

### The Lumber Trade.

Frank Lavin has purchased the saw mill and lumber business of the Salmu Lumber company at Salmu, B. C.

The shingle men at Seattle and Tacoma have issued a circular advising the mills to close down for a time to prevent a slump in prices.

The Cody saw mill near Sandon, B. C., has been purchased by Mr. Hascom and the machinery has been shipped to the line of the Crow's Nest Pass railway, where it will be used in cutting construction timber.

West coast lumber is coming largely into use in the building of vessels and the new impetus that has been given to ship building by the war. Fir for docking is especially in demand, and a United States Pacific coast concern has recently received an order from Philadelphia for a large order. The specifications call for material with not a knot or blemish of any kind, and the west coast lumber is the kind that can be furnished to comply exactly with such requirements.

The Minneapolis Lumberman says: The generally accepted price for "A" red cedar shingles in the local market is \$2.20 per thousand. Some dealers were asking \$2.25 for a time, but that was rather in advance of the market. Some sales are possibly made at \$2.15 on a fifty cent rate. It is not likely that there will be any falling off in the prices for the shingle mills of the west coast are preparing to shut down during the month of May to anticipate a falling off in the trade. The demand for fir lumber is good and prices are ranging higher than they were a year ago.

The cancellation of the city lumber contract, after the tender of Dick, Banning & Co. had been accepted, is causing much adverse comment in business circles. It is a well recognized business principle, between honorable business men, that a bargain should be adhered to, even though it might be to the disadvantage of one of the parties thereto. In this case the only reason given for the cancellation of the contract is that the time between the first appearance of the advertisement and the closing of the tenders was too short. Dick, Banning & Co. are therefore made to suffer for the mistake of the city authorities. The least the city can do in the matter would be to take the material ordered for the city by the firm who were first awarded the contract, at the price called for in the tender. No objection could be made to the tender on the ground that the prices quoted were too high. Though higher than last year, the prices quoted are low, compared with lumber prices generally and with the improved market this year.

### Grocery Trade Notes.

United States buyers have been picking up considerable tea in Canada recently.

The Montreal Gazette says: "In sympathy with the continued strong advices from foreign markets and a further advance in prices of 6d in Burmah, the undertone to the local market is still strong and prices here have been marked up 25c per 100 lbs.

The bill to amend the adulteration of foods act, has been passed at Ottawa. It provides more severe penalties for the adulteration of food, which is likely to prove dangerous to the

public health, and better facilities for reaching the manufacturers of such adulterated foods.

Molasses is strong owing to the war. The closing of Porto Rico ports will help Barbadoes trade, and this is already noticeable in an advance of 1c on the latter at the primary market, to 18c, equal to 27c laid down at Montreal. The Montreal wholesale grocery guild has advanced the price on Barbadoes molasses 1c. The price is now 25c for car lots and 26c for puncheons.

The first direct steamer with Mediterranean green fruits, the steamer Matthews, arrived in Montreal on Tuesday of last week. Her cargo consisted of 26,500 packages of Messina lemons, 1,700 Palermo do., and 600 Sorrento do.; and 4,000 packages Messina oranges, 280 Palermo do., and 3,500 Sorrento do., will be put out at public auction next week. The steamer Fremont has also arrived with fruit from the Mediterranean.

With a blockade of Cuban ports, and the Philippines, it is very natural that the market for raw sugar should show some response. Two weeks ago the price for 96 degrees was 41-16c, while yesterday the market was firm at 41-1c. Not only are exports from Cuba suspended, but the receipts from all West Indian countries are seriously interfered with on account of high freight rates. Beet sugar in Germany has shown an advance of 41-2d per 100 lbs. N. Y. Commercial Bulletin.

A good deal of uncertainty is felt as to whether any further shipments of almonds from Spain will be made, and if made, whether they will be admitted to this country. It is reported that the treasury department has stated any stock shipped from Spain not accompanied by a consular invoice will be liable to confiscation. It is also intimated that Spanish merchandise, whether shipped direct or via England or continental ports, may soon be refused entry at United States ports.—New York Journal of Commerce.

### Hardware and Paint Trade

The advance in ocean freight rates is the cause of the advance reported by wire to The Commercial last week on linseed oil in Eastern markets. The high freight rates may affect prices on other commodities as well.

Buchanan & Gordon sent in a tender to supply Portland cement to the Winnipeg city council at \$3.42; or \$3.37 per bag. From the latter price 10 cents per sack would be allowed on the sacks being returned.

The advance in rope is general in the United States and Canada. Prices are now about \$40 per ton above the lowest point, and, with war between the United States and Spain, still further advances are looked for.

Owing to the war between Spain and the United States, Derbyshire lead advanced \$10 per ton in England. White lead has been advanced in all markets, as our wire reports showed last week, owing to the steady advance in pig lead.

The recent heavy drop in turpentine is said to be partially due to a desire to market the product before the interruption of shipping by the war. The price, however, has fluctuated up and down quite frequently of late, and the latest change is an advance.

### Grain and Milling News.

The flour mill at Minnedosa is offered for sale.

France, Italy and Spain have temporarily suspended the duty on cereals. Spain has prohibited the export of corn, rye, flour and potatoes.

The information from Ottawa regarding the bill dealing with elevators in Manitoba, is not understood here. It is supposed that the provision allowing flat warehouses will apply only to farmers, and not to dealers.

Nothing is reported yet in the way of new mills to be built in Manitoba this year. Machinery men are figuring on several proposed mills, but contracts have not been let. The refusal of the legislature to sanction bonuses for several proposed mills, may prevent there going ahead this year.

### The Live Stock Trade.

Hall Bro. & Co., of Portage la Prairie, shipped a consignment of cattle to Montreal this week.

W. R. Stewart, rancher, of Macleod, has secured 800 stockers in Manitoba for his ranch. He visited Ontario, but says stockers cannot be procured there.

The demand for stock cars in Southern Manitoba and along the M. & N. W. line is large, for the moving of summer cattle to the western ranges and United States markets.

Armour & Co., packers, of Chicago, recently purchased 150 Yorkshire bacon pigs in Canada, paid duty on them going into the States, turned them into bacon and shipped the product to the English market for the purpose of seeing how it would compare with United States bacon. The Breeders' Gazette, of Chicago, says the result shows that the bacon made from the Canadian hogs commanded a premium over the price secured for the United States product. This premium was not, however, sufficient to warrant the importation of hogs from Canada and the payment of duty on them. The probable outcome of the experiment would appear to be that the Armour's will endeavor, by offering higher prices, to induce farmers to produce hogs of a similar class.

### Raw Furs.

The spring collection of furs, except the water animals and bear, grows faded, rubbed and begin shedding as the season advances. Water animals are good as long as the water is cold, and bear are the best when they first come out of their dens in the spring. Skunk shed earlier than any other animal. Shedding furs can be detected by looking through them toward the light. They grade No. 2 and 3, and where badly shedding, No. 4. Spring-caught mink are virtually all pale or red in color.

Traders from the north report this season's yield of fur as being away below the average.

Bank clearings of the Winnipeg clearing house during April aggregated \$6,240,000, compared with \$4,162,000, and \$4,032,000 for the corresponding month of 1897 and 1896 respectively.

Transactions for April at the Dominion Savings bank, Winnipeg, were: Deposits, \$19,691; withdrawals, \$21,242.98; with withdrawals exceed deposits by \$1,551.98.