

prices for new goods are expected to rule high.

A cable reports that the price of Amalia grades of currants in Greece is equal to from 8½c to 9½c landed in New York on currants shipped via the second steamer.

A meeting of the Ontario Beet Sugar association was held at Toronto on the 30th August for the purpose of again urging upon the government the advisability of at once granting the bounty on beet sugar.

A prominent dealer says that the Ontario apple crop will be so large this year that immense quantities will never be packed or even taken from the trees. The quality of the fruit is good.

The New Westminster Columbian places the sockeye salmon pack of the Fraser river at 130,000 cases, which is the lowest for many years. These figures are only an approximation and do not include all the canneries.

The new crop of filberts is expected to be from 10 to 20 per cent. above the previous one but it will be somewhat later in maturing. The old crop is exhausted and as there is a large demand for the new goods in several of the leading markets the price has been advanced.

The size of olives this year, it is reported, will be very small and as curers are paying from 10 to 15 per cent. more for the fruit on the trees the prices will rule much higher at the opening than last year. The indications are that the yield will be about the same as last year although it is rather early yet to make any reliable estimate.

A rumor is current in the broom corn districts of the south that the broom corn combine formed about a year ago at Evansville, Ind., is about to collapse. It is said that the combine held over a large stock of broom corn from last year refusing to sell for less than \$200 per ton. This price was never reached and the new crop will soon be on the market.

Raw sugar has been so scarce during August that one United States refinery closed down for want of it. The price of beet advanced 1s during the last 10 days of August. The cane sugar crop of the West Indies is about exhausted. For these reasons further advances in refined sugar are expected.

Latest advices from Greece, says Hills Bros' circular, speak rather unfavorably of the general quality of new currants. Several samples have been received here and the general appearance is below that of the two previous crops, being small in size and also inferior in color, there being many red berries among the samples. Should the Greeks finally be able to market the very small crop of 51,000 tons at the present asking price, they will receive a larger amount than was received for the large crops of 1898 and 1899.

Several lots of new honey have been received, chiefly from Ontario, but shippers are holding it at pretty stiff figures, one lot of comb honey in small sections being held at 12½c at points of shipment which is equal to 13c here. This lot was shipped as a white clover, but it was as yellow as a buttercup. A lot of 2,000 lbs. of new extracted honey was offered at 8c here in large tins, and another round lot at 7c f.o.b. The crop in Ontario promises to be a good average; but in this province it is feared it will run below an average crop.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

Dry Goods Trade Notes.

The Dominion Cotton Company's St. Ann's factory, Montreal, was damaged by fire on Wednesday last to the amount of \$50,000. The fire occurred in the storehouse, and the loss was principally on raw cotton.

A law which went into effect in New York on September 1 renders trading stamps illegal and prevents their use. A similar law has long been in force in Massachusetts.

Michaud and Gauvin, dry goods merchants, Quebec, have assigned on demand of Gault Bros., (Limited). The Montreal assets amount to \$35,000 and liabilities to \$30,000.

The United States government has decided to send a transport to Cape Nome to bring away the large number of destitute miners who are now stranded at that place. If left until winter it is believed that many of them would perish.

THE IMPLEMENT TRADE.

THE MONTH'S BUSINESS.

The business in implement lines during the past month, says the Minneapolis Farm Implements, has developed somewhat more actively than was anticipated so soon after harvest and leads to the belief that trade for next season will not be as seriously affected by crop conditions as even the most optimistic jobbers had feared. There has been a brisk demand for plows for fall trade and a large quantity of goods of this character has been shipped out. The wagon business is very light, but this is attributed largely to the question of prices, it apparently being the opinion of implement men generally that the present price schedule will be reduced before the next season arrives. This belief is not encouraged by wagon manufacturers, among whom the opinion almost universally expressed is that wagon prices will remain firm. No advance is expected. In the face of general reductions in price on other lines, this opinion does not obtain great credence with the trade. It is recognized that prices on the raw materials used in wagons have advanced far beyond the low water mark, but on the other hand the advance in selling price is relatively greater than on any other class of implements. For this reason, as some classes of wagon material have experienced marked declines during the past few months, it is argued that wagon manufacturers can afford to reduce prices, and will find it necessary to do so in order to retain their trade. The manufacturers claim that prices at present in effect are no higher than is reasonable, and a majority of them are so situated that they could well afford to curtail their product by lessening operating forces, if the demand failed to equal their full capacity. On the list, however, are some concerns which will be disposed to see their factories lying idle, and perhaps some which are not in a position to remain idle, getting no returns from their investment. It is to this class of manufacturers that the retail trade looks to make concessions to move their product, and it is the general belief that the stability of the present schedule will depend to a large extent on the policy adopted by them. At present there is a very light demand for wagons, not only in the northwestern territory, but at all other jobbing centres, and no very large amount of business is anticipated this fall.

There is some attention given just now to sleigh goods, and manufacturers of such lines are making contracts with such of the jobbing houses as stand in need of sleighs for the winter's requirements. The wants in the sleigh line are not important, a considerable stock of such goods remaining on hand from last season.

IMPLEMENT TRADE NOTES.

It is estimated that 3,500,000 pounds of twine will be carried over from this season in Minneapolis, besides which the state prison carries over 500,000 pounds.

During the year 1899 Manitoba took \$252,380 worth of United States agricultural machinery and farmers in the Northwest Territories \$49,071. Altogether Canada took \$1,035,000 worth of United States machinery.

A farmers' co-operative binder twine company has been organized at Walkerton, Ont., for the purpose of manufacturing twine for the use of the stockholders. A majority of the stock has been subscribed by farmers in that vicinity, and a plant with a capacity of three or four tons of twine a day will be erected.

Notwithstanding the decreasing receipts of hemp at Manila, prices for Manila and have been declining recently. The cause for the lessened receipts is variously attributed to decreased production in the interior and to a combination among raisers and shippers to prevent further large receipts at the principal ports and thus strengthen the fiber market. The effect of the lower quotations has been to reduce the amount of trading to such a degree that the market is entirely stagnant. Manufacturers apparently fear to invest in fiber at present prices, anticipating still further decline because of the heavy receipts at Manila. They also undoubtedly recall the extremely low prices reached some years ago and antic-

pate a similar result from the present conditions.

The latest rumor regarding threshing machine manufacturers, is that an effort will be made to form a pool similar to that formed by the railroad companies under which the business will not be combined, but a saving in expenses may be effected. In view of the complete failure of the previous effort to form a combination it is doubtful if the rumor is in any wise correct.

The directors of the Western Retail Implement Dealers' Association, at their present session in Kansas City, adopted a petition requesting implement manufacturers to abolish the custom of maintaining canvassers. This question has been under consideration by every implement dealers' association in the country, and the sentiment is practically unanimous that canvassers should be withdrawn. It is said that four of the prominent concerns have consented to comply with the request of the Western Association, and it is probable that other associations will follow the lead of the principal organization of this character, and request the companies to take similar action in this territory. If this is done, a test of the proposed plan may be made next season the results of which will probably determine whether the plan is to become permanent or not.

Drug Trade Notes.

Opium is 2½c lower at distributing centres.

Glycerine advanced ¼c at New York last week.

Sumac threatens to be in a short supply this season owing to short crop and large demand. The price at primary markets has risen to \$60 per ton.

Mining Notes.

The government reports show that the mineral wealth produced by the United States during 1899 aggregates over a billion dollars. The iron ore produced amounted to about 24,000,000 tons. Michigan stands first among the states as an iron ore producer, and Minnesota second. During 1899 Michigan produced 9,140,000 tons, or 37 per cent of the country's total output. Minnesota produced 8,161,289 tons, an increase of 35.9 per cent over her product for 1898. Mining engineers believe Minnesota will lead Michigan in iron ore within a year or two.

During the last half century the production of gold has been out of all proportion to that for any similar period in the world's history. For the fifty years ending with the close of 1899, the production of gold amounted to \$4,655,531,000. In the preceding fifty years the total was only \$187,400,000. During the fifty years commencing with 1851 the production of gold was more than twice as great as for the preceding three and a half centuries. During the past four years the production of gold in the United States has increased steadily from \$53,884,000 in 1896, to \$72,500,000 in 1899. More gold was produced in this country last year than in any previous year, not excepting 1853, when the miners of California made their largest record. The production that year reached \$65,000,000 and had never been exceeded until last year. During the past four years the per capita circulation of the United States has increased from \$21.15 to \$26.50.

Structural steel has been reduced from \$38 to \$30 by the Pittsburg manufacturers. This is the result of a fight among the iron and steel combinations. Other steel may follow.

The price of coal has raised \$2.00 a ton in England in the last six months, the price for steam coal being now \$4.75 a ton.

Immigration to the United States is breaking records. During the fiscal year ending June 30th, 347,111 immigrants landed in this country. This is an increase of about 160,000 over the record of the previous year. One-third of these people can neither read nor write. The largest number of illiterates and of those who had but \$5 with which to begin business, came from Italy. Italy also sends the largest delegation, over 90,000. The Hebrew rank next in number with 44,569, and the Polish next with 36,800. The average immigrant coming to American shores is not now of as good stuff as he was a quarter of a century ago.

THE FUR TRADE.

FOX FARMING.

One of the industries of a portion of Alaska that has become quite popular and gives promise of large profits, though still in its infancy, is the raising of foxes for their skins. There are many companies already engaged in the business on a smaller or larger scale. The largest of these, no doubt, is the Semidi Propagating Company, which has several islands, among which are the Semidi Islands, Mar-mot Island and Long Island, which lie next to Wood Island, on the east.

The plan usually followed is as follows: An island is rented from the government at an annual rental of \$100, and on this is placed a keeper with a few pair of foxes. The duty of the keeper is to supply food for the foxes and to guard the island from poachers. The food used is raw fish, dried fish, whale meat, seal meat, and in some cases wild geese. If the supply of meat food is limited, cornmeal is used. Almost any food is acceptable to the foxes.

Blue foxes have been found to be best suited to this purpose. Black and silver gray furs are worth much more, but they do not do so well, and are accused of devouring their young. The blue fox increases very rapidly. Each female will produce a litter of from four to ten or more young each year. Usually no furs are taken for a number of years, as the plan is to stock the island thoroughly first. However, some males may be killed without fear, as it is not necessary to keep the sexes equally divided. The furs are worth from fifteen to forty dollars.

The feeding is usually done in a room around which are places to set box traps. At times these traps are set and the foxes caught for examination, marking, counting or killing. By catching and marking the foxes the keeper can approximate the number on the island.

Notwithstanding the growing industry of fox farming, the largest number of blue foxes sent to market from any one place come from the Pribilof Islands, which are rented by the North American Commercial Company. According to the census of 1899, these islands ship 1,000 to 1,500 furs annually.—Orphanage News Letter in The Alaskan.

FUR TRADE NOTES.

The laws of British Columbia prohibit the exportation of raw deer-skins.

It is reported that beaver are increasing in numbers to a marked extent in the state of Maine, since the law protecting them came into effect.

M. F. St. John, a well known western fur buyer, has furnished the New York Fur Trade Review with some photos of hunting scenes, which he took on a recent trip.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

EQUITABLE LIFE MANAGEMENT.

A. W. Law, a well known resident of Winnipeg, has been appointed manager for this district for the Equitable Life Assurance Society. His territory covers Manitoba, the Territories and the Algoma districts of Ontario, or practically from North Bay to the Rocky Mountains—certainly a vast field. The head offices for this district in Winnipeg will remain for the present at least in the McIntyre block. J. K. Graburn will continue with the company as cashier. Mr. Law returned recently from New York, on a visit to the head offices of the Equitable.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Hall insurance companies expect a big boom in business for next year as a result of the disastrous visitations of hail this year. Business for next year is already being written. This is about the worst year on record for hail storms. Scarcely a district has escaped entirely.

The largest single consignment of gold ever exported from New York was sent out Wednesday, Aug. 15. The total was \$8,162,000 in gold bars. Most of this goes to make up the total amount of British securities taken in this country on the recent war loan negotiated by that country.