CANADIAN APPLE TRADE.

A GOOD DEMAND IN THE ENGLISH MARKET.

But Unfortunately the Reports from Ontario Fruit Districts are not Encouraging—Probably not Much More Than Half a Crop Will be Marketable, But the Loss may be Made up in Quality—Effects of the Drought—The Crop in the Maritime Provinces the Largest for Years.

The apple export trade in Canada is of comparatively recent growth. Prior to the year 1866 little attention was paid to the business, and our apples were hardly known in England, where they now have the enviable reputation of being among the best if not the very best, imported. The increase in this trade with the mother country in the past 25 years has been enormous. In 1868 only about 34,000 barrels were exported by Canada, and a considerable quantity of these went to the United States. In 1892-93 more than 500,000 barrels were shipped from Montreal and Halifax to the old country alone, while nearly 250,000 barrels went to the United States to find their way to England by means of shipment from New York, Boston and Portland. The trade last season was the dullest for many years, owing principally to the short crop, the fruit having been badly damaged by a series of heavy storms. Less than a hundred thousand barrels were shipped to the old country, and so short, indeed, was the yeild that even the withdrawal of this small quantity left the home market very inadequately supplied, and prices were in consequence much increased over those of previous seasons.

The fruit of Nova Scotia is in the highest favor.

WITH ENGLISH BUYERS

not only because of its excellent quality but on account of its keeping better than almost any other apple imported. Ontario, however, is now the first of the apple producing provinces of the Dominion, and her export constitutes by far the greatest quantity of the fruit shipped from Canada. The attention paid to the industry in recent years has led to a marked improvement in the quality of the apples in this province. A careful study has been made by fruit-growers of what kinds are best adapted to the various districts. An interchange of ideas and experience between producers has been established by means of fruit journals and in other ways, and even farmers with comparatively small orchards are beginning to feel that this industry may be profitably combined with the raising of grain and cattle. Notwithstanding that the United States exports a large quantity of apples, she is a considerable customer for the Canadian fruit, but the duty of 84 cents a barrel and the fact that transportation to England costs little more than freight into the United States divert the greater portion of our export to the mother country, where better prices, as a usual thing, obtain.

Shipping commences early in August and usually continues till the following May. The few months before Christmas are, however, the busiest of the season, the best apples being sent over during this time. Those exported later have to compete with

THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE

which has assumed considerable dimensions in the last four or five years. The introduction of fast steamships revolutionized this, as almost every other industry. Formerly the fruit had to be carefully wrapped in paper and packed in sawdust, but no precautions are now necessary, except that the apples should be sound and that they should be placed in a part of the vessel where the ventilation is good. As many as seven or eight thousand barrels are sometimes carried by a vessel, and the handling of the fruit forms no inconsiderable item in the shipping business of Montreal, which is the principal point of export for Canada. The greater portion of the apples of Ontario are grown in the western part of the province, which seems to be singularly adapted for this industry and especially those districts bordering on the southern lakes, where the climate is milder than in the interior, and the season somewhat earlier. The chief buyers are usually local men, and some of these firms do an immense trade. The apples are consigned to an agent in England, who after deducting the various expenses for freight, harbor dues, delivery and sale, etc., remits to the exporter. The dealers on this side are kept well informed as to the condition of the English market by cable advices, and while occasionally loss is sustained by injudicious shipping, the exporter is generally too well acquainted with his market to make a mistake of this kind.

This season the first.

SHIPMENT WAS MADE TO GLASGOW

a few days ago, and advices from England predict a greater demand for Canadian apples than ever in the bonanza years of 1891 and 1892. This calculation is based on the almost complete failure of the English and continental crops, and as reports from the United States give little encouragement of more than a very meagre yield in the best fruit districts of the Republic, the demand will probably be still further enchanced by a falling off in American exports. Unfortunately, the reports from the fruit districts of Ontario are none too encouraging. The long drought, combined with excessively hot weather, has, it is said, done great damage to the apple orchards, and some of the most extensive fruit growers now predict that, even should the rest of the season be favorable, not much more than half a crop will be harvested. Better news has been received from the maritime provinces, and in Nova Scotia the crop is said to be the largest for years. This would not, however, compensate for such a shortage as that perdicted in Ontario, and should this gloomy forecast turn out to be correct, the public may expect to

PAY HIGH PRICES

for the principal national fruit this autumn and winter. However small the yield may be, the English demand will, as far as possible, be satisfied, and the home consumer will either have to pay big rates for apples or be contented with very inferior fruit. Another fertile cause of bad apple crops in Ontario has been the fruit pests, which are causing serious alarm to many growers in all parts of the province, and recent reports state that they are on the increase, not only in southern, but in middle and northern Ontario, where most of the orchards, being younger, might be expected to be in a healthier condition. The difficulties of the fruit raiser, and, indeed, of the exporter, are many, but the Canadian producer and dealer have at least a ready market for their produce. They get the highest price going, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that their fruit is unequalled anywhere in the world.

NAVAL MANŒUVRES.

Important Object Lessons—England's Weakness in the Mediterranean—No Means at Gibraltar for Repairing Ships—An Offer to the Admiralty.

There is no doubt that the recent sham battles between rival British fleets in British waters have a good effect upon both officers and men. The operations have enabled all engaged to get a fair glimpse of what might happen in case of actual hostilities, and, in addition, they have called public attention earnestly to the question of promptly providing increased accommodations at Gibraltar for the repairing of war vessels. To all Britons this matter is one of very great importance. The object lesson of the naval manœuvres was that the red side occupied the position England would occupy in the outbreak of war with France, and the blue fleets represent France. The red fleet was crushed by the blues, Gibraltar was blockaded, and the weakness of Great Britain in the Mediterranean was disclosed. In other words, the two blue fleets combined off Belfast as the French North Sea squadron and French Mediterranean fleet would unite off Gibraltar before the British fleet could reach that important point. The British Mediterranean fleet now consists of more than thirty vessels, and in time of war Great Britain would undoubtedly have a fleet of at least sixty warships in those waters. These ships would naturally need repairs, and at present there is little or no means at Gibraltar for repairing damaged warships, and it will take some time to provide them. Consequently a powerful syndicate has been formed and an offer has been made to the Admiralty to provide moles, docks, etc., for the use of warships, under certain conditions. This syndicate offers to undertake the following works:—(1) A mole, to be carried out from the ragged staff landing in the direction of the end of the prolongation of the new mole. The two moles will provide protected waterspace and anchorage with an area of 68 acres, with a minimum depth four and a half to five fathoms of water. (2) Two graving docks, each 600 feet long. (3) Four floating docks, capable of docking ships up to 7,500 tons. (4) A coaling store inside the protected harbor, capable of storing coal for the whole Mediterranean fleet.

Naturally the syndicate expects something from the Government in return for its expenditure of money and energy, so they ask for the grant of water space inside the new mole. This is a strip of eight feet of water, utterly useless at present, and actually made inaccessible by a submerged breakwater. It is intended to dredge out the anchorage and place the dredgings on this water space, thus securing a site for (a) the graving docks, (b) the coal store, (c) the floating docks. If the concession is granted, the Admiralty is to have priority in the use of the docks, etc., and it can acquire the whole enterprise at one year's notice at a price to be decided upon by arbitration. The syndicate expects to get its compensation for £1,000,000, which it expects to expend at Gibraltar, out of the right to sell coal and dock ships at Gibraltar.

The Admiralty, however, has refused to consider these proposals on the following grounds:—(1) That a hydraulic floating dock is unsuitable for use at Gibraltar; (2) that the dock for the navy at Gibraltar must be exclusively under Admiralty control; (3) that the construction and maintenance of the new works will involve the bringing of additional residents to the rock, who will have to be fed in the case of siege. The question therefore is in abeyance for the present.

An Execution Photographed.

Recently a jail surgeon, on the occasion of an execution, by the expedient of placing a couple of cameras in the deep pit beneath the gallows, was enabled to secure a couple of photographs of a very grim character. Two threads, one several feet above the other, were stretched across, each being fastened to a spring shutter fixed to a lens. Such, on being touched by the culprit's feet when the lever was pulled, and the body descended through the fallen platform, opened the shutters which arrangements instantly closed when the threads were snapped. The notion was to obtain a photograph of the body in two stages on the long drop, and the attempt was perfectly successful. The first view was the feet and part of the legs, just below the opened platform. An oblique ray of sunlight darting through the aperture produced a glitter on the steel buckle of the strap with which the ankles are firmly bound. A coarse slipper has just become detached from the right foot, and precedes it in the downward course by about 3 inches. By an accurate calculation the lower thread was placed so as to obtain a snap shot of the culprit a fraction of a second before the awful jerk that terminated his existence. He had just about six inches lower to drop. The full figure is seen, with the face covered with a white cap. The rope appears a bit loose about the neck. Both hands are tightly clenched, and the arms forced outwards, apparently in mechanical resistance to the broad pinioning straps. The falling slipper has gained on the foot by about half a dozen inches.

WANT A CHINESE GORDON

THE IMPERIAL SOLDIERS ARE GOOD FIGHTERS WHEN PROPERLY LED.

Gordon's Marvellous Achievement in Putting Down the Taiping Rebellion—Incidents of His Daring on the Battle Field—His Short Black Stick.

What the Celestial Empire needs most in its war with the Japanese is another Charles George Gordon, with a magical stick. The soldiers of the Imperial army are good fighters once they have confidence in their commander; led by the right man, they will go uncomplainingly—nay, exultantly—straight into the jaws of death. Without such a one they are timid, and easily demoralized.

"Chinese" Gordon's marvellous achievement in putting down the Taiping rebellion in 1862-63 created such a degree of confidence in his powers over half civilized men that the British Government sent him, with a handful of soldiers, to the Soudan, 20 years later, to fight El Mahdi, and there he lost his life, though winning immortal fame.

The Taiping uprising was the culmination of about three centuries of disaffection on the part of the real Chinese with the ruling class of the empire, who are Tartars, and have controlled the government since 1643. They are but a handful compared with the real Chinese, but their capacity for leadership, a quality which is almost entirely lacking in the character of the true Chinese, has enabled them to maintain their power. In 1862 a leader who was competent arose among the Chinese. He was a village schoolmaster by the name of Hung Tsue Chueng, a religious fanatic, who claimed that "the Almighty Himself had appealed to him as the second celestial brother," to drive out the hated Tartars, and establish a genuine Chinese dynasty. The gods would be propitiated, he said, if this were done; there would be no more floods, or famines, or earthquakes.

At the beginning of the rebellion which this man stirred up the insurgents were the winners of every fight, and the Imperial Government, paralyzed with fear, implored Great Britian to loan an officer who had the ability to take charge of the regular troops and lead them to victory.

GORDEN WAS IN CHINA,

serving as captain of a company of Royal Engineers at the time. Although he was only 30 years old, he had shown himself to be a man of exceptional military ability and was selected to take command. His triumphs were so uniform as to shortly win for the imperial forces the title of "The Ever Victorious Army." Gordon won quite as much by reason of the exaggerated, even superstitious, confidence that was felt in his personal powers, as because of his ability as a general. He had himself quite as blind a faith in his destiny as had his yellow skinned followers. He firmly believed that he had been chosen of God to terminate the rebellion, and he was absolutely without fear of personal danger. This was made manifest in a hundred ways. He never carried any arms beyond a revolver, and he often went without even that. He always placed himself at the head of the party of attack, carrying in his hand a short, black stick, which he twirled in his fingers as he urged his soldiers on. Wherever the bullets and arrows, the swords and the lances of the rebels were most to be feared, there was Gordon. Notwithstanding his apparent recklessness, he was never so much as scratched but once, and then the wound received was but trifling.

Gordon's army was made up, as he said,

"OF THE SCUM OF THE WORLD."

Some of his men were Europeans, and their entire force was disorderly to a degree, disposed to flight in the face of determined opponents and to most desperate cruelty toward the vanquished when victorious. Gordon's own daring won their respect, his apparent immunity from danger inspired them with a superstitious fear, and he speedily brought the imperial army to a state of discipline never before attained and not maintained since. He shod his soldiers with European boots, and their footprints, therefore, differed from those of the Chinese, which showed no heels. Such was the terror inspired by the footprints of Gordon's men among the nation that the mandarins of Shanghai distributed some thousands of pairs of European boots, with instructions to their dependents to wear them, so that the common people might believe that the soldiers were everywhere and of immense numbers.

Returning to Gordon's stick, it may be said that Europeans as well as Chinese were somewhat in awe of it. One who knew Gordon well expressed the belief that it was filled with chemicals, and was for that reason an excellent conductor of sound. Most subordinate officers in Gordon's command came to carry sticks somewhat like his before the war was over, but none of the imitations served their owners as did his. When the rebellion was finally put down the Emperor decreed that he should be presented with a yellow jacket and an immense sum of money. He accepted the jacket, but flogged the men who bore him the money out of his chamber.

Puzzle.

Mrs. Foracloque—Well, how are you getting along with your housekeeping?

Mrs. Nuwed—oh, famously! But I was going ask you. Is a sugar loaf the same thing as a sweetbread?

It Was a Fine Day For Him.

"What have you got to say," asked the Judge.

The prisoner looked embarrassed. He raised his eyes to the ceiling, smoothed the nap of his hat and answered.

"It is a fine day. Your Honor."

"I can't say I am particularly impressed with the beauty of the weather," rejoined the Judge, "but it is a fine day for you. The fine is $10.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

A Few Items About Some of the Great Folks of the World.

Of the 5,000,000 inhabitants of London more than 1,000,000 have to live on less than $5 a week for each family, while more than 300,000 are in chronic poverty.

A curious estimate comes from London. It is that out of 1,000 men who marry 332 marry younger women, 579 marry women of the same age, and 89 marry older women.

M. Janyschew, the Russian priest who was sent to Darmstadt to conduct the conversion of the Princess Alix, the bride-elect of the Czarowitz of Russia, performed the same office for the present Czarina. He has been the confessor of the Imperial family for many years.

The late President Carnot, among other things, was canon of the church of Saint Jean de Latran at Rome. In the reign of Henry IV. the place of canon was conferred upon the "ruler of France and his successors forever." If M. Casimir-Perier goes to Rome, therefore, he has the right to take his place among the canons of Saint Jean de Latran.

Much interest is felt in Chicago in the visit of the Countess Wachtmeister, of Scania, Sweden, to lecture before the Chicago Theosophical Society. She is a prominent Theosophist, and was an intimate friend and companion of Mme. Blavatsky. Countess Wachtmeister will visit other places in the West during her sojourn in America, and in October will go to India, to join Mrs. Besant.

How much should a man eat in a week? Sir Lyon Playfair gives the following as all that is necessary: Three pounds of meat, with one pound of fat, two ordinary loaves of bread, one ounce of salt and five pints of milk; or, for the meat five or six pounds of oatmeal may be substituted. This sounds like a starvation diet, but Sir Lyon Playfair generelly knows what he is talking about.

Giovanni Succi, the well-known fasting man, began on Saturday in Buda-Pesth, a fast of thirty days. As before, he has resort to his mysterious liquid, of which he pours two or three drops into a pint of water. He smokes several cigars daily, walks about, and converses freely with his visitors. He is fasting under the supervision and inspection of a committee composed mainly of medical men.

A Russian journalist, Von Reugarten by name, is about to start from Riga on a walking tour round the globe, with, apparently, no particular object in view. He is to be accompanied by only one servant, a dog, and of course, by the inevitable photographic camera, which is to be constructed of aluminium for lightness' sake. This genuine globe-trotter estimates that six years and a half will be required for the accomplishment of his task.

President Casimir-Perier is one of the best-guarded rulers in Europe. A flying brigade of police agents in civilian costume has been created to follow the President step by step wherever he goes. When M. Casimir-Perier is about to start from the Elysee the Prefecture of the Police is apprised by telephone of the place to which he is going, as well as to the route he is to take. Before he has crossed the gate of the palace a carriage is already on the street, with orders to follow the presidential conveyance, and not to lose sight of it. This manœuvre is repeated several times daily, for the President goes out frequently either in a carriage or on foot.

The only male relatives of Robespierre living in France, according to a Paris paper, are Maxmillian de Robespierre, who owns a title manufactory, and his son, now eighteen years old. He appeared in a Paris court the other day as sponsor of one of his employes, who had run over a boy, and announced that he was a grandnephew of the notorious bearer of his name. He is an intelligent man, about 45 years old, and a graduate of a School of Mines. When asked regarding his family papers, he said that his uncle, Henri de Robespierre had fled with them to America at the time of the Restoration, and that nothing had ever been heard of him or them since then.

Mrs. Mary E. Harris, of Roxbury, Mass., has had for thirty years the hobby of collecting buttons, until now her collection numbers 12,000 different kinds. Thirty years ago she made a wager that there were more than 999 different kinds of buttons; she reached the thousand mark inside of a year, but once started in the fascinations of "collecting" her pursuit was kept up. Mrs. Harris has some interesting buttons in her collection. One was, worn by a soldier in Napoleon's army; another by a soldier in Washington's; there are buttons from the uniforms of half a dozen European armies, as well as from those of the South American republic, the Confederate army, and the uniforms furnished by different states during the Civil war.

The ceremonies attending the taking of the oath of office by Lord Russell as Lord Chief Justice of England were unusually impressive. Lord Rosebery was one of the group surrounding the Lord Chief Justice, though no other Prime Minister of England has been present at such a ceremony since the time of Lord Brougham. The number of prominent lawyers present was unusually large. The son of Lord Chief Justice Coleridge and the two sons of the new Lord Chief Justice were in the assemblage of lawyers. The selection of Lord Chief Justice Russell received almost unanimous approval, and the wish has been expressed that he might have, in addition to all the other gifts of fortune, the longevity which is one of the hereditary attributes of the Chief Justices of England.

Disinterested Advice.

Professer Van Note—"You vish to learn to blay de cornet, eh? Vy nod dake de mandolin insteat?"

Youth—"I like the cornet better."

"Yah, may be so, but you vas not strong enough to learn de cornet."

"I can manage it easily."

"Yah, may be, but gan you manage de neighbors?"

A New Industry.

Tramp—"Say, young feller, give us a dime, will yer?

Bicyclist—"What for? You are no use."

Tramp—"I an't, eh? The soles is off my shoes, and I've trod on fifteen tacks this morning, and I didn't leave 'em in the road, nuther I threw 'em into the fields."

Bicyclist—"Here's a quarter."

THE HOME.

How to Keep Bread.

Don't shut bread in airtight boxes to keep it moist. Such barbarous treatment of bread may be efficacious in keeping it moist, but bread from which fresh air is excluded always has a disagreeable, clayey flavor and is unpalatable to people of cultured tastes, who appreciate the nutty sweetness that is a prominent characteristic of all good bread.

The foolish notion of keeping bread moist has its origin in bad cookery. Most of the stuff made by bakers has to be eaten fresh and moist or not eaten at all. It is so light and woolly that if exposed to the air a few hours it grows dry and husky and is almost as unsavory and innutritious as chips.

A large proportion of homemade bread is similar in character and is affected in a similar manner by exposure to the air. But properly made bread—such bread as ought to be in every intelligent home and on every Christian table three times a day—grows sweeter by exposure to the air and is not at its best until two or three days old. Bread should be kept in a well-covered box or jar, but it should not be wrapped in cloths, and the box or jar in which it is kept should have small holes in the top or sides, through which the fresh air can have access. As soon as loaves of bread are taken from the oven they should be exposed freely to pure air, and at no time after it should they be excluded from it. Make good bread, put it in a well-ventilated box after it is perfectly cool, and it will keep sufficiently moist at least a week.

A Convenient Table.

The cut herewith shows a table that some son or father might well undertake to make for the mother of the family. The construction is simple, and the conveniences to be thus secured for the sewer are many. Whitewood is the best material for such a purpose, as it is easily worked, and is comparatively inexpensive. It may be stained a handsome red and varnished when completed. The extra leaf provides for increased top room, when such room is desired, while the variety and the abundance of drawers will prove a great convenience, as sewing materials, darning materials, materials for crocheting, etc., may find separate accommodations, and yet all be within reach of the hand.

HOMEMADE SEWING TABLE.

It is Well to Remember

That a box in the kitchen or a drawer or shelf in the cupboard will hold paper bags also the strings, and they will be found useful many times.

That one use is to slit them open and line the cake tins.

That another is to cover each jar of canned fruit to keep out the light.

That newspapers should be saved for kitchen use, to wipe the stove off, to polish the teakettle, to wipe the flat irons, doubled to place under a kettle or hot dish we wish to place on the table.

That two or three spread on the floor in front of the table, stove, etc., on baking day saves the floor, and they can be burned up when through with, taking the dust with them.

That a handful of iron tacks are good to clean out bottles and fruit cans with; half fill the jars with soapsuds, then add the tacks and shake.

That it is safer to use them than shot, as the latter may leave a poison deposit.

That if one cooks in hot summer weather one should dress as cool as possible

That a dress made of five-cent challie is surprisingly cool and will wear longer than one would suppose from the thin nature of the goods.

When rubber rings for canning purposes are found to be stretched out of shape soak them for a while in weak ammonia water and they will recover their elasticity.

To Cripple the Bank of England.

At its first establishment the inexperience of its founders was by no means the worst peril which the bank had to encounter. It was surrounded by enemies, whose opposition arose partly from political and partly from selfish motives. The goldsmiths, in whose hands the banking of London, such as it was, had developed into a most profitable trade, were naturally disposed to set every obstacle in their rival's way.

They contended that an institution on so large a scale was likely to assume the control of all financial business to a degree most threatening to the common interests of the country, and to attain so much power as would give to it a dangerous authority and influence, even with the National Government. They pretended to foresee that, as soon as it was firmly established, it would so raise the rate of interest as to cripple industry, while filling its own coffers by usury. And in this there was no doubt some reason, for many of them had grown wealthy by the very methods they now denounced.

Some of them employed their means freely in endeavors to embarrass the bank, and their plots were occasionally successful enough to bring their new rival into danger. One of the most unscrupulous of its enemies was Sir Charles Duncombe who had lately purchased a magnificent estate out of the profits of his own banking business. On one occasion he is said to have sold his entire holding of bank stock, amounting to £80,000, in order to discredit its reputation, and, some years later, to have conspired with others to create a run by collecting and presenting on one day £300,000 in notes of the bank.