

Dry Goods Trade Notes.

A New York report says: All staple cottons are firm and not plenty. Latus of every description are higher, and prices are constantly tending against buyers, while yarns are extremely firm and scarce.

Crope de chenes are a strong feature, the demand for these running all ahead of the supply; in fact, it is already difficult to secure goods except at long deliveries. Colored taffets are well patronized, and bid fair to be a prime favorite during the season.

Advances have been asked ranging all the way from 5 to 10 per cent. at New York, on silks and for full the novelty is that another advance of 5 per cent. will be asked. Creams and fancy whites are in heavy demand, and all descriptions of fancies are improving as the season progresses.

In fancy weaves grenadines are a feature in plain mesh, spider webs, cross bar effects, etc., and spiral stripes, in conjunction with shirred and tucked effects in black and white, are selling well. Throughout the end-of-the-summer pongees are expected to be in heavy demand, especially for shirtwaist suits.

A wire from Montreal on February 13 said: Mr. Gault, president of the Montreal Cotton Company, declares that, unless the cotton industry gets more protection their works at Valleyfield and elsewhere will have to close down. He says that the manufacturers of Manchester are making a slaughter market of Canada.

The New York Journal of Commerce says the cotton spinners of England seem thoroughly alarmed at their dependencies upon the United States for their cotton supply, this alarm being sharply intensified by the present relations between the supply and demand for raw cotton. The opinion is unanimous that the culture of cotton should be encouraged in the British colonies and possessions.

There is increasing strength shown in woolen goods in Canadian markets. The steady advances in the prices of wool in the English and continental markets and the fact that stocks of Canadian fleece are now practically exhausted, have caused finished woolen goods to be held with greater firmness by the manufacturers both at home and abroad. Buyers say it is impossible now to job blankets at the old prices. Some houses are paying higher prices for blankets for present delivery, and for future delivery it is quite certain that prices cannot go any lower. Flannels are very much in the same position. In fine domestic woolen goods the situation is very firm. Retailers are fortunate enough to have any stocks of these goods left over could sell them back to the jobbers at a good profit.

The Toronto Globe in a recent issue says: A number of agents of old country concerns have been in the market the past week, and they are unanimous on the general strength of the market for the raw material and the finished goods. These agents have been refusing orders at prices that were current in January. Samples sent out by British houses have reached the local trade this week, and they were accompanied by letters explaining that the accompanying prices could not be guaranteed for any month of time. No engagements could be entered into at these prices, and goods ordered could only be booked subject to prices ruling at the time the orders were received. All reports on the markets in Great Britain agree on the strong advancing tendency shown and higher prices for all linen goods are consequently looked for.

Grocery Trade Notes.

English prices of Indian and Ceylon teas have advanced 14 per pound.

Late mail advices on currants say: Beside the advance of prices in Greece is not at all warranted by the state of the markets of consumption. These are very weak throughout and buyers abroad appear very indifferent.

Mail advices from Japan on rice say: In some of the northern districts of Japan the situation nearly approached a famine, and the further the season advanced the more serious the general shortage of the crop now being harvested became. There is now a well

stocked market but few sellers putting a stop to all business except export. With the exception of some shipments to Australia and San Francisco, where business has been made possible owing to a cut in ocean freights. We have had a very mild winter and there is some danger of frost now to harm the young plants, which is giving some anxiety to farmers.

The Federal Reporter says of cloves: "Cable advices have been received stating that instead of this year's crop being a small one, it will be rather larger than last year, and from Holland, a steamer shipment of January-March has been offered as low as 80 per lb., while the far-off position as February-April steamer shipment from the east, have been quoted at the same figure. Whether this is simply a bear movement to try and cover previous sales at a profit or the actual condition of affairs in the East remains to be seen, and for the present importers are doing absolutely nothing in the article. In fact there has been no business at all through since the decline in prices set in, and we do not even hear of any bids having been sent out."

The market for new crop Barbados molasses for the season 1903 has a much smaller crop than a year ago, the opening price was considerably higher than that of 1902. The first sales this season were made on 100 f.o.b., and on 100 f.o.b. cables reported the market strong at an advance of 20 per cent. to 160 f.o.b. The report stated that the demand from Newfoundland buyers was heavy and the offerings light. At today's price at the island it would cost 20c laid down here, therefore the impression is that local operators will likely hold off until the season is more advanced. In sympathy with the above, the spot market is stronger, and prices have been advanced, with a fairly good jobbing trade passing.—Montreal Gazette.

Hardware Trade Notes.

The price of German-Holland chains for spring and summer deliveries is somewhat lower.

The list price for lanterns for next season is out, and prices remain the same as before.

Building paper has declined and is now sold at the same prices as quoted previous to recent advances. Winchester rifles have advanced and Model 1896 is now quoted at \$30 in proportionately higher.

The market for horse nails is very unsettled, and although there is a discount price to be had on nearly every brand, they are all subject to change without notice.

The Algoma Steel Co. has had to surrender its contract to supply steel rails for the Temiskaming railway owing to inability to deliver the rails on time. The contract has now been replaced in Germany. The quantity required is 8,200 tons of 80-pounds rails, \$32 per ton. This is sufficient for 60 miles of railway and five miles of road on subsequent orders to make up for the loss of this business.

Montreal Sugar Market.

The feature of the sugar market of late has been the easier feeling in New York in the raw article, owing particularly to sales of sugar about from Cuba, and if a production of 1,200,000 tons from January to May by Cuba and the other West Indies is to be offered as fast as made, or at the rate of 240,000 tons per month upon a market that will only consume 150,000 tons, it is apparent that prices cannot be sustained. With reference to market we reduced 10c per 100 lbs. at the latter end of last week, and on Monday wholesalers grocers cut under refiners' prices 10 points, which all tended to create an unsettled feeling in the market. The foreign market for raw beet sugar has ruled fairly steady, with the February option quoted at 8c. In spite of the above, and the continued dullness of the market here in refined sugar, there has been no actual change in the situation to note. Prices are steady at \$3.15 to \$3.60 for granulated, and at \$3.15 to \$3.60 for yellow, per 100 lbs., as to quality, at the factory.—Gazette.

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