

Grocery and Produce Trade Notes.

Sales of Canadian short cut heavy mess have been made in Montreal at \$16; and lard is firmer, with an advance in compound of 2½¢ per pail.

New fodder cheese in small quantities have been offered in the Brockville section of Ontario at 10¢. The first lot of new cheese last year, was received a week or two earlier.

Another advance of 1s. per cwt. is announced by cable in Bosnia prunes. This is an advance of 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. for the season. The cable further said that the market is advancing, with demand good.

Black pepper is firmer in the outside markets. In New York there has been an advance of about 1c. per pound. The price of pepper has been low for some time.

Advices on Rio coffee say the estimate of the new crop of Rio coffee has been reduced by 1,750,000 to 2,000,000 bags. This is a comparatively small supply, and it looks as if coffee prices at present are on a safe basis.

The New York Commercial Bulletin says affairs are in such shape that leading holders of Alaska canned salmon in this and other distributive markets have practically decided to advance their prices about 2½¢ per dozen, or to the basis of \$1.67½ for prime red fish.

Germany proposes to increase the export bounty on sugars to more than double the present bounty. If this is carried out the German refiners will be able to almost wipe out sugar refining in other countries, unless a heavy duty is imposed to offset the bounty. Even with the duty of about ½ of a cent per pound, considerable German refined sugar has come into Canada.

An interesting lecture was delivered in Cobourg, Ontario recently, by Mr. Robert Lawder, of Montreal, on the beet sugar industry. He showed that forty years ago the world's production of sugar was 1,400,000 tons, of which 1,200,000 tons were of cane sugar, and only 200,000 tons of beet sugar; that the production has increased in 1894-95 to 8,100,000 tons, of which 4,975,000 tons are beet sugar, or a little more than sixty per cent., beet sugar having increased twenty-five fold in the forty years.

Another slight shading, says a New York market report, has taken place in the cable quotations for German granulated sugar, bringing the rate down to 3.68c, or 1¢ less than Monday, and this is said to reopen the opportunity for importations, with negotiations reported as already under way.

California dried fruit is offering here at low prices. It is very desirable fruit and is meeting with a good demand, to some extent displacing canned goods. Retailers who handle these lines of fruit should tell their customers that soaking them over night greatly improves the fruit.

Quite a lot of Manitoba butter has been consigned to Toronto and Montreal commission houses, says the Trade Bulletin, sales of which have been made in that market of about 400 or 500 tubs at 7½¢, and other lots are still offering there. In Toronto a lot of 100 tubs has been sold at 7½¢, and other lots are reported on the way to that market. Manitoba roll butter has sold at 13¢ in Montreal market. The tub butter was of very poor quality, and packed in disreputable looking tubs, being of all shapes and sizes.

The following information regarding rice has been received from Japan:—Prices in Japan continue to go up owing to the strong attitude of the farmers who seem to be very firm and not at all anxious to sell their stocks. Prices are advancing owing to a scarcity of supplies from the interior, the rise

in exchange, and the reported formation of a combination or ring in Japan to advance prices.

The importations of currants into the United States since the opening of the season to date, says the New York Commercial Bulletin, have been exceedingly light, the large stock of old fruit carried over and the rapid rise in the Greek market having deterred importers from venturing upon their usual operations. As an unusual feature of the situation it may be stated that there is no stock at present in transit to this market. The active demand experienced in Greece this season for Russian account has proved a surprise to all in the trade and aided materially in the reduction of the stock there that at one time threatened to prove a burden.

A report from San Francisco says: "The president of the California Fruit Union has has visited Vacaville and reports apricots entirely wiped out there and through the whole section. The Tragedy prunes and early shipping plums nearly all ruined, and peaches damaged considerably by a frost. The president of the Niles Fruit Association say the apricots, cherries and almonds in Alameda county are all destroyed, and that peaches and prunes show considerable damage. Holders of apricots have practically withdrawn from the market."

Speaking of dried fruits the Montreal Gazette says: "The stock of dried apples in this market is very light, and holders in many cases demand an advance. We quote the market firm at 6 to 6½¢. The same can be said of evaporated stock, which are held at 7½ to 8c as to quality by jobbers. The most active line in raisins has been California, for which jobbers have been placing some fair orders with sales agents recently. Values are held firm on them at 7c for 4 crown layers and 5½¢ for 3 crown do."

The demand for sugars has improved considerably the past week, and refiners report an active business doing, says the Montreal Gazette of April 1. The tone of the market is firmer in sympathy with the continued strong advices on the raw article, but no actual advance has taken place yet, although the prospects are there will be in the near future. Granulated has sold at 3 15-16c in round lots, and 3½¢ in small quantities. Yellows are moving freely at 2½¢ to 3c, as to quality at the factory.

Willet & Gray say that United States refiners are now between two fires. On one side Germany is determined to raise her sugar bounties, and in so doing will undoubtedly give a larger bounty on refined than on raws, which is against our refiners. On the other hand, the Wholesale Grocers' Association of the United States has protected the American refiners against imports of foreign sugars by means of what is called the equality plan for dealing in sugar. These associations, or rather the equality plan, are going to pieces throughout the land. The large department stores in Omaha were selling granulated on Saturday 25 pounds for \$1, while the cost at wholesale was 1½¢ per lb. net cash.

Silver.

The advance in silver prices at London continued this week, though the movement is regarded as mainly speculative. There were no fresh developments of any kind regarding the proposed international conference. The New York market did not show so much inclination to follow London's advance, the figures for bars here remaining steady in the face of higher quotations there. Silver prices on March 29 were: London, 29½d; New York, 64½¢.

Low Iron Prices.

The best evidence of the depression that prevails in heavy iron and metals this spring is the very low range of values which rule on several leading lines without having the slightest effect in inducement of any improvement in the demand.

This is all the more remarkable as this is the season in former years when buyers commenced to think of future supplies. Some reason, therefore, has to be sought for this dullness on import account out of the ordinary. Briefly, it may be attributed to the fact that the conditions of business are entirely changed at present from what they were even five years ago. Then, in the spring of the year, the large importers of iron and metals in Montreal and Toronto commenced to place import orders for pig iron, bar iron, etc.

Now they do business largely on carload basis in many of the leading lines, as, with the exception of possibly tin and Canada andterne plates, United States goods have got the run of the Canadian market over the British, while in bar iron, etc. our own makers control the situation.

There is no necessity, therefore, of stocking up heavily in the spring, as in former years, and with the exception of one or two big jobbers in Montreal, the members of the iron trade do not speculate on the future of the market as they did, but buy the goods as they want them. The low prices which rule in Montreal this spring, as compared with last year, are the best proofs of this. With the exception of Scotch pig iron, values are appreciably lower on all the leading lines than they were last spring. Bar iron is 30c lower; coke tin plates \$1; charcoal 25c; ternes \$1.50; Canada plate 50c; and ingot tin 5c. These declines speak pretty plainly of the depression that has existed in the iron market.—Hardware Merchant.

Business is Business. Not Politics.

The Board of Directors of the Consumers Cordage Co. has undergone a change. The Hon. M. Morris has retired; also Mr. Fulton. Messrs. Jas. Crathern, Thos. Davidson and Jas. Wilson, jr., form a committee which is to report on the position of the company.

The Consumers Cordage Co. is a business enterprise, it is not a political club, nor are any of its members, as such, engaged in politics. It is, therefore, a highly improper proceeding to throw its affairs into the political arena. A line must be drawn between men as business men, and the same men as members of a political party. If purely mercantile affairs are to be discussed from the standpoint of party, there must necessarily follow the introduction of passion and prejudice into a sphere of life, where they are utterly out of place, and where their introduction cannot fail to be highly offensive to all honorable traders, as well as most injurious to trade interests.

Suppose this policy obtain, we should have the policy of our banks and other business enterprises discussed in such a way as to damage individual directors or managers, according to their political predilections. A Liberal official would be slandered by the Conservative papers, and a Conservative by Liberal organs; not on business grounds, but solely to make political capital at their expense.

A man's office should be held as sacredly free from political reflections as his dining room. We say this because the changes in the Cordage Co. have been used for striking a political blow at Mr. Morris. Business men of all parties should strongly discountenance this obtrusion of the political element into the business sphere.—Canada Trade Review.