

Japanese Trade.

British Consul Quin, of Yokohama, Japan, reports the growing importance of Japan as an importer of iron and steel, the total trade of that port for 1887 exceeding that for 1886 by nearly 40 per cent, the largest increase being the following articles: Iron rails, 101,913l., against 80,720l. in 1886; iron pipes, which appear to the value of 66,299l., and ironware, which was imported to the value of 101,324l., against 39,427l. in 1886; also galvanised and roofing iron, which appears to the value of 10,479l. The increase of nearly 62,000l. in ironware, considerably more than doubling the figures for 1886, is accounted for by the importation of numerous heavy bridges and other ironware connected with railway works. The importation of machinery has also nearly doubled, being 93,089l., against 54,923l. In fact, the remark made by Mr. Hall in his report for 1886; that nearly all the heads of foreign miscellaneous imports showed an increase, can be more emphatically repeated this year, for out of forty-three articles, only five show any decrease, and none of them call for any remark, the total decrease under the five heads being only 20,436l. A notable increase is also shown in the import of arms and ammunition of war, which, including gunpowder, appears this year as a separate item, and amounts to 155,201l., more than double the figures of the previous year. One of the chief exports, as in former years, is the item of silk, showing an increase of 124,545l. for the year 1887. America has again proved itself the greatest consumer of this article, the figures of export showing a

steady increase to that country. Tea on the other hand shows a slight falling off, both in quantity and value. It is interesting to note that as regards the British carrying tea trade, there has been a great falling off in shipments by the Suez route amounting to about 4,000,000 lbs. carried across the Pacific Ocean by steamers running in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway.—*London Chamber of Commerce Journal.*

Dairy Notes.

A very erroneous impression has been disseminated amongst the cheese buyers of Great Britain, namely, that the stocks of fall cheese on this side are unprecedentedly heavy, whereas nothing could be made more misleading. Between this city and Toronto the make for October has fallen off from 25 to 30 per cent. as compared with that of last year, and west of Toronto the shrinkage is estimated at fully 15 per cent. One of our leading combinations which made 1,500 boxes of November cheese last year, will not make a box this month, as the factories are said to have closed between the 15th and 20th ult. The shortage in the October make it is said will be a surprise to most people. A buyer for a Liverpool house has purchased between 8,000 and 10,000 boxes of second qualities within the past week or ten days, at prices ranging from 9½ to 10½, 10 to 10½ being paid for faulty September grades. Finest Septembers cannot be reached under 10½ to 10¾. Latest advices from Liverpool state that the stock of fine cheese is unusually small, one large house which in former years usually

held between 20,000 and 30,000 boxes at this period, now holds only about 3,500 boxes. The opinion obtains on the other side, in spite of "bear" circulars, that the position of finest cheese is a strong one, and will successfully withstand the combined onslaught of the "Liverpool Three" in their mad efforts to wreck present unusually low prices.—*Trade Bulletin.*

The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* publishes the following instructions re packing of roll butter: A practice that should be abolished by country shippers is that of working low grades of packed into roll, and packing them in the fresh-made roll, with the intention of passing it all off as fresh-made. The deception is always detected, and such lots are invariably sold at same prices as low grades of packed command. Regarding packages, new tubs or hardwood boxes are the most desirable, and half barrels or kegs will do equally as well, and these only should be used. Care should also be taken before putting the butter in packages, that all the sides and ends of the package be lined with new white muslin thus keeping the butter from decayment by touching the wood. A bad practice is in putting the butter up in paper; this should not be done as the paper sticks to the butter and damages the appearance. Each roll should be separately placed in a piece of new muslin cloth, washed in warm water to take out the starch, and thoroughly wet in good brine. The rolls should be of moderate size and not too large. Then again, the rolls should be of uniform color, not packing light and fresh-made with other that has been colored. The correct tares should be marked on each package.

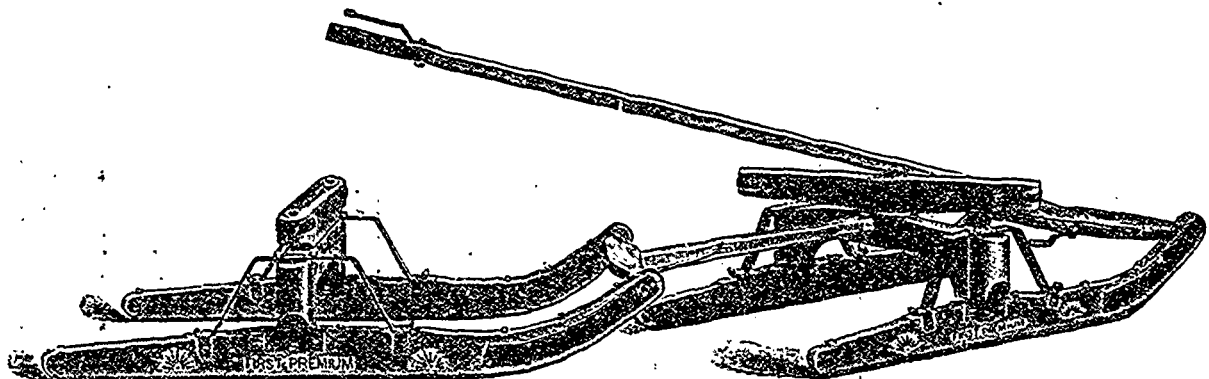
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