



# CHRISTMAS GOODS!

If you have not already ordered, do so at once, as stocks are being rapidly reduced. Most of the fine goods are sold. We still have a fair range of popular low priced lines.

Fancy Boxes of all sorts, Toys, Musical Instruments, Dolls, Books, Boy's and Girl's Own Annual, Toy Books, etc. Letter orders receive careful attention.

## The Consolidated Stationery Co., Limited

41 PRINCESS STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN.

### Montreal Grocery Market.

The sugar market is without any new features of note, except that probably the feeling in raws abroad is somewhat easier than a week ago. Locally business is very quiet, the demand be only for small lots, owing to the fact that large buyers are pretty well stocked up for the present. The tone of the market, however, is steady, and prices are well maintained at 8½c to 10c for granulated as to quantity, and 8½ to 8¾c for yellows, as to quality, at the factory.

The market for syrups has shown signs of weakness of late, owing to the accumulation of stock; and, in order to induce business, a reduction in prices has taken place with recent sales of small lots at 1½ to 1½c per lb, as to quality, at the factory.

The molasses market shows no material change from a week ago. The feeling is steady and holders as a rule show no disposition to shade prices in order to affect sales. There has been a fair enquiry, but the amount of actual business done is small. In regard to the sale of 200 puncheons of Barbadoes reported in these columns last week, the price should have been 28½c, and the 100 puncheons of Antigua was placed at 24½c. This week sales of some small lots of Porto Rico are reported at 27½c. We quote pure Barbadoes at 28 to 28½c, mixed at 26½c to 27c. Porto Rico at 27½c, and Antigua at 24½c to 25c.

The demand for rice continues of a limited character on account of the fact that jobbers have ample stock on hand for the present, and until such is worked off little activity is looked forward to. The market is very firm in sympathy with the strong advices, and prices are unchanged. We quote: Crystal Japan, \$5 to \$5.25; standard B. \$3.70; Patna \$1.50 to \$5.25; Carolina, \$6.75 to \$7.75; choice Bermuda, \$1, and Java kinds, \$1.25.

There continues to be a good demand for Maracaibo coffee, which is still very scarce on spot, and the market in consequence for this grade was much stronger, and prices have advanced ½c per lb, to 18c. We quote: Maracaibo, 18c; Santos, 14c to 16c; Rio, 15c to 16c; and Mocha, 24c to 25c.

The situation of the tea market is strong, and stocks at present are probably the smallest for many years past. The general opinion of the trade is that the prospects are encouraging for still higher prices in the near future. The demand during the past week has been fair, and quite a few fair sized lots have changed hands on local account, including one lot of 800 packages of Japan at 15, and one lot of China blacks at 10 to 12c. At auction yesterday some 1,500 to 2,000 packages of Japans and blacks, which were damaged by mole and water at the recent fire on St. Peter street, were put up for sale. The attendance of buyers was large, and the bidding was brisk, consequently the prices

realized were considered very satisfactory; in fact, it is stated that some lots of Japans sold at 15½c which is ½c more than what the same grade of tea is offered on the market at in perfect condition.

There continues to be a fair jobbing business done in most of the leading lines of canned goods. The feeling in lobsters and French sardines is firm and the recent rise in prices is fully maintained. There is a fair enquiry for mackerel, but this article is exceedingly scarce and prices are firmly held. The following are jobbers' prices:—Lobsters, \$9.00 to \$10.00 per case; French sardines, extra brands, \$10.25 to \$11.00; ordinary brands, \$9.00 to \$9.00; Canadian brands, \$1.25; salmon, \$1.80 to \$1.40 per dozen; mackerel, \$1.25; tomatoes, 70 to 75c; corn, 65c to 75c; marrow-fat peas, 75c to 80c; baked beans, 31b., \$1.25 to \$1.30; peaches, \$1.90 to \$2; strawberries, \$2 to \$2.25; raspberries, \$1.75 to \$2; pineapples, \$1.75 to \$2, and 31b. apples, 65c to 70c.—Gazette.

### United States Crops.

The December returns to the Washington Department of Agriculture show a considerable improvement in the condition of the cotton crop as compared with the last report. The total crop is estimated at 7,161,094 bales. The returns for the month of December relate chiefly to the average farm price of the various products of agriculture on the first day of the month. The farm price of corn as indicated averages 21 ¼, against 25 8 last year. Average price wheat, 72.7, against 50.9 last year; of rye, 40.3, against 44 last year; of oats, 18.6, against 19.9 last year; of barley, 82.2, against 83.7 last year; of buckwheat, 39.1, against 45.2 last year; of potatoes, 23.7, against 26.6 last year; leaf tobacco, per lb., 6.0c, against 6.9c last year. Hay, per ton, 6.51, against 8.35 last year. Cotton, per lb., 6.6c, against 7.6 last year. The condition of winter wheat on December 1st averaged for the country 99.5 per cent., against 81.4 in 1893, 89 in 1894 and 91.5 in 1893. The returns make the acreage of winter wheat just sown 105.2 per cent. of the area harvested in 1896. This estimate makes the area sown for the harvest of 1897, 28,985,470 acres.

### Crow's Nest Coal Fields.

A British Columbia paper the Denver Ledger, says: "When the Crow's Nest Pass railway is built it will open a market for thousands of acres of coal lands, and the public would like to know how it is that prospectors cannot get in and take up some of these rich deposits. The reason is as follows: For years past various land improvement, railway and canal charters have been issued to companies, principally composed

of Victoria men, for this section of the country. Land grants were attached to the schemes for holding valuable lands that should be open to the people. These companies are practically dead and nothing has been done to entitle a few men to such a valuable monopoly. It is true that a canal with a big land grant attachment was dug but it is now filled with water. We protest against giving such a bonanza as the Crow's Nest Pass to men who hold some kind of a charter upon which nothing has ever been done to earn these valuable lands. They belong to the people and if land grabbers are allowed to shut everybody out it will be an outrage that should not be permitted by the free and untrammelled citizens of this great and glorious country. Wake up, people and see that you get your rights in this matter.

### Boots and Shoes and Leather.

One of our leading leather dealers stated that he did not anticipate any increase in the volume of business until after New Year, as boot and shoe men bought pretty liberally some time ago, and are consequently not pressed for stock. The only sale we hear of is a lot of about 700 sides of No 2 manufacturer's sole at 21c. Montreal prices are: No. 2 manufacturers' sole 21 to 22c; jobbers' sole 22 to 21c; slaughter sole, 23 to 25c; waxed upper, 29 to 31c; grained, 29 to 31c; buff, 1' to 12½c; splits, 17 to 20c for Ontario, and 15 to 18 for Quebec; pebble, 11 to 13c; glove, 10 to 12c. Dongola, 12 to 18c per foot; sheepskins 5 to 7c per foot; calfskins 13 to 20c per foot.

Boot and shoe manufacturers are placing more orders for spring goods, staple as well as fancy light wear. In fact, some of our leading houses are quite satisfied with the volume of new business. Some houses, however, complain of many orders, for staple goods, upon which an advance had been made of 5 to 10 per cent., having been taken at old rates. Remittances continue fair for the season.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

### The Northwest Almanac.

The eleventh annual number of the Northwest Almanac has been published by The Martin, Bule & Wynne Co., wholesale druggists, Winnipeg. The Almanac has a new engraved cover, and cuts are given of the officers of the company and the heads of the different departments. A cut is also given of the new block in Winnipeg, which the company has recently leased. Astronomical and other information of particular interest to the West is given. The almanac is published in English, French, German and Icelandic, and has a very large circulation throughout Western Canada.