

TRADE OF THE WEEK

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RETAIL AND WHOLESALE

IMPORTATION OF HONEY

TOBACCO DELIVERY DATES

Excellent business continues to be done by wholesale merchants in Auckland and with the summer time period almost completed and the colder weather there has been a marked swing to winter lines. There has been no break in the steady rise of commodity prices and further lines which have been advanced include oatmeal and rolled oats, cornflour, macaroni and vermicelli. A fairly severe shortage of honey has resulted in supplementary supplies being imported from Australia.

The drapery trade shows an improvement as a direct result of colder conditions and winter goods are in demand. Retail business is steady. Overseas trading is marked by further price advances over a wide range. Tobacco deliveries for the period May 1 to 15 will be made to both the town and country on Friday next.

WHITE LEAD

Latest cablegrams from London state that there has been a further reduction in quotations for white lead.

EASTERN MARKETS

Sago, tapioca and nutmegs are slightly easier. Pineapples are unaltered, while pepper is fractionally weaker. Desiccated coconut has declined.

CANADIAN TOMATOES

A shipment of Canadian tomatoes arrived this week to a fairly bare market. Prices showed an increase of about 10 per cent

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OVER PREVIOUS ARRIVALS.

FENCING WIRE

Merchants are severely handicapped by a fairly acute shortage of fencing wire and shipments from Australia and England are proving to be inadequate and irregular.

DRIED FRUITS

Supplies of new season's Australian currants and sultanas arrived by the Omana yesterday and have opened up in excellent condition. Merchants state that stocks are selling very readily and further shipments are awaited.

MACARONI AND VERMICELLI

Following a rise of over 50 per cent in quotations for Canadian macaroni and vermicelli, Australian manufacturers have now advanced their prices by $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. This is probably due to the rising world market for wheat.

SEEDS

Recent advices from Japan state that the market for millet seeds is steady at late rates, while the quotation for hemp seed has been advanced by £1 a ton. Further advances are expected in view of the increased freight rates which come into operation on June 1.

CORNFLOUR

The overseas position of bulk cornflour has been particularly strong for some time and considerable advances have been made. Latest advices report a further increase of 1s 6d per cwt. Following this advance an increase has been announced in the price of two packet lines, which have risen by £8 a ton.

ALMONDS

Quotations for new crop almonds shipped from Italy remain steady at late rates, and merchants have now covered their forward supplies for the Christmas trade. Spanish almonds are reported to be scarce and so far no exporters are able to make offers for the new crop in view of the disturbed conditions.

TEA

The quantity offered at this week's Colombo tea auction amounted to 2,625,000lb. Quality showed a further falling off. There was a strong general demand at late rates for all grades except for up-country teas, which declined by $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., owing to inferior quality. Next week's auction will comprise 2,000,000lb.

SPORTING AMMUNITION

Dealers in sporting ammunition state that business has been brisk in preparation for the opening of the shooting season on May 1. Prices for cartridges have been advanced, English lines showing a rise of approximately 25 per cent, while those manufactured locally

have increased to a smaller degree.

BUILDING TRADE

The building trade in Auckland is being slightly curtailed by the Government housing scheme, but is active in the country districts. Prices for building materials and steel goods have risen rapidly lately, but there has been a welcome steadying in the past few weeks, and it is expected that these commodities have found their true level.

PILCHARDS

Supplies of pilchards which were delayed by the American shipping strike have arrived, being about three months overdue. The local market was short and, as packers are unable to accept further business this season, this shipment will be welcomed by merchants. Stocks of new season's pilchards will not be available until about July.

WINTER LINES

With the approach of colder weather there is already an exceptionally good demand for all winter lines of foodstuffs and commodities such as split peas, pearl barley, packet soups, cereal foods and coffee essence. Summer time ends next week-end and merchants are anticipating the usual strong inquiry for candles and matches. It is noticeable that there is a heavy demand for these lines until householders have laid in ample supplies for the winter.

TASMANIAN MUTTON BIRDS

The first shipment of new season's Tasmanian mutton birds is due to arrive at Auckland by the Marama on Monday. The market has been bare since last season's stocks were exhausted about September last year, and merchants already have heavy orders to fulfil from this shipment. Indications are that the price will be considerably higher than the ruling rate. It is reported that the pack will be smaller than usual.

HONEY

There is a particularly strong demand for honey, and merchants are experiencing great difficulty in obtaining supplies. There is evidently a genuine shortage, and a shipment of about 200 tons has arrived from Australia. This will ease the position slightly. It is not yet known whether further shipments will be made. The Australian honey has a different flavour from the New Zealand product, but the present shipment will probably be used for blending purposes.

BREAKFAST FOODS

Oatmeal and rolled oats have been advanced by £3 a ton, and all packet lines of breakfast foods will be affected by this increase. Higher costs for packets and cases and increased freight rates also will have to be taken into account, and the actual increase has not yet been announced by the manufacturers. An Australian breakfast food also has been advanced by 6d a dozen. These increases probably reflect the strong overseas position of wheat.