

Grocery Trade Notes.

Canned cherries were advanced 25 per cent. in Ontario markets last week.

California Bartlett pears are now in the Minneapolis market, having reached there by fast freight.

Private advices from Smyrna report the fig outlook as being very promising. "Conditions," the advices state, "favor a crop of about 90,000 camel loads, compared with 65,000 camel loads last season."

The salmon canners of the Pacific coast of the United States have formed a trust, to be capitalized at \$25,000,000. The total number of plants involved is about thirty with an estimated capacity of 2,300,000 cases.

A Vancouver dispatch says that canners there have received word by wire that a big run of sockeye salmon has been sighted off Salmon Bank, at the foot of San Juan Island. Salmon are simply pouring into the American traps.

Private mail advices from California reporting on the raisin outlook state: "The coming crop will be fully as large as that of last year, but there is a feeling among the trade that the price will open considerably lower. Estimates up to 3,800 to 4,000 carloads are made here under existing crop conditions."

Brooms have advanced in price in United States markets. The reason given is the stronger position of broom corn. The acreage sown this year is only about 70 per cent. of that of last year and as the prospective crop has already been largely contracted for the market is in a strong position. Some are of the opinion that it has been cornered.

Reports vary from various sections concerning the new rice crop; in Louisiana the outlook is more encouraging, there having been showers throughout that section. The Mississippi district is full of promise and the outturn is reported likely to be considerably in excess of any recent crop. From other districts reports are conflicting and note that a great deal of rain is wanted to save crops.

Shipments of Indian and Ceylon teas from those countries during the season of 1900-1 amounted to 338,500,000 pounds, compared with 313,000,000 pounds in 1899-1900, and 276,210,000 pounds in 1898-9. China shipped from her ports 124,000,000 pounds in 1900-1, as against 115,600,000 pounds in 1899-1900, and 107,400,000 pounds in 1898-9. Japan exported 42,815,000 pounds in 1900, 45,830,000 pounds in 1899 and 40,500,000 pounds in 1898.

Private mail advices from Valencia state: "The raisin crop was progressing very favorably and gave promise of a good yield, but, unfortunately, a few days since hail storms occurred in some districts, causing considerable damage, it being calculated that some 40,000 to 50,000 cwts. have been lost. This will naturally produce its effect with the remainder. Nothing is yet spoken of regarding the probable prices, and as yet no idea can be formed of what they will be."

A private cable quotes a price of 65s 6d on new crop Sicily shelled almonds f. o. b. in bags for October shipment. Last year there were prices quoted up to 120s, with a normal price in seasons of average crop of 50s in bags. The prices quoted are considered low compared with those ruling last year, but in the absence of definite crop news they have aroused little interest in the trade.

Hardware Trade Notes.

The file manufacturers of the United States held their annual meeting in New York the latter part of June and elected new officers for the ensuing year. It was unanimously decided to maintain present prices without change.

Quite a sharp advance has taken place in prices for pards green at Toronto, quotations being 2c per pound higher. Jobbing prices are now as follows: Bladders, in barrels, 18½c; kegs, 19c; 50 and 100-lb. drums, 19½c; 25-lb. drums, 20c; 1-lb. papers, 20½c; ½-lb. papers, 22½c; 1-lb. tins, 21½c; ½-lb. tins, 21½c.

The American Sheet Steel Company has notified the trade that reductions extending all the way from \$1 to \$4 per ton has been made on sheets to continue until the end of this year. This action is a great surprise to the

trade and is not based upon the law of supply and demand as all the company's mills are behind with their orders.

Barbed wire has been a very scarce article in the Winnipeg market this summer and at times it is said there has not been a pound of wire obtainable in the city. Wire has been in big demand this year, both in Canada and the United States, and factories are away behind with their orders.

Efforts are being made to combine the vehicle axle manufacturers of the United States in a trust.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

The movement in dry goods circles this week has been satisfactory, says the Toronto Globe. The hot weather drove a good many people from the cities and larger retail centres, and in some cases, for that reason, travellers will find it difficult to see clients the next few weeks. The demand, however, has been quite active for many lines, the hot weather having largely increased sales in many seasonable lines and made it necessary for retailers to replenish stocks. The sales of all sorts of lightweight goods for the summer have shown increased activity. The demand has not only been increased for ordinary summer goods, such as light dress goods, flannels for shirts, etc., but there has been a big demand for outing goods, such as negligé shirts, material for summer resort costumes for women and children and such lines. The reports from all parts of the country regarding the prospects for the fall business were never more encouraging. In view of the bright prospects for the fall trade it might be thought that business for forward delivery is not as large as it should be. It is certainly true that a few years ago retailers throughout the country, with such prospects before them as are now reported, would have plunged largely into the markets and taken large stocks, and that few would have called such trading speculation in view of the promising conditions for business. Now the retail dry goods business is carried on differently. There is little or no speculative buying. The retailers are very conservative in making purchases and generally appear to limit their buying within the bounds of their requirements, leaving further necessities to be met by sorting orders after the opening of the season. This method has enabled them to buy more largely for cash and at short dating, has overcome the difficulty of carrying over large surplus stocks from one season to another, enables them to keep their stocks fresher, more attractive and up-to-date the season round by supplying themselves with novelties and latest manufactures as they are introduced, but the greatest advantage, however, that has accrued from this improved system of carrying on the retail business is that it reduced to a minimum the number of insolvencies and consequently the number of bankrupt stocks thrown on the market every year. The present conditions, too, exclude from the retail business speculators without capital, who may desire to engage in business, making those from whom they can obtain credit take all the chances incurred, and who in former years as a rule brought heavy losses on those retailers who had to compete with them.

DRY GOODS TRADE NOTES.

The actual advance that has taken place in worsted yarns during the last three or four weeks is not reflected by quotations. The actual advance from bottom prices is from 10 to 15 per cent. Some medium and fine yarns have moved up 2c to 2½c a pound within two weeks and near deliveries are hard to secure.

Recent advices from New York say: There is no indication that velvets are to be extensively used for costumes, but for trimmings and wraps and millinery purposes there is a certainty of a large demand. Pannes and mirror velvet in all-silk and lower grades have already been ordered heavily. Black is the only color taken freely, although pannes and mirror blues and the popular colorings have been well sampled.

This summer's dry goods trade has been marked by a very active demand for men's outing shirts, probably because of the excessively warm weather all over this continent. These are be-

ing worn almost exclusively with collars detached, the stand up turn down collar being worn with the shirt.

A reduction in two numbers of spool cotton came as a surprise to the trade this week, says the Toronto Globe. The two numbers reduced were Kerr's and Clark M. E. Q. in the short lengths. It was expected that these would be advanced rather than reduced. The decline is 30 cents per gross. The peculiarities in the price movements in spool cotton are well known in the trade, and such a change in value as has to be noted this week may be explained as "merely one of the ways of the combine." It was probably an adjustment made to preserve a uniform movement in the product of the mills. Such changes, however, convenient to the manufacturers, are extremely annoying to the jobbers and cause a disturbance in trade conditions, which so far as understood in dry goods circles, might easily be avoided. It is felt here that the prices of the two numbers reduced this week will soon be restored.

THE LUMBER TRADE.**RAINY RIVER MILLS.**

The Rat Portage Lumber Co. will greatly enlarge and improve their recently acquired sawmill at Beaver Mills, on the Rainy river. This is the property known as the Hughes & Long mill, which was purchased by the Rat Portage company a short time ago. A two-way band saw will be put in, besides other new plant. At present the mill is running with a circular saw. Beaver Mills is located near the point where the Canadian Northern railway will cross the Rainy river. As soon as the crossing is completed, shipments of lumber will be made direct from this mill to points on the Canadian Northern system in Manitoba. Points along the old lines of Northern Pacific Railway Co. in Manitoba were supplied with lumber brought from mills on that railway system in Minnesota. Now that these roads have passed into the hands of the Canadian Northern the country tributary to these lines will be supplied with lumber from the Rainy river mills, thus cutting off the trade of the Minnesota mills in Manitoba. Some lumber is still coming in from Minnesota, mostly rougher and inferior grades, but when the Canadian Northern is completed through the Rainy River country the import lumber trade will practically cease.

LUMBER TRADE NOTES.

White cedar shingles have advanced 10c per thousand in United States markets.

The logs for Hanbury's sawmill at Brandon arrived last week and cutting commenced at once. The mill is being run night and day. Conditions for logging were favorable this year as there was plenty of water to fill all streams to overflowing.

There is a great scarcity of red cedar shingles this year both in Canadian and United States markets. Dealers here find it hard to keep pace with the demand and it is anticipated that prices will advance at least 25c per thousand shortly. These shingles are worth as high \$2.75 in Minneapolis today while here they are selling at \$2.35.

Wholesale lumber dealers here are very much encouraged by the outlook for trade the balance of this season. Every indication points to an active demand for lumber, both in town and country. The trade in Winnipeg has been good right along, but until the success of the wheat crop was assured there was not much disposition to build in the country. Now building projects are on foot in almost every part and the country towns will experience quite a growth this year.

What is probably the largest red oak tree in the world has been purchased by Ellis & Ellis, of Baltimore, Md. This tree was located on the Black River, about forty miles from Newport, Ark., and is 50 feet long, 23 feet 6 inches in circumference at one end and 21 feet at the other and will turn out 20,000 feet of lumber. The tree standing, measures 35 feet around its base. This tree will be exhibited at the St. Louis World's Fair and in order to get it to St. Louis it will have to be floated a distance of nearly 800 miles by way of the Black and Mississippi rivers, as it is too long to be carried by rail.—American Lumberman.

Hardwoods are enjoying a little bet-

ter demand, says the American Lumberman, while values remain in the same old rut, though improvement is reported from some markets. Manufacturers are more cheerful than dealers. Consumption is on the increase, the present condition of affairs cannot hold out forever and optimists in this branch of the trade look forward to better times when the fall trade shall have started in. Plain white and red oak are receiving the most attention, with no change in price. Quartered white is holding its own, while quartered red is sluggish, with very little inquiry. Stocks at the mills though light in most sections are sufficient to take care of current demand. The export trade is picking up with a slightly increased inquiry.

Dairy Trade Notes.

English mail advices contain the following interesting reference to Canadian creamery: "The high price of Canadian creameries is restricting their demand, and many buyers are holding off, expecting a decline of a shilling or two in value. The quality continues to give satisfaction, especially that of the 'Fancy' brands. Last year Manchester and Liverpool buyers of Canadian creamery butter paid several shillings more than London purchasers. This year London is paying the highest price, probably because London is getting the best quality."

Under the heading, "German Dairy Instructor Desired," Der Nordwestern, the German weekly of Winnipeg, says: "The proprietors of the seven cheese factories, and also many farmers of the eastern Mennonite reserve desire a German government dairy instructor, as the present official with his lack of knowledge of the German language is almost as good as useless for the German farmers and cheese-makers. It is therefore intended, according to reliable authority to present a petition with this object to the premier and minister of agriculture, Mr. Roblin. Of course Mr. Roblin, who himself has practical experience in the milk business and manifests great interest in the development of the same, will not let such a request be disregarded. For the further development of the flourishing dairy industry among the Germans of the east reserve the appointment of an efficient German Dairy Instructor would certainly be a great boon."

Insurance Notes.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of June, as reported by the New York Journal of Commerce, shows a total of \$1,599,000. This makes the aggregate for the first half of 1901 \$88,955,150, as against \$103,298,000 during the same period of 1900.

The Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias, has decided to raise the insurance rate to the maximum prescribed by the National Fraternal Congress, to meet the deficiency created by recent losses in the treasury of the endowment fund. If in this way money shall not be forthcoming, it is likely a special assessment of 50 cents will be put on every member of the order for the benefit of the endowment fund.

At the invitation of General Manager Thompson, of the Ogilvie Milling company, a number of prominent citizens of Winnipeg and officials of the C. P. R., including Mr. McClell, visited the Winnipeg mill this week and witnessed a fire test before the inspector of the board of underwriters. They were afterwards shown through the mill and expressed themselves as being more than delighted with all that they saw. The fire protection system at the mill is one of the most complete private systems in Canada.

According to a Brussels correspondent of the New York Tribune the great future wealth of the Congo will not be ivory, but India rubber. The rubber trade in the Free State is a recent one. About forty years ago the first Europeans who settled in the Lower Congo regions began to export India rubber in small quantities. But it was only in 1889 that the Belgians first turned their attention to the great gutta-percha forests of the Upper Congo. Since then the development of the rubber industry has been such that the Free State now holds the first place among the rubber-producing countries of Africa, with an annual output of more than 3,000 tons.