

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "Freights continue to advance, engagements for grain having been made at 84 1/2 to both Bristol and Glasgow, with 34 6d now asked. Space has been taken for Liverpool at 24 9d to 3s, and for London at 8s, with 34 3d asked. The rates on grain to Hamburg are 3s 6d to 4s, October shipment, and provisions to Hamburg have advanced to 22c and 25c per 100 lbs. Cheese freights have advanced 5s all round. Liverpool and London being quoted at 25s, and Bristol and Glasgow 30s."

Chicago Trade Bulletin says: "Lake freights were steady during the past week, with no change to note in the quotations. The rates to Buffalo were 1 1/2 for wheat and 3 1/2 for corn. A fair volume of business was done to that and some other lake ports. The advance from 15 to 20c on corn to New York will go into effect next Tuesday. The rate on flour from Chicago to New York is unchanged at 20c, and that for provisions is 30c. Ocean rates continue firm owing to the scarcity of room. The through rate from Chicago to Liverpool is 15 9/32 per bushel on grain, 31 5/8 to 33c per 100 lbs. for flour and 41 to 46 8/32 on provisions. The lake and rail rate to New England on corn is 8c, and oats 5 1/2c. The New York lake and rail rate is 5 1/2c on corn and 4 1/2c on oats."

R. P. Rithet & Co., Victoria, British Columbia, in their freight and shipping report say: "Almost at the close of a rather dull month a decided improvement in the European enquiry for grain has caused renewed activity in freights. Rates have advanced in consequence to 27s 6d for prompt and 30s for future loading, with owners firm in their ideas. In the north crop prospects are better and there seems little inducement to charter and quotations are nominal. Lumber freights have declined and vessels are now being laid up owing to the absence of demand. We quote freights as follows: Grain, San Francisco to Cork for orders, 27s 6d, prompt, 30s future. Lumber, Burrard Inlet or Puget Sound to the following ports: Sydney 31s 3d, Melbourne or Adelaide 28s 9d, Port Eric 37s 6d, Shanghai 37s 6d to 40s, Tientsin nominal, Valparaiso f. o 35s, Cork f. o 62s 6d to 65s."

British Boards of Trade

A special meeting of the Association of the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom opened at Southampton, on Sept. 15, with Sir H. Stafford Northcote, M.P., president in the chair. The president during the course of his opening address, said he hoped the visit of Li Hung Chang to England would result in benefits to British trade and commerce.

The programme of the meeting contains twenty resolutions introduced by different chambers of commerce of the United Kingdom, some of which touch upon Canadian interests. For instance, the London chamber proposed that the congress shall declare that "The time has now arrived when Her Majesty's government may properly consider the desirability of appointing competent officers to the more important colonies, for the purpose of reporting on their agricultural, commercial, mineral and industrial development, such officers to be paid out of imperial funds."

"The executive of the Association will offer this resolution: 'That a memorial be presented to the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Jos. Chamberlain, urging his attention to the slow progress made in carrying out the request of the Ottawa convention for cable communication between the colonies and the mother country and as to subsidizing a line of fast steamers between England and Canada.'

The Bedford chamber wanted to introduce the American "C. O. D." system into the British parcel post.

The Leicester chamber urged the adoption of the metric system and the Wolverhampton chamber complains of the freight rates between the United Kingdom and South Africa are higher than between South Africa and the United States by the same steamers, and the Wolverhampton chamber demands that the United Kingdom be put on the same level as the United States.

The South of Scotland chamber suggested that "A commercial union between the colonies and the mother country would tend to promote the permanence and prosperity of the British Empire. And that, therefore, this association would urge Her Majesty's government to take every possible opportunity of furthering this question."

The Bristol chamber of commerce introduced the question of naval reserve in the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this association, Her Majesty's government should, without further delay, deal with the very urgent question of providing adequate royal naval reserves, which are absolutely essential, not only to protect our commerce and the food supplies of the nation, but to also insure the naval supremacy of the British empire."

There was a warm debate over the resolution by the South of Scotland chamber of commerce regarding commercial union between the colonies and mother country. The motion after having been attacked as favoring protection was eventually withdrawn. The motion of the Wolverhampton chamber of commerce regarding freights to South Africa also aroused much discussion and was defeated. The resolution of the Bristol chamber of commerce, referring to the naval reserve, was carried after it had been supported in a long speech by Lord Bessford. In the course of his speech on the Bristol chamber's resolution Lord Bessford urged his hearers not to forget that Great Britain was isolated in Europe. He fully appreciated, he said, the efforts of humanitarians, but Great Britain's present fighting forces were unequal to the risks of a war with a combination of the powers.

Grain and Milling.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says, "There has been more doing in oats on export account during the past few days, sales being reported of No. 2 mixed Manitoba oats at 23 1/2 afloat, about 15,000 bush, having changed hands. Sales have also been made of several car lots of No. 2 white in store at 22 1/2 to 23c, although sales are also reported at 21c in store. Large quantities of old oats are still held in dealers' and farmers' hands, who have been holding them in hopes of the market improving and lessening their losses, but their faith in this being on the wane, they are beginning to accept the situation and are unloading their old stocks.

The demand for small lots of flour was fair, says the Montreal Gazette, of Sept. 11: but it is reported that both Manitoba spring wheat patents and strong bakers' can be bought at 10c per barrel lower than quotations.

The Montreal Gazette of Sept. 12 says: "In the local grain market there was some demand for oats for export account, and sales of 12,000 bushels of Manitoba mixed were made at 23c afloat. Locally, the feeling continues weak, and prices have seen another decline of 1/2c, with sales of car lots of No. 2 white at 23 1/2 to 21c.

The total receipts of wheat at the four principal United States winter wheat points, Liverpool, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City, from July 1 to Sept. 1 are 12,509,203 bush., against 10,193,508 bush. in 1895 and 20,611,408 bush in 1891. The total receipts at the four prin-

cipal United States spring wheat points since Aug. 1st the beginning of the crop year foot up as follows: Minneapolis, 5,967,990 bush.; Duluth, 9,611,831 bush.; Chicago, 1,661,161 bush.; Milwaukee, 1,702,659 bush.; making a total of 21,376,935 bush. against 16,325,649 bush. during the same time last year and 25,259,992 bush. in 1891.

The Montreal Gazette of Sept. 14, says: "The local feeling in oats is weak owing to the large stock, and the fact that buyers generally are loaded up, consequently the impression is that values will go to 20c in the near future."

Darlington, on the Delaware branch, is to be made a flag station and a grain warehouse will be erected there by J. C. P. Rahlman.

Grocery Trade Notes.

There is a fair demand for new fine off-stalk Valencia raisins here; they are selling at 6 1/2c, says a Toronto report.

An Amsterdam cable states that the Dutch sale of coffee went off at about the above broker's valuation. Good ordinary Java 5 1/2c, market firm. A New York report says: "The first new Malaga raisins have been shipped but no prices have been named as yet so far as we can learn. Sultan raisins are firmer on the other side, but this market has not been affected apparently. The demand for both prompt and future goods is slow. The first arrival of new crop is expected about September 17."

Cables quote an advance in the price of Sicily fiber for prompt shipment to 40s to 40s 6d and for October shipment 41s. It is reported that the stock in the primary market is small and closely concentrated, and with this came the report that the new crop will be short and late.

Reports from primary sources continue to indicate an upward tendency on new crop Saltans.

Wisner & Co.'s circular, dated Shanghai, August 15, says: "The market for Pingsueys was opened on August 10, but the combination of the women proves to have been a failure as instead of raising values they have had to accept lower prices than they could have got two months ago; a fair business has been put through, prices being about 20 per cent. under last year's opening rates, but still considerably above the parity of present New York values."

A Montreal report says: "Business in dried fruit for forward delivery is commencing to look up, the firmer tenor of advices from primary markets inducing demand from importers. Cables from France state that Imperial French prunes were 1s per cwt. or 1/2c per pound higher, while advices from Bosnia state that prunes in that market had advanced 2s from the lowest point. California prunes are also firm in their disposition, and it is anticipated that Santa Clara one of the choicest grades will rule very strong. The yield of Oregon prunes this year, according to late advices, is expected to be much under the average of last year. The first direct fruit steamer from the Mediterranean for Canada leaves Patras on the 10th, and Denia Spain, on the 20th, and should be at Montreal about the 15th of October. There has not been a great deal of business done yet on account of her cargo, but some sales of Valencia raisins on the basis of 6c to 6 1/2c have taken place for fine off-stalk fruit."

A New York report says: "Currents, in sympathy with stronger reports from the primary market, have been in better request, and we hear of sales of some 500 barrels at 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c on the spot. There is nothing new offered here below 3 1/2c in barrels, and 3 1/2c in cases, while a cable from the primary market has been received declining bids of less than 3s 6d.