

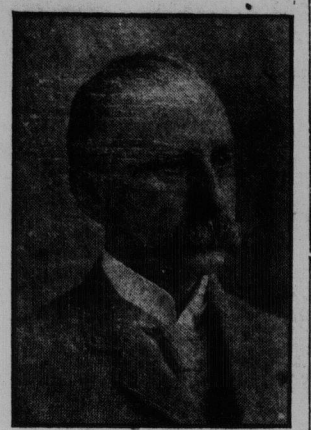
## Grocery Business Was Good; But Luxuries Not Demanded.

**Staple Articles Have  
Very Generally Ad-  
vanced in Prices —  
Collections are Re-  
ported Rather Slow  
But Losses are Few**

While the general demand for staple articles of diet has been as good as in other years, the amount of fancy goods bought by the people of New Brunswick has dropped off considerably. Economy has been the characteristic of the wholesale grocery and provision trade during the year, but in spite of this the business has been reported good in the real necessities of life.

Collections in the wholesale grocery lines are reported slow and have been during the whole year. Extension of time has been given to many of the retailers by the larger concerns. The losses have not been great and all the credit extended is said to be first class, but slow. The general tightness of money is said to be the cause of this but generally the city merchants are paying their bills and it is only the smaller man in the country town or village, who is be-

### A CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY



MR. GILBERT W. GANONG.  
St. Stephen, N. B.

hind. It seems to be the opinion that these small retailers are taking advantage of the hard times in the large cities and using that as an excuse for not settling their accounts with the wholesalers, while investing what money they can secure in fox farms and other such enterprises. However no serious results are anticipated and it is believed that 1919 will eventually be considered as an average year among the wholesale grocery men.

Ontario flour is twenty cents a barrel cheaper now than it was last January but the price of Manitoba products has remained the same. Since January 1918 there has been a variation of only 40 cents a barrel in Manitoba flour, while the fluctuation in Ontario goods has been \$1.00. The reason of the change in Ontario flour prices, is that the supply is not regular on account of the comparatively small area in Ontario now over to wheat and a bad year of frost affects the price. On the other hand the yield of the West is rather steady and the hard wheat is grown in so many different localities that the general production is regular.

Sugar has dropped twenty cents a hundred since January, but at one time there was a difference of thirty cents, still the market price has remained firm and no great difference in prices is expected.

The demand for dried fruits has been steady. Currants are slightly lower than last year, but dates and figs have advanced a little. Evaporated apples are selling 25 per cent. higher than last year and prunes have been advanced twenty to thirty-five per cent. over the previous season.

There has been a marked difference in California raisins. The cost of these has jumped more than seventy per cent. since the fall shipments were made. The crop in California has been very seriously affected by the long dry season and the production of the vine is poor.

Pork has remained at a high level, beef has been steadily advancing, and is now from \$2 to \$3 a barrel higher than last year. The bean situation has become easier and the fall shipments have caused the price to drop considerably. Last year the crop was a failure in Canada and beans had to be imported from Austria and France. The old stock is quoted from twenty to thirty-five per cent. higher than the new crop of Canadian beans. The price of yard has been fluctuating slightly, but two cents is the greatest variation in price noted during the year. The price now is about the same as during last January.

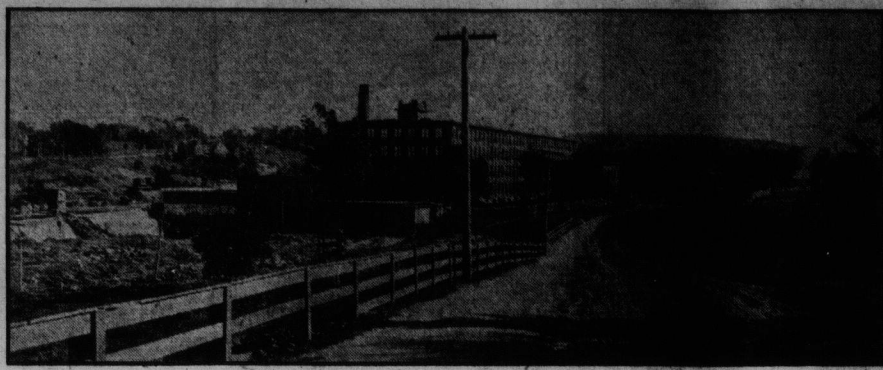
The weather conditions have been particularly favorable to field crops such as corn, peas and tomatoes. In these products there has been a sharp decline since the new stock was placed on the market. Hops have advanced ten cents a pound and the stock is very limited.

The price of fish has also advanced and codfish has been selling at \$6.00 a hundred wholesale.

The demand for pickles, relishes and other fancy products has fallen off during the summer and people have settled down to the more solid articles of diet. During the last month however, conditions have changed for the better and wholesalers have experienced quite a rush in the fancier lines of goods.

With the settlement of the labor difficulties here during the next few weeks it is expected that conditions will greatly improve and in St. John, at least, the general increase in business will be greater than over in

### AN IMMENSE MILLTOWN FACTORY



THE ST. CROIX COTTON MILL, WHERE 650 OPERATIVES FIND EMPLOYMENT.

At Milltown, two miles above St. Stephen, on the St. Croix river, is situated the large cotton mill owned and operated by Canadian Cottons Ltd. This industry, known as the St. Croix Cotton Mill, came to be established at Milltown on account of the great advantages there of the natural water power. For this reason millmen of Providence, R. I., built the mill in 1881. In 1902 a syndicate, known as Canadian Cottons Ltd., was formed in connection with other mills in Western

Canada, and took over the St. Croix mill. The company, which is controlled by Canadian capital, owns and operates in addition to the St. Croix mill, a mill at Hamilton, Ont., their mills at Cornwall, Ont., and a mill at Marysville, in York County. The company also controls the output of the Cornwall and York mills in St. John. J. W. Graham is the resident manager at Milltown.

The company employs in the St. Croix mill 650 hands and could employ 50 more hands if they could be secured. There are 1,200 looms and

37,000 spindles at work in the factory. At this mill the company makes a specialty of manufacturing fine dress and shirting gingham. It is the only mill in Canada which specializes in the finer class of gingham.

Water power for the mill, as has been stated, is derived from the St. Croix river. Some idea of the immense size of the factory may be gathered from the fact that there are 350,000 square feet of floor space in the buildings. The trade of the St. Croix mill extends all over the Dominion.

### TELEPHONE COMPANY HAS DONE MUCH WORK

New Brunswick has added thousands of miles of wire and hundreds of instruments to its telephone circuits during the last twelve months. In farmers' lines alone, more than forty miles of poles have been set up and 160 miles of new lines installed. This was for farmers' service connected with the New Brunswick Telephone Co., Ltd. system. Private farmers' lines have also been built and the amount of wire stretched has been nearly 500 miles, during the last year. The New Brunswick Telephone Co. Ltd. has added 1200 new instruments to its circuits, while the equipment has been increased in almost every exchange in the province. This company now has nearly 14,000 instruments installed throughout New Brunswick, and new telephones are being placed at the rate of 100 per month.

A new exchange with thirty-five subscribers has been opened at Gagetown. One at Blackville has twenty-five instruments and another at Shippigan has fifteen.

The long distance equipment from

St. John to Fredericton has been increased by two new circuits. Other new circuits have been run between Sackville and Amherst, St. Stephens and St. Andrews and between Caraquet and Point Misou.

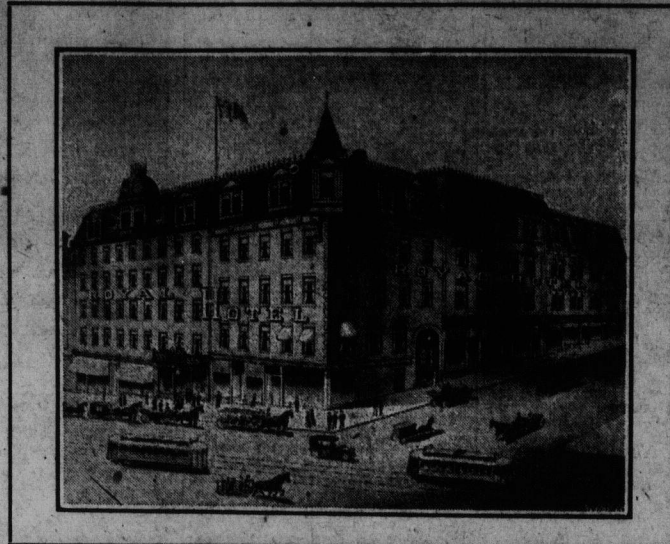
Intercommunicating sets and private exchanges in connection with the New Brunswick service, have become more popular during the year and four new systems have been placed in St. John, while Fredericton secured two. The company has been slowly but surely substituting underground for overhead lines and underground conduits have been placed as follows: Charlotte St. from Duke to Britain; Germain St. from Union to the country market and the south side of King St. from Charlotte to Sydney. In Moncton 3150 feet of underground cables has been placed in St. George St. The cable stretched in 1913 was as follows: 3500 feet made up of 200 pairs of wires, 2000 feet containing 100 pairs, 9000 feet containing 50 pairs, 27,000 feet containing 25 pairs and 4500 feet containing 15 pairs. This would mean that nearly three hundred and fifty

miles of single conductors have been included in this cable alone.

Additions have been made to the St. John office and a board to handle 420 additional lines has been installed, in both the main exchange and in St. John West office. A modern testing board for the wirechief has also been placed in the St. John building and all lines in the province may be tested from there. By means of instruments attached to this board breaks in any line may be located. A new submarine cable is now being laid between Moscou and Shippigan, distance of 6000 ft. With the equipment at present in the St. John office, it is understood that St. John has the most up-to-date terminal facilities of any city east of Montreal. Officials of the New Brunswick Telephone Co., Ltd. pointed out to The Standard that the telephone was a fine indicator in connection with the general prosperity and it was certain that New Brunswick had had a successful year in practically all branches of business and that people had not been pressed for money, as they were in other parts of Canada.

## ROYAL HOTEL

St. John, N. B.



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