

round-hooped. From the present appearances, if the quality be kept uniformly good, and the packages like those now being sent, flour of Canadian manufacture will, no doubt, obtain a fair share of the trade here after a little while."

IMPURITY IN CLOVER SEED.

An article drawing attention to the impurity of the clover seed exported by Canada and the United States has received pretty wide circulation in the press this week. The question is not a new one, and unfortunately the statement made that the American seeds received by English importing houses are very impure, is but too true. In September last the Ontario Department of Agriculture issued a bulletin entitled "Impurities in Clover Seed." A tabulated statement was therein given showing the number of weed seeds and other impurities in a half ounce of both alsike and red clover seeds. Although the compiler is very apparently inaccurate in some of his figures, his work is valuable as drawing attention to the matter and this bulletin is the inspiration of the article in question. Nine reports are received from wholesale seedsmen in Toronto, Hamilton, London and St. Mary's and the most unfavorable test in this list gives ten weed seeds in the half ounce of alsike examined by each and six weed seeds in the half ounce of red clover tested. Some of the tests, however, as made by other than wholesale seedsmen, gave exceedingly bad results. These latter reports for the most part are made from small towns and villages, and show imperfect methods of cleaning. The moral, of course, naturally follows that in the interest of Canadian agriculture and of the seed export trade, farmers should dispose of their seeds to reputable merchants only. An export trade is in a peculiar position. Every man engaging in it is placed upon his honor to deal fairly and squarely. The knavery, incompetence or carelessness of two or three persons may jeopardize the very existence of the whole industry.

Some weeds are more obnoxious than others. To distribute wild mustard, wild flax and Canada thistles through seed for further culture is almost a crime, and the Government should take steps to prevent farmers whose land is overrun with these weeds from offering seed in the market. But that a certain amount of sorrel, smart-weed and grass seed will be found in all marketable seeds passes without saying; and only by the use of the most effective machinery can purity be obtained. But a thorough process of cleaning is expensive. Canadian exporters are constantly receiving letters from abroad asking "for low priced seeds irrespective of quality." Canadian farmers, too, are making similar demands. While dealers feel that it is not in the interest of the trade and of agriculture to fill these orders, they are forced by competition to meet the wishes of consumers. If farmers are willing to pay for pure seed, they can always obtain it; but they apparently prefer something "cheap," and certainly they appear to be getting what they ask for.

THE STATE OF TRADE IN CHINA.

We are favored with copy of a letter recently received from China by Mr. J. H. Wardlow, of Montreal, referring to the purchase there of China goatskins, which that gentleman imports largely into Canada, and which are used for the manufacture of glazed dongola kid.

The letter is dated Shanghai, 21st November, 1894, and regrets that the writer is unable to make any offers this season. "The war is checking business. Coolies and peasants are recruited in the interior for the army, and the ones remaining are afraid to travel and to bring their skins to market. Up to to-day we have seen only small ridiculous lots not worth while to be wired, and what is more, as soon as they appear they are bought. No Chinese merchant now gives refusals, and as in many places Chinese Mandarins are exacting heavy contributions from the rich merchants, they have almost all fled to the open ports, and there is nobody left in the interior with whom contracts could be safely made. We don't see any other way for you to do business this season in goatskins than to give us orders with your limits, so that we are enabled to buy the lots as they make their appearance."

RAW FURS.

Winnipeg was once almost the exclusive centre of the fur trade. But like lumber, as years roll by, the primary fur market moves farther back from the more settled districts of the country, and although Winnipeg has not lost its hold upon the fur trade, it must now divide the honors with Edmonton, that thriving, promising little town in Canada's Far Northwest. The *Bulletin*, Edmonton's bright little paper, in a review of the season, says: "This is a great season for fur. Foxes, lynx, coyotes and skunks head the list for number, but there is also a large trade in musk rats and mink, with more than the usual sprinkling of otter and fisher. Besides the abundance of fur-bearing animals, the mild weather and light snow have been most favorable for hunting, and

the abundance of rabbits makes it possible for the Indians to go greater distances and hunt more steadily than they could if they had to procure their principal supplies from the traders. Added to this is the inducement to hunt offered by the keen competition and cash prices offered by the Edmonton fur buyers—prices which it is said state of world's fur market scarcely justify. Fur has been coming in at a rate of \$500 to \$1,000 a week for the past few weeks, for which cash is paid, and the money almost entirely spent in town. These furs come solely from points at no great distance from Edmonton. The most important and distant points have not yet been heard from. The foundation of all this trade is the rabbit—the insignificant, timorous, good for nothing rabbit. The rabbits have been on the increase for the past five years. The ravages of all the flesh-eating wild animals upon them have not kept down their numbers. Last year they were in thousands. This winter they are in millions."

SALT MANUFACTURERS IN SESSION.

For a long time the Ontario manufacturers of salt have held that their selling prices were too low and that the salt industry afforded little or no profit. Last Saturday a meeting was held in London to consider the question of bringing market values more in harmony with the costs of production. All the firms in Western Ontario, for here the industry of salt making is carried on, were represented, and the greatest interest was manifested in the proceedings. Mr. Gray, of Seaforth, was chosen chairman, and Mr. T. H. Carter, of Courtwright, performed the duties of secretary. Amongst other prominent salt men present were Messrs. R. O. Kinney and H. C. Sanborn, of Detroit; Dr. Armstrong and S. A. Armstrong, of Moore; John Ransford, Clinton; R. S. Hodgins and John Fox, Lucan; R. W. Logan, Goderich. The proceedings were not opened to the press. A committee was appointed to consider the matter in the morning session, and this committee reporting after lunch recommended a general advance in wholesale prices. "Canadian salt," the statement given to the press continues, "is of far finer quality than the American article, and yet the former wholesales for 45 cents a barrel where the latter sells for 70 or 75 cents. The report was discussed until late in the afternoon, but nothing definite was done, except that a general understanding was come to that the standard price should be put up to between 60 and 75 cents. The details necessary to such an arrangement will be made by correspondence."

PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

The following returns of the output and shipments of Canadian phosphate of lime are taken from the *Mining Review* for December. They show, says that journal, the worst year's business in the history of the industry:

Phosphate of Lime Co. to Great Britain.....	2,693 tons
British Phosphate Co. " " about	600 "
Phosphate of Lime Co. to United States.....	1,200 "
J. S. Higginson, Buckingham, to United States....	800 "
Sold to Capelton and Hamilton, Canada.....	700 "
On dumps at 1st December, estimated	3,000 "
	8,993 tons

Last quotations for 80 per cent. c.i.f. Liverpool, 7d. per unit, equal to \$11.65 at 8½ ex., and \$8.74 Montreal f.o.b., and \$6.88 Buckingham. Low grade 60 to 65 per cent. f.o.b. cars, Buckingham ground and in bags \$5.50, equal to \$3 per ton unground Buckingham; 70 per cent., 6d. per unit, equals \$3.70 per ton Buckingham. The editor, Mr. Bell, believes that within a few years the phosphate business of the Ottawa district will be again on a substantial basis, as the demand for high grade ores is bound to come. The decline in prices has been abnormal. For 80 per cent. ore the price has steadily fallen from 16½d. in 1891 to 7d. during the season of 1894. Last quotation 80 per cent. in June, 1894, realized 8½d., and in August 7½d., the last quotation being as given, viz., 7d.

BUSINESS IN CANADA.

J. H. Botterell & Co., manufacturers of boots and shoes, Quebec, write: "We have had an exceedingly busy fall season, and think, from present prospects, the coming spring season will also be brisk."

A merchant at Manilla, Ontario, writes towards the close of December: "As to the condition of trade, I find collections very difficult among the farmers; I also find them restricting their purchases to the lowest point. This makes matters commercial very dull here."

At Tilsonburg, Mr. William Imrie, broker and insurance agent, is "happy to say that in this town and its immediate neighborhood, while ready money may not be over abundant, yet at least on the question of 'cakes and ale' we are all O.K., and most of us are blessed with a plenty. Every success to your useful sheet."