

## THE CRANBERRY SEASON.

The prospects of trade in cranberries are being discussed by interested dealers. At present enquiries for the berry are limited, but with colder weather, activity may be looked for. The 1897 crop of the United States is beginning to move and is of good quality. Dealers say that receipts are light, and look for less than an average yield. A prominent American firm places the statistics of the trade as follows:—"The total crop of the country a year ago was, in our opinion, over 900,000 bushels, divided about as follows: Cape Cod and other New England districts, 650,000 bushels; New Jersey and Long Island, 225,000; Wisconsin and other Western States, 40,000. Based on above figures the estimated crop for this year shows: Cape Cod and other New England districts, 487,500 bushels, decrease 25 per cent.; New Jersey and Long Island, 231,750 bushels, increase 3 per cent.; Western States, 60,000 bushels, increase 50 per cent.; estimated total crop in bushels, 779,250."

## IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

Shot grounds with figures in chenille effects are found among the silk gowns brought from London, where they are fond of velvety markings.

Handkerchief importers in the United States are awaiting final decision in the case of Jonas Bros. vs. the Government, involving the question whether initial handkerchiefs are to be officially and judicially designated as embroidered.

The correct Derby hat in the United States for fall has a full crown and well-pitched brim, raised considerably at the sides, and ending in a broad, slightly flattened curl that inclines toward the front and back. Seal brown and black are as popular as ever.

The silk hat, in the American style, according to the *Dry Goods Economist*, has a more belled crown than last season, the curl being heavy and rather flat, tapering to the front and rear. A pronounced pitch is noticeable in the brim, a feature only slightly shown in the past year. The brim for men measures  $1\frac{1}{2}$  plus 1-16 inches, and for young men  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, with reversed binding.

Reports from Leeds state that there is an average turnover in beavers, meltons and friezes. Serges of best make, in dark colors, together with vicunas and heavy overcoatings find most favor just now among buyers. Worsteds of all descriptions are comparatively neglected, but a more confident and hopeful tone prevails, and there are indications that business will take a turn for the better in the near future.

According the circular of the Irish Flax Supply Association, the imports of flax and tow in August, contrasting with the average of similar month in the last five years, shows an increase of 10.6 per cent. in quantity, and 17.4 per cent. in value. From Belgium the increase is 69.3 per cent. (tons), and from Russia 11.5 per cent. The shipments of linen piece goods have been less in August than the average by 8,675,360 yards, all of which is accounted for by the decrease to the United States. The leading countries stand as follows:—Decreases—United States, 82.8 per cent.; Foreign West Indies, 64.9 per cent.; Australasia, 18.7 per cent.; British North America, 2.2 per cent. Amongst the increases are the following:—France, 75.7 per cent.; Republic of Colombia, 24.0 per cent.; British East Indies, 16.5 per cent.

The extent to which textiles were conspicuous by their absence at this year's Toronto Fair has been remarked. One worthy exhibit there was, however, upstairs in the main building, of the varied and most creditable products of the Merchants Cotton Company, of St. Henri, near Montreal. Here were not only plain bleached goods, such as thin muslins and the firmer shirtings and still stronger sheetings, with the attractive label of the Dominion Arms in colors on each bolt; but such less known domestic goods as shoe-linings, cheese bandages, butter and cheese covers, and screening for fruit baskets—large items now in the industries of Canada. There are also such still more modern products as hospital lint, ducks of various weights, and the cotton bases for oilcloths and rubber cloths, which are largely produced in both Quebec and Ontario. Some of these goods, of course, are thin and cheap stuffs, they are not needed to be other; but in fabrics where roundness of thread, firmness of texture, honesty of material are needed, the product of this factory bears close inspection, and bears it well. Grey goods from the St. Henri are shown as well, in heavy medium and light weights. Messrs. A. Ewan & Co., the selling agents in Montreal, are entitled to be congratulated on the extensive product of the company, and Mr. James E. Knox, the Toronto agent, has displayed them well. It is worth remark that the mill has in manufacturing processes gone in some cases a step beyond the mere production of a textile fabric; as, for instance, in pillow-slips, which

are shown woven circular, and made by the yard, with embroidered edge or plain. In respect of the goods of this mill generally, the bleaching and finishing are most creditable.

## FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The brewers of Victoria have been notified that they must pay the wholesale liquor license fee. Some of them will fight the case, while others have already paid their \$100.

The sale of a consignment of rolled oats by the McKay Milling Company, Ottawa, to be used in the household of the Emperor of Russia, is a somewhat unique incident of trade reported this week.

A French manufacturer and chemist is said to be opening an establishment of the refinery character at St. Francis, Beauce, to convert maple sugar, which is abundant in that region, into a product of superior quality.

Supplies of Sicily and Bari shelled almonds promise to be very short, according to advices received from primary markets. The Sicily market shows a continual upward tendency. The crop of Jordan shelled almonds is also reported to be light.

Our Montreal correspondent writes that while there are not many transactions to report in teas at first hands, the market retains its firmness. Recent cable repeat orders to Japan have been declined, except at an advance of a cent to a cent and half per pound for good medium grades.

A 4,000 ton cargo of raw Java sugar is now unloading at Montreal for the St. Lawrence Refinery, and a cargo of 4,500 tons from Iloilo is close at hand for the Canada Sugar Refining Co. This will probably complete the season's receipts of raw cane sugar, but further supplies of raw beet sugars are expected.

Late advices from Barbadoes say that the weather has been favorable for the growing crop. There have been no transactions in sugar during the fortnight, and there is very little now available. Shipments to date amount to 56,145 hds. sugar, and 37,656 puncheons molasses; at the same time last year, 47,048 hds. sugar, and 34,474 puncheons molasses.

An English advice of Sept. 25th says: "The Dominion Government's test shipment of 880 cases of Canadian pears, peaches and tomatoes, reached Covent Garden late on Friday. The dealers say that the fruit is excellent enough to meet a good sale if the packing were better. Let packers take a hint from these last words, 'if the packing were better.'"

The amount of the new crop of Brazil coffee that has come into sight thus far this season, says the *N. Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce*, has been far in excess of all previous records, being 1,061,000 bags larger than last year and 2,033,000 bags more than in 1895. The total supply received has been 3,761,000 bags, of which 1,355,000 bags went to Rio and 2,406,000 to Santos.

Seeing that the lower grades of molasses were unsalable at any paying price, many Louisiana planters dumped it into the bayous, until the authorities forbade them. Such cheap molasses is now used as a fuel, being sprinkled by a machine over the bagasse, or the sugar-cane from which the juice has been extracted. This, when put into the fire, burns with a strong heat. Its coal value is greater than its value for any other use, and over a hundred thousand tons was so used last year.

## INSURANCE MATTERS.

Before Justice Armour and a jury last week the suit of the Great Northern Transit Company against sundry insurance companies was threshed out, much evidence, pro. and con., being taken as to the value of the steamer "Baltic," which was burned. The verdict in the test case was against the Alliance Company, and the others agreed to accept a settlement of their cases on a basis of the finding against the Alliance. The jury in this case found that the "Baltic" was worth \$15,000 at the time she was fired, and that the boilers as taken from the charred wreck were worth \$3,000. This, deducting salvage, leaves an amount of \$12,000 to be paid. The various companies are interested to the extent of \$13,500 collectively, and the assurance will be adjusted on the \$12,000 basis.

A Lutheran clergyman over in Rhode Island has advised the insured of his congregation to drop their life policies, because "the Lord will provide." So he will. He will provide a very hot corner for such incendiaries as this "minister." When such men open their mouths to talk such infamous rot as this, the devil laughs up his sleeve and swishes his tail with delight. Does the "Rev." Otto Duessell, of Bristol, R.I., sit on his haunches and wait for the Lord to put food on his table and raiment on his family's backs?—*Insurance Age*.