

THE GROCERY TRADE.

STARCH PRICES.

The recent advance in the prices of starch here (which was made necessary by the exceedingly high prices now ruling for corn) has put prices to the following figures: Best quality culinary corn starch, 15c; 20c per pound in large cases; second quality, 10c; No. 1 laundry, 63-64c per pound; ordinary laundry, 53-54c.

GROCERY TRADE NOTES.

The tone of the sugar market in Canada is easy at unchanged prices. A London cable last week noted an advance of 1s per box on Jordan shell and almonds.

The Brazil coffee crop now growing, it is estimated, will produce 2,250,000 bags of coffee.

It is reported that the California raisin crop is being cornared and prices are higher.

The Ontario branch of the E. W. Gillett business is being incorporated as a separate company with local shareholders.

Eastern wholesale grocery centres report an active trade moving at present and dealers are rushed to keep up with orders. Dealers in the west are particularly good demand.

Barbados advices of a late date say that dry weather is affecting the sugar cane unfavorably and rain is badly needed. Some are already talking reduced crop of molasses and sugar next year.

It is interesting to know that the great United States baking powder trust, which has been so energetic in condemning the alum powder manufacturers by independent concerns has now sought out the alum baking powder business and will carry it on at a branch of the business.

Dry Goods Trade Notes.

Shaker flannellets are scarce at cotton mill orders have been greatly exceeded the supply lately.

Canadian cotton mills report a good demand for pointed goods for spring trade. Gingham and percale goods are in great demand and are being largely bought by the factory.

Some Canadian woolen mills now state that the reason for so many mills being closed down is that their business is unprofitable and a multiplicity of small orders has so increased their expenses of operating that the business became unprofitable.

Dry goods merchants in the North-Western States are laying in large quantities of men's shirt waists for next summer's trade and express the opinion that the waistcoat will be in great favor next year.

Several new features have been added to the men's shirt waist which will help to make it popular, notably an arrangement for hiding the suspenders. Prices are expected to range from 12c to 25c each.

There is a fair movement of silks and ribbons, says the Toronto Globe, in New York the silk and moire has increased, and its continued popularity is no longer in doubt. Manufacturers are turning out large quantities of these designs for the spring retail demand for this style promises to be strong. Toward the close of the season next spring and all printed silks will be marketable. Moire ribbons may be the popular spring novelty, although these designs have been unfashionable for five years.

Detachable ribbons are gaining in favor and there is a leaning toward black and white effects. Only soft weaves are suitable for light or heavy ribbons are neglected. The season piece is closing favored designs in print. As far as the popular spring trimmings are concerned the outlook is bright, as both foreign and domestic styles require more than a usual amount of ribbons. High grades are in especially good demand.

Hardware Trade Notes.

Admirators of Inwood oil in the state of Minnesota are to be prosecuted under the law of that state which makes various kinds of adulterated oil illegal.

Aluminum nails are the latest innovation in the hardware line. They are now being hardened so that they can

be driven, and owing to their non-corrosive and non-poisonous character will be decidedly useful where there is danger of rusting.

The Halsey Cutlery Co., Brantford, Ont., have purchased the Winney mill property at that place, in which they will install machinery for the value of about \$25,000, and develop the lines of manufacture in which they are now engaged, such as shears, saws, razors, buffer knives, etc. Application will be made for incorporation with a capital of \$250,000.

The Syracuse Smelting Works, Ontario, recently sold of pig tin "Owing to the scarcity of pig and the large demand, prices within the last few days have advanced about five cents per pound, and the market is strong." On the next day they again advised: "We have had another advance on pig tin of five cents per pound, making advance in all ten cents instead of five, as quoted yesterday."

It is reported that United States inventors have succeeded in producing a coal common to the Northwestern States and Western Canada in a form so satisfactory that the value of this invention will shortly be in the market. The coal is entirely consumable, and there is no need of a new process. The importance of such an invention to the prairie country can hardly be overestimated.

Drug Trade Notes.

The Bole Drug Company, Limited, is distributing its almanac for 1902. This is the best yet in the series of almanacs, being published annually by this house and is full of useful information of all kinds for the housewife and doctor. All the usual features of a good almanac are included besides a calendar of local events extending back to the early days of this country.

"The Bole Drug Co. is introducing a new article here called the Puritan water still. This is a portable distilling water for either family or druggist's use. The only absolutely pure water is distilled water. In many sections where the water is bad the use of distilled water would be of great benefit to the community. In fact a liberal use of distilled water is one of the best health preservers any one can indulge in."

Lumber Trade Notes.

J. D. McArthur is building a large shed at his new yard in Winnipeg and is also filling up the yard with stock of saw mill material.

Red cedar shingles are firming up in price at some of the coast mills.

The mill of the Kewatin Lumber Co., at Kewatin, Ont., cut 15,000,000 feet this season.

The Watrous Engine Works Co. has sold the Northern Lumber Co., Ltd., the machinery for a sawmill to be erected at Garland, Man., replacing the one destroyed by fire some time ago.

It is known to be employed in Hanbury's logging camp in the Duck Mountains, northern Manitoba, this winter are now moving in and as soon as the snow is deep enough active operations will commence.

The British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Co., will continue to have an office in Winnipeg at their old yard (which was sold to J. D. McArthur) for the purpose of buying lumber. After meeting that a new office will probably be secured elsewhere in the city.

Hardwood lumber millers in the United States are greatly worried by the outlook for their industry. They report a good buying movement now in progress, and claim that consumers' hands everywhere are tight, which ensures a continuation of this movement. Prices are tending upward.

Manufacturers of white pine lumber in the Northwestern States are advancing the prices of their products for the reason, so they state, that the lumber is costing them more to produce. Logging operations are becoming much more expensive, and wages at mills are higher than they used to be.

Manufacturers of maple flooring in the United States held a meeting lately and discussed stocks and prices.

They found that this flooring is largely oversold, and the industry is in a very encouraging position. The question of prices will be considered at a meeting to be held this month, and it is probable that there will be an advance on some lines.

Several portable sawmills have been shipped this season by the Watrous Engine Works Co. to the Dauphin district, where they are being bought by farmers owning threshing outfits, the engines of which will be used for running the sawmills. These mills do only custom work, but a considerable quantity of lumber is manufactured by them each year.

IMPLEMENT TRADE.

IMPLEMENT DEALERS' MEETING POSTPONED.

The annual meeting of the Western Retail Implement Dealers' Association, which was to have been held in Winnipeg on the 15th, 16th and 20th of this month, has been postponed owing to the impossibility of securing a large attendance at that time. Arrangements had been previously completed for the gathering and a program of business, social and entertainment had been arranged. The meeting is now to have its meeting postponed during the coming week, when it is expected that many of the dealers will be in the city.

IMPLEMENT TRADE NOTES.

Some in the trade regard it as likely that canvassing for 1902 will commence after Jan. 1. Implement dealers are all running now on their orders for next year and report enough business in sight to keep them well engaged.

The McCormick Harvesting Company, of Chicago, is enlarging its plant at Chicago by the addition of a new blacksmith shop, costing \$25,000.

The company which manufactures grass twine at St. Paul and West Superior, Minn., reports a very successful season's trade and owing to pressure of business the St. Paul factory has been closed a week.

C. Studebaker, of the Studebaker Bros. Manufacturing Company, South Indian, Ind., left for this city on Nov. 27. He commenced business there in 1892 in a very small way as a blacksmith and with his brother as partner, the combined capital being \$18,000 from that beginning the business grew to its present large proportions.

The new manager of the Winnipeg branch of the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, Mr. H. Donaldson, is now getting settled down to business here and has been meeting numerous Winnipeg friends and country customers of his company lately. Mr. Donaldson was formerly in charge of the company's business at Fargo, N. D., and is thoroughly familiar with the class of business handled in a country like this. His predecessor here, Mr. W. A. Cavanagh, has been appointed to fill a responsible position in the company's headquarters in Chicago.

Shoe and Leather Trade Notes.

No. 1 buff hides are holding steady at 50c per pound Chicago. Some in the trade say the market is weaker.

Manufacturers of shoes in the New England States are asking and getting from 21-2 to 50c per pair for some lines of shoes than last year. Salesmen are seeking large orders for patent leather goods. Shipments are extremely large. Factories have orders ahead for three months.

Fair Wage.

Contracts for public works contracted under contract for the Dominion government, contain a clause providing that fair wages must be paid by the contractors. The rate of wages as fixed by the Dominion labor department, based on fair rates for the locality. It is proposed to extend this principle to make it apply to goods purchased by the government. The government has the production of the goods will be considered in making government purchases of supplies.

The London Express states authoritatively that Sir Alfred Hick-Beach contemplates the imposition of a further tax of a halfpenny a pound on sugar.

Winnipeg Board of Trade.

A general meeting of the board was held on Wednesday evening. President Geowen gave a verbal report of the work done by the council since the last general meeting, of which has already been published.

The first matter of business which came up was the petition for a by-law for the board. The committee having this work in hand presented a report, recommending that the board procure a charter from parliament. It was explained that the general act, under which the board is now working, is not broad enough to be well adapted to a large board. Boards in the large eastern cities have secured special charters. The report was adopted. Notice of motion was then given for the repeal of the present by-laws and substitution of new rules.

The complaint of Mr. Bethune regarding bad postal service, was referred to committee, as was also a matter relating to fire insurance.

A lengthy but somewhat informal discussion followed on the car shortage, and the crossing of the public streets by the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks in Winnipeg. The feeling regarding the Main Street crossing appeared quite strong. Finally a resolution was passed calling upon the city council to take steps to protect the lives and rights of the citizens in the crossing of streets by the railway company.

Mr. Brock introduced the question of Pullman car fares in the west, complaining particularly that no reduction is made for upper berth, and that rates are excessive in the west. A resolution covering these points was adopted.

Dressed Poultry.

The poultry business offers great opportunities to the farming people of this country if they could only realize it. Outside in Canada ship-laden large quantities of its turkeys and other poultry to this market at prices which yield good profits to the producers. The reason why this money should not be kept at home and added to the incomes of our own farmers, they have not the time and all that remains is to make a start. The birds do not require so very much attention when they are growing and if properly dressed will always bring a good price. It is here that the farmer who has experienced trouble in the poultry business in the past. They are either ignorant or careless in the matter of dressing the birds for market and have therefore been frequent losers. It is to be hoped that this complaint will shortly be met by an improvement in both quality and quantity of Manitoba's poultry production.

Railway and Traffic Matters.

Officials of the Canadian Pacific have said that their general car shortage in this fall has been in Ontario, where there is a large quantity of grain and other freight to be moved. The Montreal and Ottawa branches of the railway are being worked by William was expected to relieve the situation.

The Halifax board of trade has passed a resolution favoring the transfer of the Intercolonial Railway from the Dominion government to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The object is to secure for maritime province ports the ocean going traffic which the Canadian Pacific handles.

At a meeting of the directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway on Monday I. G. Ogden, the comptroller of the company, was appointed as president, and G. M. Roworth, freight traffic manager, was appointed fourth vice-president and operating manager of the company. These offices are new creations.

The Philadelphia Ledger says that the anthracite coal which has been pushed to the utmost output of the restricted transportation facilities will permit to be in the market as a product to Dec. 1 will reach nearly 50,000,000 tons, or 10,000,000 more than 1890.