

### Seneca Root.

Now that the seneca root season is starting again, it may be well to call attention to some points which should be observed in gathering and preparing the article for market. In the first place the root should be thoroughly washed, and then it should be dried thoroughly in the sun, so that it will be brittle and snap when bent. Root that will bend without snapping is too green to market. This is an important point. A great deal of root is marketed before it is properly dried. It may be spread out and dried afterwards, but it is not as good quality as when dried properly in the first place. The color is darker, and the root often becomes mouldy and damaged from being packed up before it is thoroughly dried. Green or damp root should not be taken on any account. The color is an important matter, hence the necessity for thoroughly washing and drying in the sun. Root dried in the sun has a brighter and more yellowish color than when dried under cover. The color of the Manitoba root is one of the greatest objections raised against it by foreign dealers. Small, fine root is more valuable than large, coarse and bulby root. The large bulby root is hard to sell. The root should be well washed around the tops, and any sprouts or growth should be carefully removed. Root with green or reddish tops is almost unsaleable at any price, and should not be taken.

It is necessary that country storekeepers, who buy the root should be more careful, as the wholesale buyers and exporters here will be obliged to discriminate as to quality, more than they have in the past on account of the refusal of foreign buyers to take root of such quality as has been frequently forwarded in the past. The trade is quite an important one, and it is worth while that an effort should be made to improve the quality of our exports of this commodity.

### The Crop.

The following crop reports were received by the Northern Pacific railway, from points along their line in Manitoba. The reports show the condition at the end of last week.

In the Rounthwaite district two-thirds of the wheat is in and much of it is above ground and looks vigorous. Plowing is being pushed and farmers are losing no time.

At Wawanesa the wheat is practically all sown, and about 50 per cent coarse grains as well. Earliest sown wheat is growing well, vegetation having been remarkable in spite of the cold weather.

Hilton reports one-half of the wheat area sown, with a possible decrease of 15 per cent in the total.

Elgin reports a favorable week for seeding, and 80 per cent of the crop is now in. The farmers are getting in all the grain they can.

Minto reports all plowing done and a bright outlook for both hay and grain.

Dunrea reports an increase of about 10 per cent in the wheat area. Oats are being sown and of this cereal there will also be an increased acreage.

At Ninette about 90 per cent of the wheat is in, and there is quite a growth in some places. Grass is fully four inches high in the meadows.

Belmont reports 80 per cent of the wheat in. Considerable plowing has to be done, but the ground is in fine shape.

At Baldur 70 per cent of the wheat has been sown, and the area will be much larger than at first expected, probably as much as last year.

Altamont reports 40 per cent of the wheat sown. The weather has delayed operations, and there will likely be a decreased acreage at this point. At Miami 60 per cent of the crop is in.

At Roland 70 per cent of the wheat is in. Early sown wheat is up and doing well.

Morris reports 60 per cent of the wheat area in. The balance has to be plowed and will be sown with coarse grain.

St. Jean, Letellier and Emerson send favorable reports. The farmers are working briskly and will probably make up for lost time. At Emerson there has been good vegetation, and the early sown wheat there is further advanced than it was this time a year ago.

### THE DAIRY TRADE.

#### BUTTER.

Montreal Trade Bulletin: "There are signs of a plentiful make of butter, judging from the more liberal offerings from factorymen during the past few days, and sales have been made of choice Eastern Townships creameries at 15 3-4c to 16c at the factories, although we hear of a very good French creamery having just been sold at 15 1-2c delivered here. There has been some fairly good buying for export account, several thousand packages having been taken during the past week by shippers, London being the principal destination, and the prices paid have been equal to 16 1-4c and 16 1-2c delivered here for choice in boxes, but the outside figure is said to be extreme to-day, 16 1-4c being considered top for the best creameries in boxes, with sales in 70 lb. tubs at 16c, undergraded ranging from 15 to 15 3-4c. On this date last year exporters were paying 16 1-2c to 17c for best creameries. The pastures are generally good, and with the promised rain, which has already set in, they should make rapid progress, and insure an ample flow of milk."

#### DAIRY TRADE NOTES.

The Crystal City creamery is now in operation.

Ten factories boarded 335 boxes at Madoc on May 10; 150 May cheese sold at 9c; balance unsold.

The first meeting of the Stirling cheese board was held on May 10. 255 boxes white were boarded. One firm bought 30 at 9 1-16c; balance unsold.

The first meeting of the Picton, Ont., cheese board was held on May 10. Nine factories boarded 356 boxes, 315 colored and 80 white; 9 1-16c highest bid, no sales.

The Woodstock, Ont., cheese board met for the first time for the season for organization on May 10. No cheese offered on board; April all sold at 9 1-4 to 9 3-8c.

The make of early spring cheese in Canada this year is estimated to have totalled 12,000 to 15,000 boxes as against fully 18,000 boxes last year. The higher prices which have prevailed have to some extent offset this loss.

There will not be an insolvency law introduced at this session of parliament, according to advices from the east.

### THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

#### PRICES STILL ADVANCING.

Mention was made a week or two ago, says the Toronto Globe on the authority of European buyers for Toronto houses of the continually advancing markets on the other side of the Atlantic. Tangible evidence of these advances are beginning to come to hand. There has been quite a big advance in Scotch crasses and towelings, and yesterday the advanced price list of these goods was received in this market. Bradford and Leeds woollen dress goods for the fall have been advanced in price, owing to the higher prices for fine wools. It is said that the receipts of fine wool in London are only about half what they were last year, and at each of the fortnightly wool sales either prices are established on a higher basis or previous quotations are strongly maintained. While the wholesale trade of Toronto do not take advantage of the retailers in moving prices up after an order has been placed, in sympathy with such advances noted above at Bradford and Leeds, the position of the market is very much strengthened, and retailers will see that it is very much to their interests to place fall orders early in order to get the benefit of present quotations. Should it be necessary to repeat lines in which prices have been advanced wholesalers will have to make charges to cover the enhanced value. There is a very active upward tendency in the prices of nearly all classes of dry goods. It would be impossible to give here a detailed list of advances that have taken place in the last few months. Such small goods as elastic, pins, threads, etc., all have been affected in this way, and in one or two lines three or four advances have been made in as many months.

#### DRY GOODS TRADE NOTES.

Several manufacturers have withdrawn their quotations on knitted goods.

The worsted manufacturers of Huddersfield, England, have withdrawn prices for their products pending an increase in quotations.

There has been so good a demand for ginghams and Saxons, that the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills company have been compelled to increase their capacity for making them. The manufacture of these goods has hitherto been carried on at the St. Croix mill, St. Stephen, N. B., but the Cornwall mill is now receiving 250 new looms, and a bleaching, which will put the mill in a position to produce these goods. It is expected that ginghams and Saxons will be turned out at Cornwall early in the coming autumn. —Monetary Times.

Lucas, Steele & Bristol, of Hamilton, have just completed additions to their already large warehouse. This was necessitated to a great extent on account of western trade. In future they guarantee quick shipment. Orders this spring have somewhat crowded them.

The total number of business failures in Canada during the week ending May 11th, according to Bradstreet's, was 20, as compared with 24 in the same week a year ago. Two of these failures are credited to Manitoba. As a matter of fact only one of them properly belongs to this province, the other was at Gleichen, a point in the Northwest Territories, hundreds of miles from Manitoba.