

## THE GROCERY TRADE.

## SUGAR MARKET.

Montreal Gazette: "Early last week the foreign raw sugar market was steady for beet at 10s February and March, but later on Licht increased his estimate of the European beet crop 55,000 tons, which news, no doubt had a depressing effect, and values during the past three days declined 3d. with February and March now quoted at 9s 9d. On the other hand, cane sugar has been maintained at the advance noted a week ago. Java being quoted at 12s. and fair refined at 11s. The New York market for the raw article has also ruled easier, which is probably due to the above decline in beet, and prices for centrifugals are 1-16c lower for the week at 4-3-8c to 4-7-16c. In spite of the above however, the local market for the refined article has ruled steady and prices show no change. The demand at present is limited, and business is quiet at \$4.50 for granulated and \$3.70 to \$4.35 for yellows as to quality, at the factory."

## GROCERY TRADE NOTES.

New season's pack canned lobsters are offering in eastern markets at prices about 15 to 20c per dozen over those of a year ago.

Ontario fruit and vegetable packers will announce their prices on this season's pack of canned goods for future delivery on March 15.

Canned beans have been in good demand in Montreal and orders for carloads have had in some cases to go unfilled, 55c per case was paid for some.

The Minnesota retail grocers held their annual convention at Winona last week. The attendance was large and the affair in every way a great success.

The combined stock of currants in London and Liverpool on February 1st, is given as 15,803 tons, against 15,319 tons at the same date last year.

Nine beet-sugar factories of Michigan turned out 7,431,108 pounds of sugar and received 35,396 tons of beets in January. The total output of the season to February 1, 1900, was 30,106 1/2 pounds of sugar, and the number of tons of beets received was 210,971.

The Barbadoes molasses market opened on Feb. 16th, the first quotation being 19-3-4c f.o.b., including packages, a figure equal to 32c laid down Montreal. Another quotation given was 16c and \$4 for punchon, first cost, and not including charges. These prices are 3 to 4c per gallon higher than the opening of last year, when 12c was the quotation. It seems to be the feeling though that prices will be on a lower level when business begins in earnest.

## THE HARDWARE TRADE.

## TURPENTINE PRICES HIGH.

"Not for twelve years has turpentine brought so high a price, and present conditions would seem to indicate even higher values before the 'British' feature of the market has reached a climax," says the Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter. "In fact, the general consensus of opinion among dealers here is that the local market will advance to fully 60 cents—some of the optimists predicting still higher quotations. In January, 1893, the price of spirits turpentine at Savannah

went to 52 cents; prior to that, in 1878 or 1879, further back than the records of the Savannah Board of Trade, spirits sold at 64 cents. The present high prices have been caused to a large degree by the scarcity of turpentine on spot—the light arrivals having prevented any accumulation, and the strong export demand, which has been a marked factor in the position of the market for some time. Labor, too, has figured to some degree in the cost of production, as it has been and is very hard to procure laborers, owing to the increased demand from the phosphate mines, the saw mill, the railroads and the farms, all of which tends to withdraw labor from the turpentine farms. There are many other commodities which have a strong influence on the market price of turpentine that have advanced, among which are iron, coal supplies for men and stock and lumber."

## HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.

Brass is easier in the east and the discount on roll and sheet has been increased 15 per cent.

The market for tinplate in eastern Canada and Great Britain is very firm. Odd sizes and 20x28s, the latter being the size chiefly used in Canada are extremely scarce in England.

The Pittsburg Plate Glass Company has announced a general advance of 5 per cent in plate glass prices, due to the fact that foreign makers advanced prices about 15 per cent a short time ago.

United States manufacturers have advanced their prices of galvanized iron 5 per cent. It was expected that the beginning of March would bring an advance of 25c per case on the leading Canadian makes.

The independent glass makers of the United States are engaged in a vigorous war with the glass trust for the control of prices. The independents are on the right side of the market at present with large stocks of glass.

Canadian stove and furnace makers are revising their price lists to correspond with each other. It has been found that prices for practically the same stoves at different factories were considerably different, and the object is to equalize these. In some other cases standard grades of stoves have been selling below market value, and these will be marked up to the necessary extent. Others again have been selling too high and will be brought down. The net result of all this will make the lists very little if anything, either higher or lower.

The Frost Wire Fence Co., of Wellin', Ont., in their last report on wire, say: "A great many jobbers and retailers have practically no stock of wire or rails and this fact may advance prices on or about the 1st of April. In spite of the high prices orders for immediate shipment are as large or larger than they have been in any previous year. During the rush in April and May, we fear that obtaining goods will be more a question of getting them at all, than of price. The market does not justify the placing of large orders, but those who neglect to order at least a part of their spring requirements, will probably have cause to regret this later."

## Lumber Trade Notes.

The season's cut of logs in some parts of the white pine states to the south will be from 15 to 25 per cent less than was anticipated.

Sash and door prices continue to advance in the Northwestern States to jobbers, and it is fully expected that these will be obliged to make their prices to the retail trade higher by April 1.

A number of lumber mills in the Ottawa valley have already sold most of their prospective output of this year. Mills in other parts of Ontario have also sold ahead largely. The latest deal reported is the sale of the entire 1900 output of McLaughlin's mill at Arnprior, which it is estimated will amount to about 65,000,000 feet of white pine. This deal involves about \$1,000,000. The lumber is sold for export to Great Britain and the United States.

Some Winnipeg yards are handling a line of bass-wood ceiling this year which is expected to give great satisfaction. It comes from Michigan and is a very desirable looking line. The pieces have all been sand-papered on the exposed side, giving almost a furniture finish, and are tied together in bundles of six for convenience in handling. Another popular line of United States manufacture is a fir flooring from Seattle which is almost perfect as regards grain and finish. Every board shows a double groove or corrugation on the rough side for the purpose of taking up any swelling which may occur.

## Dairy Trade Notes.

Stocks of colored cheese in eastern Canada are said to be cornered by two concerns. This is expected to have the effect of putting prices up to 70s in England.

The cheese season of 1899-1900 is drawing to a close, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin, with good profits for the middlemen as well as farmers, and factory men are already turning their attention to the coming season, hoping it may prove as satisfactory as that now drawing to a close. A few fodder goods have already been turned out west of Toronto, which are said to be absorbed by the home trade. On March 1st, however, quite a few factories will commence on fadders in the Belleville district, although not in any large quantities, as the flow of milk will, of course be limited. Regarding old cheese, the outlook is for a complete clearance at high prices, and good profits to holders. The new season promises to open with values on a higher level, which will render the handling of goods somewhat risky.

Mr. J. E. Morehous, who has for more than a year been manager of the wholesale business of E. F. Hutchings, harness and saddlery merchant, Winnipeg, now merged into the Great West Saddlery Company, severed his connection with that concern this week and returned to his former home in the south. Mr. Morehous made many friends during his stay in Winnipeg who regret his leaving the city again so soon.

A new typewriter, called the Oliver, has been placed on the market here. F. A. Drummond, of Winnipeg, having been appointed agent for Manitoba and the Territories. A few of the machines have been placed in the city, and they are highly spoken of by those who have used them. The Oliver is a Canadian machine, and the price is very reasonable for a high grade article, being \$25 to \$30 less than other standard machines.