

Grocery Trade Notes.

A Montreal report says:—The Guild has reduced the price of Barbadoes molasses to 80c for car lots, and 81c for single puncheons.

Some of the new crop Japan teas by the first steamer arrived in the city, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin. A portion of the new teas have been sold at prices ranging from 25 to 28c, the quality being pronounced by experts as very fine, and are giving good satisfaction. Of course the bulk of the Japans to arrive on the present crop will be of less fancy description and lower priced, more suitable for general consumption. At the above named range of prices several hundred half chests have been sold on spot and to arrive.

The largest prune orchard in the world is said to be located at Los Gatos, on the western edge of the Santa Clara valley, California. It contains nearly 50,000 trees, covering about 8800 acres. A hundred Workmen and as many horses are constantly employed on this farm, which is provided with its own waterworks and electric light plant.

Sugar is reported to have advanced sharply abroad, on account of light supplies.

The beet root sugar factory at Farnham, Quebec is a thing of the past, the plant having been sold to parties who are establishing a factory in Mexico. The plant was sold for a small fraction of its original cost. This winds up beet root sugar refining in Canada.

Reports received by mail from Los Angeles, Cal., are as follows:—Apricots will yield one-fifth of a crop, pears two-thirds; of peaches there will be almost none, probably about one-tenth of last year's crop; there will be no prunes to speak of. The writer adds that the peach trees are in a bad way, even the leaves failing to come out.

There was a good demand for salmon at Toronto and the market was firmer. Cohoes were selling at \$1.12½ to \$1.15, clover leaf at \$1.35 and horseshoe at \$1.50.

The New York Journal of Commerce says: Salmon is in better demand, the sales, however, being mostly of small quantities to cover immediate requirements of consumption. Columbia futures are not selling to any extent. Chinooks are offered here at \$1.17½ less 1½ per cent. f.o.b. Columbia River points by some sellers. Red Alaska spot is rather scarce and firmly held at \$1.12½ less 1½ per cent. Despite the strike, there are several canneries operating, and the pack to date is estimated at about 50,000 cases. None of the Astoria canneries have as yet made any preparations for canning.

A telegram from Havana, Cuba, says: The gathering of the sugar crop is nearly terminated. It will amount to about an eighth of the crop of last year.

New crop rice is in the Montreal market, the first direct cargo having arrived there last week.

Regarding the outlook for new pack fruits. The California Fruit Grower says:—"Packers are at work in a small way on cherries and pears. Packing up to this time is very light. Prices for last season's cherries have been advanced to meet the basis of new pack. Cherry crop will prove very light and prices are bound to rule high. There is very little interest in futures. Market on spot goods steady."

New crop Japan teas are here now, says a Toronto report and selling at 28 to 35c, those offering being the higher grades, and low grades are not expected for a couple of months.

A Montreal report says:—All the new crop Japan teas by the first steamer Empress of Japan have arrived, and the next batch will be of a less fancy description. Sales of late arrivals have ranged from 25c up to 26c, quite a lot having been placed at 22c to 23c

for finest, up to 25 and 27c for choice. Almost 200 packages finest sold at 28c. A lot of 60 packages of very good old medium Japans sold at 15c.

The strike of the Columbia River fishermen appears to be gaining in importance daily. Advice is to the effect that the strikers had set fire to a cannery on the Washington side of the river. If the strike continues it will materially affect the salmon pack.

Dry Goods Trade Notes

The mid-summer novelty in bow ties is a stock bow in satin. The bow is placed at the bottom of a flat piece that fills the space left open in the high turn-over collars, so popular for this seasons blouses. They are shown in a wide range of desirable colorings, such as cardinal, navy, myrtle, green, black, etc. Black satin bows with pointed and straight ends, omitting the usual band that is so difficult to place in the high standup collars, has a fine cord elastic to keep it in place.

Pique ties in white and China and Surah silk ties in plain and fancy whites are having their usual good sale. Summer coats and vests, having a fine cord, in linen shades, with detachable flat pearl buttons, can be retailed at popular prices, and are having great success. Lustre coats are always represented in a well assorted stock. Ceylon and Madras shirts, with soft bosoms, having two turn-down collars, are receiving good attention. White duck pique fancy flannel and cashmere vests are selling well.—Toronto Globe.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: For some time past certain mills have been quietly cutting prices in grey cottons and sheetings, and the Merchants Manufacturing Company, which discovered that for some unexplained reason orders from its regular customers were being placed elsewhere, soon found out that its competitors were selling below card prices, when it at once issued a circular to the trade openly and above board, reducing prices of grey cottons and sheetings about 5 per cent. It is stated upon good authority that should the underhand cutters, make a further cut, the Merchants' Manufacturing Company will pretty quickly issue another circular to meet it. It is to be remembered that a few weeks ago the Trade Bulletin referred to cutting in certain lines of cottons, and this was no doubt the cause of the circular referred to being issued. It was thought that a perfect understanding existed among our cotton manufacturers in regard to prices; but there seems to be implanted in the human breast an insatiable and irresponsible desire to somehow get ahead of one's neighbors; and this trait of the human family is never better illustrated than in the domain of trade and commerce. We know "it's devilish hard to miss a big sale" when a slight cut will secure it," as a traveller recently said; but when certain manufacturers enter into a compact to maintain a list of prices, and then deliberately break it, a great lack of business honor is indicated thereby; and the recent break that has been discovered on the part of some of the cotton kings, it is feared, will prevent any further compacts as to the regulation of prices for some time to come. It would, therefore not surprise us if an era of cutting were inaugurated that will lessen the profits of manufacturers very considerably.

Bradstreet says of the situation in the United States. Cotton fabrics are dull and values are weak, there being too many made-up goods on hand to give buyers any confidence. The mills have kept up production to such a point that they are forced to sell the goods at the best prices they can get. Raw cotton has declined considerably, but this does not affect the goods market, as the latter

are now selling below the parity of the cost of raw material. Lancaster and Amoskeag ginghams have been reduced in price to job at 43c. Spring samples are being prepared, but there is little encouragement to show them as yet.

Manitoba Official Crop Report.

The first official Manitoba crop bulletin for 1896 was published last Thursday, being compiled from correspondence received under date of June 1. Owing to the very wet season, the area of all crops shows a reduction, except roots, the heaviest reduction being in flax, which has decreased to under one-half of last year's crop. Wheat shows a decreased area of only about five per cent, as compared with last year. The decrease in flax is attributed to the low price ruling as well as to wet weather. The bulletin gives the following as the estimated area under crop for the province by districts:

District.	Wheat. Acres.	Oats. Acres.	Barley. Acres.
N. West	76,500	65,705	14,790
S. West.....	504,010	159,120	81,200
N. Centre....	201,050	76,100	27,175
S. Centre... ..	240,240	87,520	84,400
Eastern.....	60,160	54,000	20,820

Province.. 1,081,960 442,445 127,885

	Acres.
Total area under flax.....	20,825
Total area under rye.....	8,180
Total area under peas.....	1,108
Total area under corn.....	760
Total area under potatoes.....	12,260
Total area under roots	6,715

The total area under all crops is 1,693,593 acres, while that of last year was 1,887,796, showing a decrease of 191,218 acres.

The subjoined statement for convenience of reference gives a comparison with the total acreage for three years.

	1894. Acres.	1895. Acres.	1893. Acres.
Wheat.....	1,010,180	1,120,276	1,081,990
Oats.....	418,686	492,658	442,445
Barley.....	119,528	153,889	127,885
Flax.....	30,500	82,668	20,825
Potatoes.....	18,800	16,716	12,260
Roots.....	7,880	6,685	6,715

To the question, "What area of wheat was sown on the stubble?" answers indicate as follows:

Northwest district, 12,410 acres; Southwest district, 92,690; North Central district, 20,825; South Central district, 25,680; Eastern district, 18,120. Province, 164,725 acres, or about 15 per cent.

The rain-fall for April and May was 8.51 inches.

Farmers are reported to have bluestoned their seed carefully.

In low districts grain was reported suffering from too much rain.

To the question, "How has stock wintered?" answers from all parts of the province are in a similar strain, as follows: "Well," "Could not be better," "First class."

Meadows and Pastures.—Reports from all parts of the province are to the effect that prospects could not be better for pastures and hay.

Cheese factories and creameries were late in commencing operations in most cases this season, on account of the bad roads.

There are now employed as farm help in the province about 6,500 men, including hard boys. The demand is not great at present, and probably will not be so until haying or harvest time.

There is still a demand for female help; several hundred girls could be supplied with work at wages ranging from \$7 to \$10 per month. There are now employed at these wages outside of cities and towns, 1,875 girls as household help.