

Grocery Trade Notes.

The foreign market for raw sugar has still an upward tendency.

The Collingwood, Ontario, board of trade is moving to secure the establishment of a canning factory at that point. Both fruit and vegetables will be canned.

It is believed that stocks of sugar in manufacturers and jobbers hands east, are light, and that if New York prices should advance Canadian markets would quickly follow.

Stocks of loose raisins on the Pacific coast are said to be closely cleaned up. Two crowns are almost unobtainable, and three and four crowns are almost equally scarce.

The feature of the dried fruit market east has been the improvement in price of Valencia raisins due to the cleaning up of inferior stocks which leaves almost nothing but good to choice lines now available.

The current Indian rice crop shows an exceptionally good yield. The total outturn is placed at 26,000,000 tons, which is 5 1-2 per cent more than last year, when the yield was 20 per cent more than the average.

Late advices state that salmon fishing began on the Sacramento river April 1, but so far there has been only a small run. On the Columbia river fishing began two weeks later. No future prices have been made yet, but they are expected to range 2 1-2 to 5c higher than last year's opening.

Latest mail advices from London report a firm market for the common grades of teas owing to light stocks, and also stated that the trade generally believed that prices would advance to a higher basis before the new season opens. New York has been buying gunpowder teas in Canada pretty freely, and as a result these have stiffened in price.

The feature of the canned goods market during the week, says the Gazette, has been the easier feeling in corn, and round lots of 500 and 1,000 cases have been offered at 90c per dozen, but buyers' best bids for the same are 85c, which figure was refused. Tomatoes are quiet and about steady at \$7 1-2 to 90c, and peas at 75 to 85c. In salmon, business is very quiet at present. Lobsters are firm and in fair demand for future delivery.

The new baking powder trust in the United States has raised a storm of indignation against itself by engaging in a campaign against the alum powder people and by seeking to have them legislated out of existence. The

dairy and food commissioner of Pennsylvania has pronounced the one kind of powder no more harmful than the other and discourages the passage of the proposed legislation in favor of the trust's products in that state. Similar ground has been taken in Minnesota where legislation is also being sought.

D. Pasqua, under the date of Patras, 23 March, writes of currants, as follows: "Market has been exceedingly active for the last 8 or 10 days, and prices have advanced 1s and 2s according to quality. Fine grades for the English markets have been in great demand, and fully 2s more have been obtained. The lower grades of provincials have advanced 1s. The reason for this advance is the extraordinary consumption of our fruit this year in the United Kingdom and colonies. On the other hand, the continued drought in Greece puts the condition of the new crop in a most uneasy position, and should this dry weather continue for another fortnight, one-third of the crop may be safely considered as lost."

The figures issued by the Indian Tea association show that the total out-turn of the Indian crop for the season of 1898 was 152,900,233 lbs., an increase of 4,647,825 lbs., as compared with 1897, when the outturn was 148,252,408. The out-turn in 1896 was 148,217,416 lbs.; in 1895, 135,479,062 lbs.; in 1894, 12,127,215 lbs. Thus the increase in the five years was 25,573,018 lbs., an average increase of 5,114,603 lbs.

One scarcely realizes that Canada buys a hundred thousand tons a year of foreign salt, says the Monetary Times. But this is the case, for last year we imported 202,634,000 pounds free from British possessions, for the use of our sea fisheries. Seventy per cent of this came from Great Britain, the remainder mostly from Spain, Portugal, Italy, the West Indies and the United States. Quebec took 40,000 tons, but the Maritime province a still larger proportion. The importations of dutiable salt were 11,830,663 pounds, mainly by Ontario, British Columbia and Manitoba from the United States. Of course we know that Ontario herself produces salt, but she has purchased 7,500,000 pounds or thereabouts, both fine and coarse.

Refrigerators have gone up five per cent in price at Chicago. Manufacturers of wringers also contemplate an advance owing to the very heavy demand.

FINANCIAL

WINNIPEG CLEARING HOUSE.

The clearing house returns this week compared with the corresponding week in previous years, show as follows:

Week ended April 20, 1899 \$1,626,662
Corresponding week, 1898 1,626,839
" " 1897 \$12,051

Following shows the bank clearings at Winnipeg by months, for four years:

	1898.	1897.	1896.
Jan.	\$6,347,168	\$5,009,810	\$4,977,200
Feb.	5,517,000	3,851,000	4,062,000
March	5,968,000	4,289,000	4,288,000
April	6,240,000	4,162,000	4,032,000
May	5,683,864	6,014,786	4,246,201
June	7,396,000	5,531,000	4,094,000
July	6,316,238	5,616,603	4,961,277
Aug.	6,180,385	6,298,574	4,846,959
Sept.	6,414,551	8,035,201	4,630,706
Oct.	9,347,692	12,291,879	7,565,472
Nov.	11,533,669	13,550,701	8,895,175
Dec.	10,708,731	9,784,498	7,736,913

Year ..90,672,798 83,435,121 64,143,915

	1899.
Jan.	\$7,683,652
Feb.	6,209,471
March	6,756,994

FINANCIAL NOTES.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce is opening a branch at Fort Frances, Ontario.

The contracts for the new Bank of Commerce building at Winnipeg have been let. D. D. Woods got the masonry and cut stone, J. A. Givvin the carpentry work, and J. L. Wells the plumbing.

By the recent action of United States banks in refusing to make further money advances on industrial securities a panic was created on Wall Street, which resulted in a break in sugar, tobacco and other industrial stocks, and wiped out margins by millions. The sudden demand for funds sent the market rates for loans up to 16 and 20 per cent.

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