

adian consumers however. Good lynx from the North-West of Canada fetched prices at an advance of 20 per cent. Most of it was bought for the United States. American opossum sold for 10 per cent. cheaper than at last year's sales. Raccoon sold a little higher, and was bought largely for the North-West, as well as Europe.

All classes of coat stock for China were very much disturbed owing to war requirements in the Far East. China dogs, China goats, etc., were completely out of the market. Japan has been a heavy buyer of coat stock, and the Government of that country has been buying up all available goat and dog skins, and of course they did not come forward as usual.

WOOL PRICES.

No unanimity exists among wholesale dealers and manufacturers of woolen goods regarding the prospects for prices of wool in the future, though few will admit that there is much possibility of any strong downward movement for some time to come. Certain dealers believe that the crest of the high prices has been reached already; others that there will be no relief till next spring's yarns have been put in the market. Some again believe that prices will decline owing to the tendency of manufacturers, through stress of present high values, to use substitutes. For the present at any rate, prices of raw material and of finished products are very stiff. Certainly, there is an actual absolute scarcity of wool, not only for present needs, but for prospective. The only remedy would seem to be in a determination of the farmers to raise sheep more extensively; or, at any rate, to raise them for wool, rather than for young carcasses. The present profitable character of the wool branch of the farming business will doubtless tend to bring this about.

The talk from the Old Country centres does not conduce to any feeling of confidence in the probability of a speedy decline in price. The Bradford manufacturers, it is said, are refusing orders, and many even refuse to quote prices on staple goods. And all the time the demand seems to be increasing at a rapid pace—too rapid indeed for the makers who do not know where to obtain their raw material. This is particularly the case with goods of a coarser grade, which are now being called for more largely than ever, both for linings and coatings.

Retailers in this country have become imbued with the belief that prices are not at all likely to drop but may rather advance. They are therefore sending in orders at a rapid rate, their stocks, even though some parcels were left over from last winter owing to its severity, having been allowed to become rather low.

DISHONEST GOODS.

Attention may properly be paid by Canadian exporters to a communication in to-day's issue signed by Ex-Traveller, who gives us his name and whom we know to be a business man of good character, and a salesman of long experience. What we said in the item he quotes was that dealers in Canadian canned goods in the British Islands complained that "neither meat nor fruit products can be relied on as being equal to sample." We have received and printed months and even years ago complaints from the Old

Country, and from Australasia, about defects of this kind in Canadian manufactures of several kinds. It is not alleged that our goods generally are deserving of this censure; if they were we could not sell abroad at all, either canned goods or any thing else. But the iniquitous exceptions such as are objected to, and of which Ex-Traveller gives an example, are enough to prejudice Canadian goods generally in the minds of far-away buyers. It is quite possible that there are dishonest United States goods exported, too—for we do not believe American commercial morality any higher than Canadian. But this does not excuse us. Dishonestly packed barrels of apples; untruthfully labelled cans of fruit, or vegetables, or meat, cannot for any length of time impose upon buyers, either home or foreign. And it will be in vain for Associations or Government agents to continue their efforts to build up our export trade with the United Kingdom if we send to that country merchandise inferior to what we give buyers to understand is their real quality. The British market will buy freely of good goods, carefully packed. And no other kind should be allowed to be sent from Canada.

PUBLIC CARELESSNESS.

In matters of building construction, in protection from dangers of exposed machinery, in decayed or abraded insulation of electric wires, in negligence as to common and apparently trivial causes of fire, the public has grown in large degree callous. We suffer, often seriously, for our remissness in these respects. People and animals are killed or injured, and a frightful deal of loss is suffered because people will not pay attention to self-evident truths and protect themselves and others from fire and accident. True, we have building laws and fire inspection regulations and city by-laws, none of them excessively well enforced as a rule, designed to increase the public safety. But the great public itself cannot be saved from harm if it will not help in the observance or enforcement of such municipal or other orders. And as a matter of fact it is very refractory about such matters, and calls the fire underwriters "unreasonable cranks" and other stronger names for imposing conditions designed to lessen devastation by fire.

A fire-marshal in the State of Ohio, Mr. Henry Davis, is doing good work in arousing the people of his State to the enormity of the fire-waste. One of his circulars, on Spontaneous Combustion, we have already printed; another takes cognizance of dangers from matches. Speaking of lucifer, or parlor matches, he says:—

"In Ohio the burning of buildings [453 fires in a single year, loss \$500,000] by carelessness with these matches is a continuous performance; the attending light is never allowed entirely to go out, because a new fire is started for each sixteen hours. . . . Of the 446 fires in Ohio in 1904 from carelessness with matches, 122 were from children being allowed to play with them; 298 were cases in which those of mature years, and presumably mature judgment, were the culprits, and 26 were instances of matches being ignited by rats or mice. . . . The Spectator says a parlor match was responsible for the Sioux City fire, which resulted in the heaviest loss in the West during 1904. A man stepped on the match, and the blazing head flew into a pile of cotton batting near by."

He recommends the discarding of the parlor match and the adoption of safety matches which will light only on the box, and shows that Denmark and