

Produce and Provisions.

(Trade Review.)

It is now a foregone conclusion that the codfishery of 1923 will be a poor one though of course certain sections both on the Newfoundland and Labrador coasts good fishing has occurred, but taken all together it is pretty safe to bet that the aggregate will be the poorest for a number of years past. The voyage was in the main very good, but does it look, at this writing, as if the hook and line voyage will be much better. In fact so bad is some large stretches of coast where fishermen have abandoned the fishery and have gone in quest of other employment. Some observers of the fishery market believe that the shore fishery will be reasonably good, but should make a considerable advance in the early fall before much new offerings have reached the allotted destinations. We have learned some of the exporters during the week as to what might be the supply of their new fish in the fall. They said, to commit themselves in any statement, as much depends upon the amount of old fish on the competition of Norway and as well as France, and also

upon the question of exchange. Some do not think that the offer of 43 shillings on Gaspé fish to which we alluded last week could be regarded as setting up a standard for our goods, and the hope is expressed, that matters will be brighter than at first was anticipated. It looks as we have long ago predicted that the stock of old fish held in Europe will overlap with the new fish, though consumption of our goods is holding a good average, especially in the Oporto market, the report from which this week showed stocks aggregating \$9,615, of which 7,372 quintals had been disposed of, while the Norwegian consumption was only 2,500 quintals. The stocks of old fish carried here are fast diminishing, and with a few more cargoes sent abroad will have reached the vanishing point. The exports during the week were by the schooner Andrea from Channel for Oporto, 3,000 qtls. shipped by E. Pike, Ltd.; Jean McKay from Grand Bank for Oporto, 4,000 qtls. shipped by J. B. Patten, and the Jas. and Stanley from Grand Bank for Oporto with 3,500 qtls. shipped by Samuel Harris. There were shipped by the Roseland for New York for transshipment to Italy and the West Indies, 3,300 qtls. by various shippers and by the Digby for Liverpool 1,000 qtls. for transshipment to Italy. By these same conveyances there were also exported 20 tons cod oil, 150 tierces of salmon, 150 cases lobsters

and 45 barrels herring. The aggregate of the codfish exported during the week was 14,300 qtls.

Cod Oil—The market shows no life whatever. There is no interest shown in prospective purchases, and the tone continues easy. The English market has been well supplied with Norwegian oil. The fishing industries on the East Coast of England that supply this market with such large quantities of fresh fish are now giving greater attention to the by-products of the fish, and manufacturing this into industrial oils which supply their trade to our disadvantage. The American markets are getting all they require, which is said to be very little, as the tanneries to a very large extent have been shut down.

Cod Liver Oil—Quite a number of the refiners have started operation, and it is being continued good during August and September there will be quite a lot of oil manufactured. We would like to see some encouragement given to continue this business, but unless the livers are purchased at a very low figure, it will be impossible to make two ends meet under present conditions.

Flour—In dealing with this market last week the statement was made that the farmers would strenuously resist any further reductions in wheat and that their opposition in this matter has borne fruit is now quite evident judging by the action of the American government in evolving a scheme for the regulation of wheat prices. As no news confirming the report that "black rust" had attacked the growing wheat was received last week, it was hoped the report was unfounded, but news received Wednesday is of a sensational character, at least as far as the Canadian crop is concerned. During the past three weeks most unfavorable weather has had a very damaging effect, especially in Saskatchewan, where rust, heat and an excess of moisture is playing havoc with the grain, of which nothing more than a fair average crop will be milled, though at first a record crop was reasonably anticipated. Rust, heat and what is known as the "new fly" have done their full work with the Manitoba grain and the loss there has been very heavy, while in the Central and Southern districts the adverse weather conditions of the past three weeks will cut the expected big yield down to about one-half of what was promised a month ago. Alberta, we learn, has been fortunate in this respect and her wheat yield will be the best since 1915. Shortage of harvest labour is a feature which is also causing trouble, and at this writing all the indications point to a Canadian wheat crop far less in volume than was expected a few weeks ago. Nothing, as far as we know, has been heard of anything similar affecting the wheat crop in the great Republic to the south of the Dominion, where it now seems to be an assured fact that a very large crop will be reaped. Argentina has an exceptionally large crop this year also as well as Australia, but despite this it is not likely, in view of what has occurred, that prices will be much below those now prevailing. During the latter part of the week the four market became very much stronger as a result of the unfavourable reports as to the damage caused by rust, hail and snow and prices advanced about 25 cents all round. The cold weather has set in very early this year and is having its effect on the market. Prices locally quoted during the week were \$7.45 to \$8.10 per barrel wholesale according to grade. The importations were: by the Silvia from New York 257 barrels; Sable I. from Halifax 750 barrels; a total of 1,007 barrels.

Pork—There is not much change in this market since last week nor is much looked for until the autumn. The market is much more firm in tone than it has been for many weeks past and as we stated last week the quotations later will be appreciably higher than those ruling at present. There were no importations of pork this week and the prices quoted in the local market during the week were, Spare Ribs \$22.50, S. C. Clear \$27.00, Fat Back \$27.00 and Ham Butt Choice \$27.50, wholesale.

Beef—This market is depressed locally and the demand for goods is very slack owing to general stagnation in trade prices generally are a good deal easier, but we understand from importers that packing of this article at present is very small. Higher figures are anticipated between the present and the early autumn. The

imports during the week were by the Silvia from New York 470 barrels and by the Sable I. 100 barrels a total of 570 barrels. The figures in this market are for Bos Pink \$13.30, Bos Packet \$20.50, Family Special \$13.50, Bonettes, New York, \$12.00, Boneless, Light, \$12.25.

Sugar—Though it looked last week as if a sharp advance would be experienced in the price of sugar, owing to the thinning out of stocks by the large consumption both in the United States and England; still a further decline was experienced, much to the surprise of those experienced in the marketing of this commodity. The importations for the week were by the S. S. Silvia from New York 450 cwt., and by the S. S. Sable I. from Halifax 1,125 cwt., a total of 1,575 cwt. Granulated sugar was quoted in the local market this week, wholesale, at \$8.50 the barrel as compared with \$10.00 last week.

Molasses—This market still retains its quiet aspect and not much business is expected before the early fall. No importations that we know of were recorded this week nor are any more expected, as the market is now pretty well stocked. Though fancy was quoted at 90 cents during the week there was a decline of 2 cents the gallon on choice which now sells at 78 cents per gallon, wholesale.

Hay—The local crop of hay which is now being cut is of very good quality, a surprising fact, considering how cold the summer has been and the adverse weather we are at present experiencing. No importations of hay were noted this week and the market for Canadian is very full with no sales being made. The price quoted is anywhere from \$32.00 to \$35.00 per ton.

Tea—A good deal of tea is now being imported and as we stated some time ago the market is firm with a tendency to higher prices later. The importations this week were by the Sachem from England 5,550 lbs., and by the Sable I. from Halifax 15,000 lbs., or a total of 25,550 lbs. Prices vary from 35 to 80 cents per lb. according to quality.

Salmon—Several new parcels of this year's new pack of salmon came into the city during the week, but the market was very slow and sales were almost a blank. Hopes are, however, entertained for a revival during the late fall and winter months when there is as a rule a better demand for the goods. The lobster market is also dull and peddlers find it difficult to make sales at present. A good deal of lobsters were received during the week but not much sales were effected owing to the low price offered.

Hardware, Tinware, Etc.—An active market in these goods has been succeeded by quietness on account of the slump in the salmon and lobster fisheries. The market is well stocked with goods and the prices we quote will likely obtain for some time to come. L. C. tin plate is quoted at \$8.50 to \$10.00 per cwt.; L. C. charcoal \$11.00; solder 37 cents per lb.; bar lead 11 cents lb.; linotype metal 12 cents lb.; stereotype 15 cents lb.; Babbitt metal—velvet 20 cents lb.; manganese 40 cents; black sheet iron \$5.75 per 100 lbs.; galvanized sheet iron \$7.75 per 100 lbs. and sheet zinc 15 cents per lb. There was also imported during the week by S. S. Kition and schooners Olive Moore and Evelyn 2,500 tons coal.

Tinplate—Tinplate is usually at its lowest point in the foreign markets in the month of December, because then it is that consumers begin to place their orders. At the present time the price is rather high. Quoting tinplate, basis for price is usually figured at one box 14 by 20 inches containing 112 sheets the contents of which weigh 108 lbs. This is

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A Narrow Escape.

SCHER, STRUCK BY SQUALL. Several passengers who arrived by the Susu yesterday report that marine disaster was narrowly averted on Wednesday last, while the schooner S.T.W.B. was on her way from Botwood to Carmanville, in ballast. The schooner, with Capt. Steve Clackwood, his brother Walter, with two others of a crew on board, as well as Mr. Walter Blackwood's wife, got caught in a North East gale, nearing Carmanville, when a sudden squall struck the vessel and capsized her. Luckily the

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and if

crew and Mrs. Blackwood were on when an attempt was made to tow her deck at the time, because as soon as to Carmanville whence it is hoped to she keeled over they barely escaped have her upright and repaired. She with their lives by jumping into a is 25 tons register, and covered by boat. They then set out and rowed to Carmanville, some two miles away, to which port they arrived in safety. On Saturday last the vessel was picked up about a mile from the land, aug13.11

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!-C. L. B. Band Concert, Victoria Park. weather Permitting, aug13.11

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