

THE TOBACCO CROP.

Advices from Richmond to the New York *Journal of Commerce*, dated 23rd ult. are as under:—

In this State there have been continued heavy storms, winds and excessive heat, with no inconsiderable damage to crops reported. The thermometer has reached from 106 to 108 degrees in this city. Some hail has been reported, while in a large section of the bright tobacco belt the crop is suffering for rain very much. Topping of the weed has been prematurely begun in other places, but withal the prospect for the small crop planted is good, especially in dark leaf. Shipping dark leaf is still without special feature, and little or no change noted in prices. Manufacturing leaf and lugs have advanced, but not nearly in the same proportion as in the Eastern markets. Our market seems to follow conservatively and slowly, holding firmly at every advance, but withal prices are not yet high with us by any comparison except the very lowest of three months ago. Good mahogany wrappers are in good demand and with room for considerable advance. Fine leaf in brights is scarce still. Bright fillers are more esteemed. Common lugs more active. Sun-cured somewhat irregular; offerings good—much re-offered. Burleys continue to go to and from the West on advances. To-day all grades were active, and somewhat excited on receipt of the heavy advance in the West of from 2½ to 3 cents in the past few days.

It would be well to repeat that buying here as well as in the principal eastern markets seems to be by manufacturers for consumption as well as speculators, but that in this movement there is no influence of importance outside of the legitimate tobacco trade, so in this respect, as distinguished from grain, cotton and other booms, the tobacco boom must be regarded as a reasonable and healthy one. One State Commissioner places the tobacco crop of Virginia at 61.82 average in area and 85.43 in condition, and notes a large falling off in hills. The trade estimates the crop at 50 to 55 per cent. of an average.

BRUNETTE AND BLONDE.

From a book just published by McMillan, in London, and New York, entitled "Romantic Love and Personal Beauty," we take the following somewhat remarkable statistics. The author's name is H. T. Finck.

A portion of Mr. Finck's book considers the blonde and brunette controversy. The author appears to have placed himself on the side of brunettes. At any rate, he considers that the brunettes have the future on their side. It has been asserted that there has been a gradual decrease of blondes in Germany. Almost 11,000,000 school children were examined in Germany, Austria, and Belgium and the result showed that Switzerland has only 11.10, Austria 19.79, and Germany 31.80 per cent. of pure blondes. Thus, the country, which, since the days of ancient Rome, has been proverbially known as the home of yellow hair has, to-day, only 32 pure blondes in 100, while the average of pure brunettes is 14 per cent., and in some regions rises as high as 25 per cent. The 53 per cent. of the mixed type are said to be undergoing a transformation into pure brunettes. Dr. Beddoe, in England, has collected a number of statistics which seem to point in the same direction. Among 726 women he examined he found 369 brunettes and 357 blondes. Of the brunettes he found that 78 per cent. were married, while of the blondes only 68 per cent. were married. Thus it would seem that the brunette hasten chances of getting married in England to a blonde's nine. In France a similar view has been put forth by M. Adolph de Candolle. M. de Candolle found that, when both parents have eyes of the same color, 88 per cent. inherit this color. But it is a curious fact that more females than males have black or brown eyes, in the proportion of 45 to 43. It seems that with different colored eyes in the two parents 53 per cent. followed the father in being dark-eyed and 55 per cent. followed the mother in being dark-eyed. An increase of five per cent. of dark eyes in each generation must tell in the course of time.

—The money for a guarantee fund of \$1,000,000 for a Centennial Exposition next year in Cincinnati has been subscribed, and the work of erecting buildings will proceed at once.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Listowel, July 13th.—The Wallace cheese factory burned with 600 cheese. Insured \$3,000.—Belleville, July 23rd.—Dickens' bakery damaged. Insured.—Georgetown.—24th.—The Bennett House and stables burned with 700 bush. oats, 5 horses, etc. Insured \$1,500.—Michael's Bay, 28th.—Raymond's saw mill with a large stock of lumber burned.—Kingston, 29th.—Maloney and McCutcheon's stables damaged \$600. Not insured.—Ekfrid, Tp.—John Graham's barns and outbuildings burned. Loss about \$2,500.—Hespeler, 30th.—Harvey and McQueen's dye house damaged, \$10,000. Insured.—Petrolia, 30th.—Fire damaged the Consumers' Oil Refinery to a considerable extent.—Weland, 30th.—Ellsworth's saw and planing mill burned. Insured in Waterloo \$1,500, Mercantile \$500. Loss over \$4,000. In the same H. N. Sheppard loses about \$1,000 on his canning factory and W. B. Rowe on lumber which was insured \$1,000 in Royal.—Howe Island.—John O'Brien's barn with contents burned by lightning.—Manitowaning, July 30th.—Fire destroyed Butchart's shop and its contents, \$300; Mrs. Parkinson's post office building, \$700; C. J. Winkler, tin shop, \$300; James Reynolds, shoe store, \$400.—Chatham, Aug. 1st.—The dwelling and stable belonging to M. Stean, 2 miles west of Comber, was destroyed by fire. A span of horses and a cow were also burned. The loss is estimated at \$1,000.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Sherbrooke, Que., July 14.—Fire broke out in Symmes' Pulp works, in the Water Power Co.'s building and damaged property to the extent of nearly \$40,000. This building was insured in the Glasgow & London, \$1,000; Royal Canadian, \$2,500; Western Assurance Company, \$2,000; North British and Mercantile, \$2,500. Other insurances are Jenckes & Son, machinists, the Guardian, \$1,000; Glasgow & London, \$3,000; Ætna, \$1,000; Stanstead & Sherbrooke Mutual, \$3,000. Thompson & Co., bobbin makers, the British America, \$2,000; Glasgow and London, \$1,000; Queen, \$500. S. Twose, the Citizens, \$1,000; Glasgow & London, \$1,000. Symmes Brothers, \$5,000 as follows:—City of London, \$2,500; Citizens, \$1,250. S. & S. Mutual, \$1,250.—St. John, N.B., July 13.—Hilyard Bro's sawmill, valued at \$30,000, burned. Insured about \$13,000.—Point Fortune, July 19.—H. Desautel's stables damaged \$350, partly insured.—Montreal, Aug. 2.—A fire broke out in the stable of F. Paquette, grocer, and before it was quenched over forty families, laborers and mechanics, were rendered homeless. The burned district is bounded by Napoleon, St. Jean Baptiste, St. Hypolite and St. Dominique streets. Paquette was insured on building and stock \$3,000 in City of London.

—New tenders have been asked for lighting the streets of Halifax, and competition ensued between the Halifax Gas Light Company which has an extensive electric light plant in course of construction, and the Halifax Electric Light Company. The Gas Company offered 100 arc lights of 2,000 candle power at \$70 and \$80, according to distance, and 50 incandescent lights of 50 candle power at \$25 each. The Electric Light Company offers the incandescent at \$25 and the arc lights at \$90. It would be thought that the Gas Company's offer being the lowest it would get the contract, but city councils do not always give tenders to the lowest, so the whole tenders were referred to the City Board of Works for a report, &c.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 4th Aug., 1887.

ASHES.—The market has ruled quiet since last report developing further weakness, No. 1 pots having declined to \$3.75, a falling off of a dollar in a fortnight. No transactions have transpired in pearls or second quality pots and values are altogether nominal. The receipts for '87 to 1st inst. are 2,445 pots, 155 pearls, against 2,231 pots, and 123 pearls for same period of last year. In store August 1st, '87, 532 pots, and 26 pearls.

BOOTS, SHOES AND LEATHER.—The shoe trade expresses satisfaction with the volume of orders

coming in, but is not yet apparently in the market for stocks of leather. In this latter line matters continue very quiet; some moderate sales of sole are reported, but black leathers move very slowly, and show some accumulation resulting in easier values. Splits and buff continue to be shipped in considerable quantities in spite of low returns from the other side. We quote:—Spanish sole, B. A. No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do., No. 2, B. A., 20 to 23c.; No. 1 Ordinary Spanish 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; No. 1 China, 21c. to 00; No. 2, 19c. to 00; Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1, 25 to 27c.; oak sole, 42 to 47c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 37c.; ditto, heavy 32 to 35c.; Grained 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained 36 to 42c.; Splits large 20 to 26c.; do. small 16 to 20c.; Calf-splits, 32 to 33c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46 lbs.), 70 to 80c.; Imitation French Calf skins 80 to 85c.; Russet Sheepskins Linings, 30 to 40c.; Harness 24 to 33c.; Buffed Cow, 13 to 15c.; Pebbled Cow, 11 to 15c.; Rough 23 to 26c.; Russet and Bridle, 54 to 55c.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—A fair jobbing distribution is going on in these lines at pretty steady prices. Carbolic acid is again easier; quinine dull; opium and morphia rather firmer. We quote:—Sul Soda 90 to \$1.00; Bi-Carb Soda \$2.30 to \$2.40; Soda Ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.65 to \$1.75; Bichromate of Potash, per 100 lbs., \$8 to \$10.00; Borax, refined, 10c.; Cream Tartar crystals, 32 to 33c.; do. ground, 35 to 36c.; Tartaric Acid crystal 55 to 60c.; do. powder, 60 to 65c.; Citric Acid, 80 to 85c.; Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11c.; Bleaching Powder, \$2.50; Alum, \$1.60 to \$1.65; Copperas, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; Flowers Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.60 to \$3; Roll Sulphur, \$2.00 to \$2.25; Sulphate of Copper, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Epsom Salts, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre \$9.00 to \$9.40; American Quinine, 60 to 65c.; German Quinine, 70 to 75c.; Howard's Quinine, 80 to 90c.; Opium, \$5.50 to \$6.00; Morphia, \$2.50 to \$3.00; Gum Arabic sorts, 70 to 90c.; White, \$1 to \$1.25; Carbolic Acid, 45 to 50c.; Iodide Potassium, \$4.25 to 4.50 per lb.; Iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00; Iodoform \$6.50 to \$7.00. Prices for essential oils are: Oil lemon \$2.00 to \$2.50; oil bergamot \$3.00 to \$3.50; Orange, \$3.50; oil peppermint, \$4.50 to \$4.75; Glycerine 25 to 26c.; Senna, 18 to 30c. English Camphor. 40c. American do. 35c.

DRY GOODS.—Business is not much more active than it was a week ago, and the warehouses do not show any great amount of bustle. Travellers' orders while fairly numerous, are not at all large, and the bulk of the autumn buying is yet to be done. Retail trade in both city and country is now very dull, and it cannot be expected that many more summer goods will be sold this season. Country collections are slow as usual at this season. Values are steadily sustained in all lines.

FISH.—Some additional small lots of Cape Breton herring are to hand, and have sold mainly at \$5.50; dry cod is in fair request at \$4.25 to \$4.50. We have not heard of any receipts of new pack of salmon yet.

HIDES.—Business has been of only a moderate compass since last report, and values are unchanged; Toronto No. 1 are quoted at 8¼ to 8½c.; green butchers' as last quoted; calfskins 8c.; lambskins 45c.

GROCERIES.—Sugars are active and higher, the lowest grade being now 5½c. for yellows ranging up to 6½c.; a few lots of grocery raws have sold at 4¼ to 5½c.; granulated, firm; guild price 6½c. in quantity. Molasses is firmer under light supplies, sales of round lots have transpired at 32½c., holders now asking 33 to 34c., with a prospect of further advance; some dealers have realized a handsome profit on recent cargoes. There is rather a feeling of disappointment as regards the tea market which rules dull and rather weak, the fast following shipments of new teas by the C. P. R. creating some accumulation, as the demand is not sufficiently active to exhaust one shipment before another is to hand. Sales of good common Japans are reported in quantity at 14 to 14½c., medium to good medium at 16 to 18c.; coffees show but little alteration in value and are in fair request, we quote Rio 23 to 25c.; Mocha 24 to 26c., Ceylon 22 to 25c. Java, 23 to 27c. In dried fruits currants continue in moderate demand, other lines dull, but values firm. Valencia raisins are sold in quantity at 5¼ to 6c. and Elemes are coming in now at 5¼ to 5½c.; currants are very steady at 6 to 6½c., the crop prospects are reported