

Grocery Trade Notes.

Sugar is reported strong this week with some talk of a further advance.

About 40,000 boxes of cheese were shipped recently from Portland to Great Britain.

Although green coffee has declined there is no intimation of a drop in the price of package coffee.

The packers at San Francisco have sold the first 200 cars of raisins and have contracted for the second 200 at 1/4c advance.

Word received from the north Pacific coast indicates that the cannery companies are anticipating an immense run this season.

Receipts of new Japan tea have been reported from the port of St. Paul, and have passed through the inspection office there, but have been in limited quantity.

Stocks of fibberts in Sicily are estimated at 8,000 to 9,000 bags, which is a rather large quantity for this time of year. The new crop apparently is progressing well.

Estimates place raw sugar afloat to the United States from Cuba and West Indies at 40,000 tons; Java, 7,900; Hawaii, 45,000; Europe, 1,000; Bern, Demerara, etc., 15,000 tons; total 108,000, against 100,000 tons last year.

The last report of the United States fish commission shows so rapid a decline in the annual yield of lobsters that the day seems not very far distant when lobsters will be so scarce that their price will put them almost within the terrapin class.

The first express shipments of cherries from California were received in Minneapolis last week and sold wholesale at \$5 for a ten pound box, though by the end of the week prices had dropped to \$4 or \$4.50. These cherries were very good quality.

Four large steamers are now on their way from the Mediterranean to Montreal laden with oranges and lemons, the number of which is said to be 30,000,000. This will attract buyers to Montreal from all over Canada and the United States.

The refined sugar market has been very firm during the past week and an advance is expected almost any day. The situation in raw sugar is very strong and as wholesalers have been buying up large stocks of refined there seems no reason why prices should not advance.

The Raisin Growers' Association of California surprised the trade by making a drop of 1 1/2 to 1 3/4c per lb. on the price of raisins to seeders. An unusually large stock was carried over from last season and as such a large surplus would demoralize next season's market this cut is made in order to increase consumption.

The receipts of coffee so far in Santos have been 7,325,000 bags, and a recent Kriecher cable showed his estimate of the growing crop at 6,500,000 bags. Last December he estimated the growing Rio crop at 4,250,000 bags, making a total of 10,750,000 bags. This many in the trade consider quite enough to go round. Yet the fact that the French market advanced 1¢ on the estimate led to a sympathetic movement in the United States markets.

Willett & Gray's latest estimate of the total cane sugar crops of the world is: Total in America, 1900-1901, 2,200,252 tons, against 1,567,675 in 1899-1900; in Asia, 702,120; in Australia and Polynesia, 149,670; in Africa, 320,000; Europe and Spain, 33,000; grand total production, 3,465,022; European beet sugar production estimated by F. O. Licht, 6,020,000 tons; grand total cane and beet production, 1900-1901, 9,561,881, against 8,474,985 in 1899-1900. Estimated increase in world's production, 1,086,896 tons.

The directors of the California Dried Fruit Association have decided upon the following changes in placing the basic price of prunes back to 3c:—Without differentials, 100's to 120's, 1 1/4c; 120's up, 1 1/2c; the 1/2c differential allowed on export is removed. While these quotations remain for the rest of the season it is not expected there will be any further business, actual prices remain at 2c or a little better. The total results of the special sales for 15 days amount to 1,200 cars, or 72,000,000 lbs., leaving 55,000,000 lbs. for the probable carry-over. The association now has funds to pay 1c and a fraction dividend.

Hill Bros. report regarding the current outlook abroad: "English advances indicate a more active market, with demand for all grades, for both home and export trade. The continent

still appears to be a buyer in Greece, and it is probable that the bulk of the fruit still available for export will eventually be put forward to the continental markets. As to new crop, exporters in Patras seem loath to hazard an opinion on the extent of the coming crop, inasmuch as peronosporosis is still existent on the vines, and although the growers are using every precaution to prevent the spread of the disease still, with any encouragement from damp weather, the damage from this source might be very serious.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

SEALSKIN JACKETS.

For the art of preparing these luxurious articles of commerce for the market by plucking and dyeing we are indebted, as we are for many other good things, to the Chinese. The period at which the art of preparing the skins for use was introduced to English furriers is not known, but in the year 1790, the Russian-American company's agent at Okotsk was well versed in the various processes. First of all, the salt is washed off, and adhering blubber removed with what is called a beam knife, care being taken not to make any cuts or leave uneven places in the pelt. The skins are then stretched fur up and examined with much attention, so that grease or other impurities may be taken off. Drying on frames over a moderate heat is then proceeded with, followed by a thorough washing with soap and water. Again the fur has to be dried, the pelt, however, being kept in a moist condition. The long hairs are then carefully removed. This is a delicate operation, and has to be often repeated to ensure success. When the skins have been thus plucked, nothing, of course, remains but the soft fur. Dried once more and moistened again on the flesh side, shaving the fur takes place, which is continued until a fine and even surface is obtained. The business of "working" the skins is then begun, in order to free them entirely from grease, and render them soft and pliant. This is done by tramping upon them bare-footed in a hog-head containing fine hardwood sawdust to absorb the grease. Dyeing the fur requires much attention, and each skin requires from eight to ten coats of color, after which washing and cleansing with sawdust completes the operation.—Leather Trades' Review.

DRY GOODS TRADE NOTES.

Men's stand-up turn-down collars are increasing in favor with the public.

It is expected that a large trade will be done during the coming summer in negligee shirts and sweaters are selling freely.

The demand for linen goods continues active and the market still shows an upward tendency. It is claimed that manufacturers have not as yet obtained anything like the advance they have paid on the yarns or raw material.

A prominent eastern woollen manufacturer who is a member of the Dominion House, in a speech on the effect of the preferential tariff on the woollen industry, stated: "In the Northwest they are beginning to grow as fine a quality of wool as is to be found in any part of the world."

L'Aiglon is the name of a new material for draperies. It is a loose, coarsely knotted mesh of heavy mercerized cotton. The colorings are mostly bright, red and green being the leading colors. It is used largely for mantle lambrequins and for covering sofa cushions.

White plaques are likely to be very popular this year and some of the larger stores in the east have been buying large lots of these in expectation of their meeting with a ready sale when the hot weather sets in. These plaques have many points that recommend them as they are attractive and inexpensive for summer wear, are durable, make up stylishly, are not costly and give good value for the wear that is in them.

It is confidently expected that woollen goods will go still higher in price. Plain dress goods are still in vogue this season. In colors the trade will be mostly in plain goods. Broadcloth, Amazon cloth and all plain face goods will be largely bought. Black figured goods in fancies will be good property for the coming fall. Serges and home-spuns will hold their own. Plain French flannels and printed opera flannels promise to have a big run.

THE HARDWARE TRADE.

BELGIUM GLASS WORKERS IN HARD LUCK.

It was not always thus in Belgium, where now the glass workers are looking to the United States to send them money wherewith to buy bread. In a recent appeal, addressed to the window glass workers of the United States by the striking glass workers of Belgium, they use the following language:—

"In the Charleroi district the window glass manufacturers depend on destitution and starvation to compel the glass workers to surrender and fall back in their grasp, after fighting with admirable courage for nearly nine months for the abolition of that ignominious black list, which must be recognized as infamous by all men."

The many succors from America that have reached Mr. Edmund Gilles, president of the glass workers, have enabled him to revive and maintain the energy of the unfortunate members of the organization of which he is the head.

The Belgian Window Glass Cutters, Assorters and Packers' Union, which numbers more than 1,100, and which is not consolidated with the blowers and gatherers, have alone been forgotten by your generous and many favors. The Cutters' Union is worthy of all your interests and benevolence, for it has always followed the path of righteousness and justice.

Think that on this side of the Atlantic your boss cutters are in destitute circumstances and suffering for the want of bread. Think that for nine months the cutters have drawn no salary and have received no aid. Nevertheless they endure with fortitude all privations, to conquer the sacred right of liberty.

In the name of the Belgian Glass Cutters, Assorters and Packers' Union, in the name of humanity, allow us to make an earnest appeal to your generosity and do not forget that we will all prove our timely gratitude."

Time was when the Belgian glass workers were prosperous, if not contented and happy. And, in spite of what the solemn and sedate Dante makes dear Francesca de Rimini say down in the Netherworld where the joys of this earth are alleged to be wiped out with punishment:—

Misery hath no greater grief than the Remembrance of days of joy that are no more.

It may be well to recall the joys of other days, just for the sake of variation. And then, who shall say that Dante was not nearer right than the Italian master, when he says:—

For men's life is the only friend
That grief can call its own.

In 1886, when the first great tank plant successfully applied to window glass manufacture in the world was destroyed by a mob at Jumet, near Charleroi, Belgium, Mr. Eugene Baudoux, the proprietor of the works, very justifiably, and also very bitterly complained of the conduct of Belgian glass workers as follows:—

"I attribute the recent riot and the destruction of the glass works to the coal miners discontent and to the dissatisfied element among the glass workers, the hatred of the other class arising from our large works, tank system, increased production and the installation of superior facilities which enable us to distance the smaller competitors in the markets. The militia failed to disband the mob, and refused to attack it, and when the soldiers rode off, they were applauded by the destructive element whom they thus left masters of the situation, and who at once set about to destroy the works, set fire to my dwelling, so that my wife and daughter were compelled to fly to the fields, from where they witnessed the total annihilation of our factory and our home. If the city of Jumet and the government will make good my loss, I will rebuild the works, but hereafter will organize and maintain a company of soldiers and provide an arsenal for future defense. As for the Belgian window glass workers, a man may exert himself in their behalf, in every imaginable way, provide for their comfort and convenience during working hours, add them financially when in need or distress, increase their wages and decrease their work, but for all this they return no thanks nor show the least

appreciation or gratitude. They look upon these things as their right, which they can demand at pleasure, and some of them even go so far as to say that an employer simply discharges his duty in such matters. They marry young and inexperienced girls, who know nothing of housekeeping. Both sexes show an inordinate desire for dress and fashion. As long as they have money they live high and fast. Many glass blowers really maintain two housekeeping (?) establishments. The single men habitually attend balls and concerts, and entertain themselves with grisettes and other lads, and maintain lordly airs. So it is, a rare occurrence, for instance, when one of these "gentlemen" repeatedly place forty sous on the contribution plate at the Cafe Chautant for a favorite songstress. They come to work in silk hats, fine hunting boots and broadcloth suits. Only lately one of these so-called big blowers, named Roller, who earns 24,000 francs a year, ordered six bottles of champagne to the rooms of one of our hotels, and in his luxurious debauch comfortably bathed his feet therein, after the high old Roman fashion during the decadence of the eternal city."

—National Glass Budget.

HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.

Steam refined seal oil is reported scarce in the east.

Lined oil holds firm in the east at last week's advance.

Glass jobbers at Toronto are agitating for an advance.

Bar iron is reported stronger with the mills behind on orders.

Steel shows an upward tendency in eastern markets.

Owing to the keen competition of Canadian and United States cement manufacturers very little foreign cement is being brought in.

Negotiations are now under way for the consolidation of all the principal stove companies of the United States, upon lines somewhat similar to the United States Steel Corporation.

Lumber Trade Notes.

Advices from Ashland, Wis., report the worst forest fires of the season last week, when 1,000,000 feet of hemlock logs were burned.

Word received from Baraboo, Wisconsin, states that forest fires have been raging in that neighborhood for several days. High winds are fanning the flames, and much damage is being done to standing timber and cordwood.

The strike in the building trades in Minneapolis is approaching the acute stage. One of the strongest points of contention is the demand on the part of the men that the union label should be used on all woodwork in buildings on which union men are employed. This places the contractors at a great disadvantage as some of the local factories do not use the label on their product and when goods are required immediately they can in many cases only be had from these sources.

Live Stock Trade Notes.

Large shipments of stockers for the western ranches have been made lately from the Rosser and Stonewall districts, the average price paid being \$14 per head for yearlings.

The sixth annual general meeting of the Medicine Hat Stock Growers' Association was held in Medicine Hat, on April 20th. The election of officers resulted as follows: President F. O. Sissons; 1st vice-president, F. G. Foster; 2nd vice-president, R. C. Becker; secretary-treasurer, J. H. G. Gray.

The Western Sheep Growers' Association held their first annual meeting at Maple Creek on the 12th of April, when the following officers were elected for 1901-2: President, C. Blair; vice-president and treasurer, J. W. Quick; secretary, F. W. Martin; executive committee, T. Johnson, C. Lee, J. Wilson, F. Grant, J. Kellett, R. McLeary, Mr. Shaw. It was decided to petition the Dominion government to set aside more land for sheep grazing purposes.

A Chicago police court jury has declared the state law closing doors on Sunday a dead letter by custom, and a verdict of not guilty was accordingly returned in a case on trial.