

Montreal Grocery Market.

The feature of the sugar market during the past week has been the weaker advices from abroad on the raw article. This reaction in prices is due probably to the increased sowings and the fine weather. In sympathy with the above there has also been a weaker feeling in the New York market for refined, and granulated has declined 3c per pound, but values here are steady and no change is anticipated. The demand is slow and refiners state that business is very quiet for this season. We quote: Granulated at 13c in 250-barrel lots and over, 4 11-10c in 100 barrel lots, and 3 1/2c in smaller quantities. Yellows range from 3 1/2c to 4 1/2c, as to quality at the factory.

The demand for syrups continues slow, of which the offerings from refiners are light and prices rule firm at 1 1/2 to 2 1/2c per lb., as to quality, at the factory.

The molasses market is without any new feature to note. The demand for the season is exceedingly slow and the only round lots placed since the new crop has been offering on the market is one of a 1,000 puncheons and one of 500 at 29 1/2c here. Small lots of Barbadoes are offering at 30c. At the Island the price rules steady at 12c. Porto Rico in round lots is offering at 31c and Antigua at 27c.

New crop rice is now offering on the market for which the demand is fair, and a moderately active business is doing. The feeling is steady and prices show no material change at present, but some alterations are anticipated later on. We quote, Japan standard, \$1.25 to \$1.40; crystal Japan \$1.75 to \$5; standard B. \$3.45, Patna \$1.25 to \$5, and Carolina at \$4.50 to \$7.50.

The market for spices is quiet, which is usually the case at this season, the demand being only for small lots. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only—Penang black pepper, 6 to 7 1/2c; white pepper, 10 to 12 1/2c; cloves 7 1/2 to 8; cassia 8 1/2 to 9 1/2c; nutmegs 60 to 90c; and Jamaica ginger 15 1/2 to 18 1/2c.

There is very little demand for coffee at present, and the market rules quiet. A reduction in prices of all grades has been made. Maracaibo now offering at 17 1/2 to 18c; Rio, 16 to 17 1/2c; Java 23 to 25c, and Mocha 23 to 25c.

There has been no improvement in the demand for teas, and business in consequence in this line is dull, owing to the fact that buyers generally are holding off until consignments of the new crop come forward. Few buyers have placed their orders direct this season, as the bulk of them who did this last year, it is stated, lost from 3 to 1c per pound. Cable advices recently received here state that prime leaf Japan teas, which do not come to this market, opened up at an advance of \$2 over last season's figure, while ordinary grades, which come here, sold at about the same prices as last year. The impression here, however, is that the importations on consignment this season will be very large, and this alone, it is said, will have a depressing effect upon prices in this market.—Gazette, May 8.

Lake and Rail Freight Rates

President Van Horne, writing to President O'Sler, of the Toronto board of trade, about the protest from the Winnipeg board on the discrimination in freight rates says: With reference to the question of alleged discrimination between Fort William, Duluth and Winnipeg against outside boats and in favor of our own line of boats and the Beatty line, I find that taking advantage of the special rate which prevailed from Fort William and Duluth to Winnipeg for lake business, the outside tramp boats have for the past few

years so badly cut into the business that the regular lines have not sufficient business to support them, and it became a question of protecting the regular lines running in connection with the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk, or allowing the regular lines to drop out, leaving the business to tramp boats and chance. It should be remembered that regular boats have to start at the beginning of the season and make regular trips throughout the season without regard to ups and downs of traffic, consequently for a considerable part of each season the boats are run at a loss, and if the tramp boats are allowed to come in at a time when business is good and make such rates as they please, and take business away from regular lines, any business man should readily see what the effect must be. The railways interested have found it necessary to take the action complained of by the Winnipeg board of trade in order to keep the regular lines going. We believe this to be in the public interest as well as in the interest of the railways.

A deputation from the Winnipeg board of trade interviewed G. M. Bosworth, freight traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific railway on the question of lake and rail rates, on the occasion of the recent visit of Mr. Bosworth to the city. J. M. Hannaford of the Northern Pacific was also present. The deputation did not succeed in securing any assurance that the differential in favor of the regular lines as against independent steamers, would be abolished.

Cotton Goods Outlook.

A Fall River dispatch says: "Manufacturers are still further discouraged. Viewed from the point of primary market indications the outlook is not an agreeable one. The shutting down of the American print works brings into the open market the production of the Iron Works mills, and emphasises the fact that no great demand exists for indigos or shirtings, or the older products of the largest calico printing establishment in the country, and reminds the business men again that this one concern alone is crying nearly a million pieces of printed goods, while the stock of gray goods in this centre is 1,351,000 pieces. Until the large supply is moved, the manufacturers do not look for a steady trade at higher prices.

"There has been talk of offering a large block of gray goods at a discount from the ruling quotation to-day, but the fact that a cut in prices failed to move any appreciable amount of American goods has effectively put a quietus on that suggestion.

"The high price of cotton is the most disheartening feature of the situation. The grades of cotton used here cost now 8 1/2c per pound, and it is believed that the quotation will be higher before it is lower. There is no mill in the city that can do any better than break even, at the present prices of cotton and print cloths, and a majority of manufacturers predict a shutdown in July or August. Some of them are urging a curtailment now rather than waiting until later, when a reduction in wages will be suggested as a means of curtailment.

"An old and skillful manufacturer here says that in no way can he secure contracts in small or large lots that will net him a profit. Under those conditions he is ready and willing to curtail production in a manner that will best keep his help together. If it is agreed that the time has arrived when Fall River must run until all its competitors are compelled to shut down, he is willing, he says, to live up to such an agreement, still he believes it is not good business policy to do so.

"Another manufacturer says he does not think any Massachusetts mills can fight Rhode Island, Connecticut or New Hampshire to a standstill while handicapped by a 58-hour law as against a 61-hour law.

"The King Phillip mills have shut down about 381 out of 2,000 looms. They were running on the finest grades of American satines, made from sea island cottons, and there is no dressing demand for these goods now.

"There have recently been several warm discussions among stockholders in mills whose dividends have been cut down. One corporation having a surplus of \$197,000, and which made \$20,000 in the past quarter, declared a quarterly dividend of only 1 per cent., while another having a surplus of \$20,000 is preparing to cut down its dividend, and at the same time is agitating the erection of a large weaving shed."

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