

ago, and they also may have invented candy about the same time. John Chinaman has a wholesome taste for confectionery, a fact which will be readily granted by Chinese Sunday School teachers here who every year receive presents from their scholars of boxes of expensive sweetmeats. Therefore, while the statement about the invention of candy may be true, the other should be taken cum grano salis, for it is probably the invention of some dyspeptic individual who had not a sweet tooth left or one who was sans teeth altogether.

But all this has little enough to do with the demand for candy on the approach of

the Christmas holiday season. The demand for candy was never as great as it is this season. Candy factory people are at their wits' end to meet the requirements of the trade. The supply is simply not in sight of the demand. The two big candy factories in Toronto are each turning out eight to ten tons of candy a day, and have their staffs working a day and half every day, a statement, however absurd it may appear, as true, from a labor standpoint, as anything that was ever written. The abnormal demand is not due to the development of any unusual capacity on the part of young Canada. The idea of children the world over as to the proper allowance of candy is limited only to the squaw's estimate of the proper allowance of whiskey for an able-bodied native: A little too much is just enough. 'Twas ever thus as any one can testify who is fortunate enough to have children to sit up with the night after Christmas. The extraordinary demand for candy this year, with which the Canadian factories have so much difficulty in keeping pace, is due rather to the fact that the parental purse is longer than in past years. We are passing through years of plenty. That means a more liberal supply of candy for the youngsters.

There are two classes of candy manufactured, if we exclude candy of a medicinal sort, much of which is imported. One is the high-class confectionery which sells at fifty cents to \$1 per pound, made mostly for the trade of large centres, being soft or otherwise unfit for shipping. The other comprises the bulk of the product of the factories, and is adapted for the trade of the whole country at large as well as small centres, and sells at a very low price com-

pared with ten years ago—fully fifty per cent. less.

The candy of to-day is essentially pure and wholesome. Sugar is as cheap as adulterants and it would not be profitable for the manufacturers to substitute any other ingredient. Formerly gum-arabic was the viscous ingredient used in the manufacture of candy, now glucose is the chief substance of that nature employed. The low price of sugar and the cheapness of glucose have largely contributed to the reduced cost of sweets. It may be added that candy manufacturers never found skilled candymakers as difficult to get as at present, and that is limiting the production.

#### WHAT CHEAP POWER MEANS.

The City Council cannot too speedily realize that the progress of Toronto is seriously checked by the disadvantageous position in regard to the supply of power this city holds as compared with other cities of the Dominion. The new factory of the National Cycle Company, which it was believed would be located here, has been captured by Hamilton, chiefly because the latter city has water-produced electric power to sell and can afford to sell it very much more cheaply than steam-produced power can be sold in Toronto.

Not only is Hamilton in a better position than Toronto in this respect, but so in Ottawa, with the Chaudiere power; Montreal, with its great Lachine development, and Quebec, with the power of Montmorency. Something should be done at once to place Toronto in as favorable a position as its commercial rivals in this important respect.

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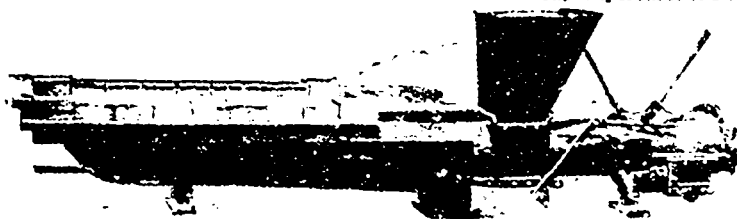
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