based thereon. Lake Superior ingot copper advanced nearly six cents per pound, and receded about one-half, but was still higher by fully three cents at the close of 1899 than at the end of 1898, and 51-2 cents per pound above the record for the close of 1897. Meanwhile a large consumptive and speculative business was effected on both sides of the Atlantic, probably the largest for any year on record. Only in the year when the French syndicate forced the market did values reach a higher level than they have the past year.

Pig tin has advanced to a most remarkable extent, or about 131-2c per pound, under the influence of vigorous speculative trading and large American consumption. The quotation of 32 cents per pound was made at one time, when excitement ran highest. At the close the market price was about 7c per pound below the highest of the year, yet fully 6c per pound above market value at the close of 1898.

Lead advanced sharply under the influence of "combine" control, and more than average trade demand. Spelter fluctuated somewhat mildly in price but operations have been ordinary. The movements in price were largely due to market manipulation and wide fluctuation in cost of ores.

The decided advances in iron, steel and tin plate are indicated by the following quotations:

Pig iron, opening, \$11.50, highest, \$22; steel rails, opening, \$18, highest, \$35; tin plate, opening, \$3, highest, \$4.65.

**HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.**

Pig tin advanced in the London market last week.

The production of refined copper by the Lake Superior mines in 1898 was 157,835,729 pounds. The 1899 production is estimated at 157,500,000 pounds.

The output of pig iron of the United States for 1899 is now placed at 13,400,000 tons; copper, 262,000 tons; lead, 205,000 tons, and spelter, 107,000 tons.

Canadian manufacturers have advanced the price of lawn mowers, the best make now ranging from \$7.50 to \$10.00 according to size. The discount is 40 per cent. Further advances are predicted.

Canadian rope makers have advanced their prices 1 to 11-2c per pound as our eastern advices of last week showed. Their quotations are still below United States makers to a substantial amount and, owing to disagreement among themselves, likely to remain so.

Plain galvanized wire and barbed wire, of United States manufacture,

has been advanced \$2.50 per ton for the Canadian market. Importers were notified to that effect last week.

By a reduction in the discount, the price of revolving churns to Canadian jobbers has been advanced about 5 per cent. The discounts are now 58 per cent. from factory and 56 per cent. from stock, Montreal. Dash churns are also higher by 5 per cent.

The new price list on grain cradles at factories reads as follows: Grain cradles, wood brace, without scythes, are listed at \$27 per dozen, and ditto with scythes at \$18.25 per dozen. Extras are: Grain cradles with iron brace, add \$5.60 per dozen; fitting scythes, \$2.80. Discounts: 25 to 33 1-3 per cent. off the list.

Paris green has been advanced 40 per cent by eastern makers on account of the higher prices of chemicals and copper. Quotations, f. o. b. Montreal, are now as follows: Paris green, petroleum bbls., 17 3-4c; arsenic cakes, 50 lb., 18c; drums of 50 and 100 lbs., 18 1-2c; 25 lb. drums, 19c; 1-lb. tins, 20 1-2c; 1-lb. packages, 19 1-2c; 1-2-lb. packages, 21 1-2c; 1-2-lb. tins, 23 1-2c.

**Dairy Trade Notes.**

The New York butter market has been displaying exceptional strength lately.

The Manitoba government dairy school opened for the winter season on Monday.

**Fur Trade Notes.**

Fox continues in extreme favor right up to the close of the season, and we think the article will be one of the leaders for 1900.

At the public sale of salted fur seal-skins held by C. M. Jamison & Co., London, December 15, Alaskas sold eighty per cent, North West Coast forty per cent, Cape Horn forty per cent, and Lobes Island skins thirty per cent higher than in December, 1898.

During the first week in December muskrats borrowed through the bank of the Delaware and Raritan canal near Trenton causing a break which necessitated the withdrawal of all the water from the canal in order to repair the damage, and causing complete cessation of navigation for several days. Muskrats are sometimes rather expensive, but ought not to be quoted too high, in early price lists.—New York Fur Trade Review.

An unusually large number of illustrations grace the number of The Canadian Magazine which opens the new year. These include several full page military pictures, a number of photographs taken in and about Canterbury cathedral, at the Henley regatta last year, and in and about Constantinople. The articles which these illustrations accompany are brightly written. The opening contribution is a charming story of the Northwest by W. A. Fraser, the Canadian Kipling. The Hon. J. W. Langley contributes a Nova Scotian story. Robert Barr's strictures on Canadians as book buyers are replied to by the six pigs whom he scored for placing Dickens before Thackeray. C. A. Bramble, in his series on the Big Game of Canada, writes of the wapiti and antelope, and Arthur Heming contributes a drawing of a Manitoba wapiti or elk. Ernest H. Cooper deals with "The Principles Underlying the Trust," and Bessie Cameron tells why he believes that the Red Indian will soon be exterminated in Canada.