

## CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

WM. J. DYAS, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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## Tariff Reform.

DURING the recent visit of the Finance Minister and Hon. Mr. Bowell to Montreal, deputations from the various wholesale trades, as well as manufacturers, waited on them in reference to proposed changes in the tariff.

The drug trade was represented by Mr. F. G. Lyman, of Lyman, Knox & Co.; Mr. B. Reed, of Evans & Sons; Mr. Henry Miles, of Lyman, Sons & Co. Mr. Watson, of Kerry, Watson & Co., was prevented from being present on account of indisposition. The deputation called the attention of the Ministers to the ambiguity of some sections of the present tariff, which, in many cases, led to a discrimination unfavorable to the Montreal trade. The appraiser in the drug trade has to deal with some 400 items out of the 1100 specified articles in the present tariff, and it was claimed that the application of specific duties was essential in many cases, the fact that there were so many thousands of articles comprised in the drug trade making it difficult to deal with them all on an *ad valorem* basis. It was also suggested that the appointment of a Board of Dominion Appraisers would tend to simplify and assist the proper administration of the law.

The deputation also asked for a reduction of inland revenue duty on alcohol used for manufacturing purposes only, and that some arrangement might be made permitting the manufacture of alcoholic preparations in bond.

## Extra Lines of Goods.

LAST MONTH we called attention to the fact that many lines of goods might with advantage be handled by druggists, which, in most cases, were not now kept, and promised in this issue to name a number of these lines. Such a number of suggestions have, however, been received from our readers that, instead of going into any special articles ourselves, we append those which have been suggested. Many of the articles enumerated here are now kept by some of the trade, whilst others not now handled by them, may recommend themselves as profitable "extras" to some of our readers. The lines suggested cover a large range of merchandise, and the druggist who desires to add to his present stock should see to it that the goods he adds are suited to his class of trade, and are of such a description that they may be handled with a profit adequate to the additional expense of stocking and handling. The list comprises Seeds, garden and flower, Mixed Paints, Artists' Materials, Spectacles and all Optical Goods, Photographers' Supplies, Dental Supplies, Cutlery, Stationery, plain and fancy, Wall Paper, Books and School Supplies, Tea in packages. We will be

pleased to have further suggestions from our readers.

## Japanese Camphor.

ONE of the most useful products of the vegetable kingdom is camphor. Everybody knows its pungent and pleasing odor, and nearly everybody has some idea of some of the purposes for which it is used, but the knowledge of it possessed by the great majority of people can only be described as somewhat hazy. It so happens that we are in a position to place before our readers some highly interesting and valuable information on the subject, expressing at the same time our obligations to Mr. Henry Gribble, the President of the Japan Camphor Company, a most important organization now having its American headquarters at 76 Broad street, New York City, and with works at Kobe, Japan. This company is an American corporation (organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey), and is the first to introduce pure camphor refined in Japan and packed in convenient form for general use. The machinery used at the refinery was sent from the United States and England, and the whole plant was erected under the supervision of an expert American chemist, Dr. A. G. Boyer, who remains in Japan as manager of the refinery. Difficulties and delays without end had to be encountered and overcome before this new enterprise was thoroughly in working order; but now all troubles have been conquered and the company is able to produce monthly some 50,000 pounds of refined camphor, packed in a shape to suit the tastes of all customers. The reception its compressed blocks have already met with shows that this will become the most popular of all forms of refined camphor and the company is gratified to find that the expectations upon which it originated this venture have been realized.

The annual export of crude camphor from Japan averages about 5,000,000 pounds, weight, of which about one-fourth comes to the United States and the remainder to Europe, but it has yet to be refined before it can be used for its various purposes. This process of refining has hitherto been done in America and Europe, but the Japan Camphor Company has now commenced refining in Japan and is shipping to this and other countries the finished article instead of the crude article.

When imported in the crude state camphor loses from eight per cent. to fifteen per cent. of its weight. The compressed camphor, as imported by the Japan Camphor Company, loses nothing whatever. This camphor is much cheaper than the European article, and is equal in quality to the best English brands. H. Helbing, F. C. S., and Dr. F. W. Passmore, in a report on this camphor, say:—"The result of our investigation shows that the preparation is a perfectly pure camphor, being, in fact, identical with the pure chemical compound,  $C_{10}H_{16}O$ ."

The Japan Camphor Company has over 200 native Japanese employed in its works at Kobe and, as already stated, the output is at the rate of 50,000 pounds per month. The company is selling its products largely in the United States, Australia, India and in Europe, and the "Trefoil" brand is being handled by the leading wholesale and retail drug houses and dry goods merchants all over the world. The plans have been perfected with great care, and there is no doubt but the Japan Camphor Company have laid the sure foundations of an immense and highly profitable business.

## The Microbes of Bank Notes.

In the recent weekly medical article which appears in the *Herald's* European edition some interesting facts are given showing the extent to which bank notes are carriers of disease. It is popularly supposed that paper money, however soiled by indiscriminate use, is not capable of conveying any serious amount of infection, and hence it is not uncommon to see it handled without caution. But it is not certain that the infection in bank notes is infinitesimal or insignificant. Few persons smitten down with erysipelas, diphtheria, tuberculosis, typhoid and other microbial diseases can find out how they contracted the disease. But perhaps in not a few cases the malady has been derived from the paper currency, which unfortunately cannot be disinfected.

AN English weekly has the following smack at the druggist, which will be duly appreciated:—

'Twas the voice of the druggist, I heard him complain—  
"My trade has all vanished, I seek it in vain."  
Yet to think he's in error, ne'er enters his head,  
And no lesson he learns, though he loses his bread.

A little more profit, a little more plunder—  
That his customers leave him, no person can wonder.

Things pretty and novel are left on his hands,  
And old-fashioned become, e'er some greenhorn he "lauds."

I paid him a visit, but found him as blind  
As a bat to his faults; said "the world was unkind."  
Then prattled of "stores," talked of failing and sinking,  
Yet of nippences nimble, to turn, ne'er was thinking.

Said I—"Then, my dear boy, here's a lesson for me:  
If my living I'd get, I must wide awake be,  
Nor think, because nearly a medical swell,  
I must net act the part of a tradesman as well."

CHLORAL has been found by L. Reuter a good reagent for distinguishing between naphthalin, a naphthol and b-naphthol.

PAMBOTANO.—Dr. A. E. Roussel, at a recent meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, reported several cases of malaria, rebellious to quinine, treated successfully with pambotano (*Calliandra Houstonii*). In splenic engorgement it has also proven of service.