

INTEMPERANCE DECREASING.

Chauncey M. Depew, in the course of an address before the Ry. Y. M. C. A., of New York, was enabled to give a very encouraging comparison of the extent of drinking among railway men, as between the old days and the present. He said, 22 years ago, there were about 15,000 men in New York Central service. Now there are over 30,000. At that period it is safe to say that 20 per cent. of the force were discharged for drunkenness within a given period. The saloon everywhere abounded; it was the great force at all railway centres; it was the great force where there were railway shops. It surrounded all the company's terminals, and its alluring features were inviting all the employees, so that at least 20 per cent. of them at that period were discharged or dropped for drunkenness, and that means that their families were reduced to absolute misery. To-day, said Mr. Depew, the company have twice that number of men in the service and not 1 per cent. disappear from drunkenness. Concluding, Mr. Depew said: "It is the rarest thing in the world that it is brought to my attention that any man in the service, upon whom depends the lives of others or the safety of trains is disciplined for that vice."

NOVA SCOTIA GOLD FIELDS.

Mr. B. T. A. Bell, of Ottawa, has been visiting the mining districts of Nova Scotia. He states that while there is no "boom" the mineral industries of that province are making steady progress. The output of coal in 1897, exceeded 2,200,000 tons, being the largest in the history of this industry, while with respect to gold, on an invested capital of something less than half a million dollars, the province yielded during the same period 28,000 ounces of gold, of a value of about \$500,000. In his opinion a great future awaits the gold mining industry in Nova Scotia. Judicious capitalization and careful and skilled management were wanted. The easy means of access to the province, the low cost of working, the cheapness of labor, fuel and supplies, and the probable permanent nature of the deposits, are good reasons why capital would find remunerative investment in that industry. Mr. Bell said that English capitalists were turning their attention to the province and that the output would be still larger this year. The dividend-paying mines last year were the Brookfield, in Queen's county; the Richardson, at Country Harbor; New Edgerton, at Fifteen-Mile Stream; Blue Rose, at Goldenville; Oland, at Montague; Woodstock, at Isaac's Harbor. The Richardson has a forty stamp battery, to be increased this year to sixty stamps, and the working costs, mining and milling, are as low as \$1.68 per ton.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, May 12th, 1898.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—A fair sorting business is being done in general supplies. All of the houses now have their travelers on the road with fall samples, and the campaign may be said to be fully opened. In harmony with the price of hides, and the additional cost of leather manufacturers should secure an increase in the prices of footwear. It remains to be seen whether they have the nerve to accomplish this desirable result and secure their own share in the trade. The strike still continues, to the serious injury of the industry in Toronto, and it is told that the employer affected contemplated removing important branches of manufacture to his eastern factory.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The deliveries of large dairy butter continue very free, and the

continued heavy deliveries have, as was to be expected, resulted in a decline in price, dealers quoting 12 to 13c. per lb. There is no disposition on the part of dairymen to pack tubs with fodder butter, and not until after May 24th can we look for any considerable offerings of this description. Winter creameries continue in operation in spite of the opening of the cheese season and deliveries are large. There are some merchants who consider a decline in the price of creamery to 15c. per lb. as quite possible within the next several weeks. Cheese (old) is quoted locally at 8 to 9c. per lb. The delivery of eggs is heavy, but prices still remain at 10½c. per dozen; dealers maintain that a decline within the next few days is inevitable. Picklers continue actively at work.

DRY GOODS.—The retail trade is reported as opening up prosperously and throughout the country a good movement in general supplies is taking place. In wholesale circles a fair business in general sorting lines is being done. Manufacturers' agents are already beginning to secure orders from the clothiers for the requirements of next summer. The tweed, blanket and hosiery mills are all busily engaged, and in a number of instances night shifts are being employed. Values have not advanced to correspond with the increased demand for goods.

FLOUR AND FEED.—The advance which we reported in the flour market last week has been established and strengthened. Manitoba patents are quoted \$6.30; Manitoba strong bakers', \$6.30; patents (winter wheat), \$4.75 to 4.90, and straight roller, \$4.70 per barrel. Bran has declined and is worth only \$11 per ton, while shorts are up to \$14 per ton.

GRAIN.—The wheat market is firm as elsewhere noted. Peas are rather weak although quotations remain as given last week. Barley shows no alteration. There remains a nominal trade in buckwheat. Corn is weak, although prices remain unaltered. Oats have advanced 1c. per bushel during the week.

GROCERIES.—There is fair movement in the trade. Sugars are not selling quite as brisk, and the inference is that the retailers have finished their preparations for the fruit season. In several staples prices have advanced. Tapioca is scarce and firm. Sage is higher at an advance of ½c. per lb. Starch remains firm at ½c. advance, noted last week. Rice is up about ½c. from the lowest point and is firm. There is nothing new in the tea trade, but news may be expected in a couple of weeks. Mail advices from Smyrna report a continuance of frosts, and a very unfavorable outlook consequently for the fig crop. Persian dates are reported firmer in London. A letter from Liverpool dated April 21st, says that there is an active demand for cheap grades of Brazil nuts in that market, and reports sales for the preceding week of about 200 tons at 18s. to 21s. From the beginning of the season to April 21st the arrivals of Brazil nuts in Liverpool amounted to 1,321 tons, or 97 tons more than for the same period a year ago.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The hide market is firmer and values have advanced. For green hides No. 1 Toronto inspected the butchers are now obtaining 8c. per lb. Cured are not bringing a proportionate advance. Although dealers quote them at 8½c., we have not heard of any transactions at more than 8½c. per lb. The strength of the market is mainly dependent upon Chicago, where the business transacted at the close of last week established an advance of ½c. per pound in practically all the principal grades, and indications were that additional sales could be made at the advance, but in the absence of offerings no sales of importance were made. We are advised, Chicago, May 10: "Packer hides continued to meet with a fairly good call, and as sellers were indifferent, the business transacted was at full values. Sales reported were 1,200 native steers, April take-off at 11½c.; 3,000 do., March-April do. at Kansas City, at 11½c., Chicago freight, and 5,000 heavy native cows at 11c. The close was firm at 11½ to 12c. for native steers, 11½ to 11¾c. for Texas, 10½ to 10¾c. for butt brands, 10 to 10½c. for branded cows, 9½ to 10c. for Colardos, 11c. for heavy native cows and 11½c. for light do. In the local market calfskins are rather dull and unchanged in price. Some shearlings are offering, and with lambskins bring 20c. Tallow is quiet and without change.

PROVISIONS.—Values of hog products are very firm and a general upward movement is

taking place. Holders are fully ½c. per lb. firmer in their views and view the situation as one of considerable strength. In the United States the markets have suffered from the all-absorbing interest taken in wheat.

WOOL.—As elsewhere noted the first offerings of the new clip are beginning to come forward. Washing cannot, however, be at all general until warmer weather, and not before the first week of June will the season show much activity. The mills are busy and large quantities of wool are going into consumption, but as the price of Canadian fleece is almost entirely dependent on the situation in the United States, where affairs in the textile trades are depressed, the outlook for the season is not bright.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

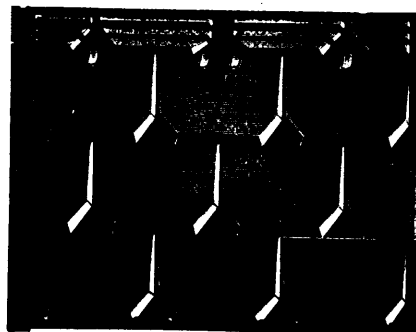
Montreal, 11th May, 1898.

ASHES.—The market is again duller and weaker, and it is a question if much beyond \$3.40 to \$3.50 could be realized for first kinds of pots, and \$3.15 to \$3.20 for seconds. Pearls continue nominally about \$4.75. The English demand is unimproved, and it is said the exports, since opening of navigation, will barely exceed 60 brls. or so.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—Receipts of cements are now coming forward pretty freely. Last week the figures were 6,700 brls. of Belgian, and 2,200 English, and for the week ending to-day, 8,100 brls. of Belgian are reported, and 3,300 English. The demand is good; a sale of 4,000 brls. was reported last week, and one of 2,500 a few days ago, while the aggregate of moderate orders is quite satisfactory. Prices are now altogether quoted ex-wharf, and are \$2.20 to \$2.30 for English, and \$1.80 to \$1.95 for ordinary brands of Belgian; large-sized brls. would be extra. Receipts of firebricks for the week 74,000; prices are easier at \$16 to \$21 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Receipts of new cheese are as yet small, and business doing on spot is only moderate. A shipment of 1,000 boxes of new cheese was made on the "Devona" for Bristol this week. The tendency of the market is towards a rather firmer tone, with holders asking 8½c. for finest, though this it might be hard to get. The output of butter has not increased much of late, and prices are pretty steady at 17c. for fine creamery, 16c. for best dairy, and 14½ to 15c. for rolls.

DRY GOODS.—The weather has been somewhat cool of late, not favoring the

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