

SAN FRANCISCO COAL TRADE.

J. W. Harrison, coal and metal broker, San Francisco, reports March 24, as follows: "During the week there have been the following arrivals: From the Northern mines, 27,600 tons; from Swansea, 3,000 tons. Trade in this line is very quiet except in the jobbing and retail branches. Importers complain bitterly of lack of cargo orders, only such sales are being made that absolute requirements call for. Prices favor the buyer, and apparently very seductive offers do not lead to business; evidently still lower values are anticipated. Why is a query, as higher outward grain freights might cause lower coal freights and their predictions might be verified, but facts and figures do not warrant any early improvement in grain. The change in the coal tariff is now pretty well established; viz., 40 cts. per ton, which will go into effect very shortly after the passage of the bill. The change will be a benefit to us, but our interests would have been better subserved if those most deeply interested had acted more advisedly. Instead of making an aggressive fight, we were too tepid and indifferent. Unfortunately these are becoming local characteristics in all branches of trade."

MARKETING FROZEN ORANGES.

The Southern California fruit exchanges have marketed a good many frozen oranges this season, under brands indicating sound fruit. If a dry goods or other merchant should sell his wares under a false brand, he would be denounced, and properly so, too, as a dishonest scoundrel. We do not charge the fruit exchanges with intentional fraud, but they have certainly been guilty of gross negligence. The grower or packer of such fruit, however, or both of them, must have known that the fruit was not what the marks on the box called for, and hence deliberately chose to defraud the buyer of such fruit. If these practices had occurred only to the extent of a few boxes of fruit, it might be overlooked on the score of error; but when the frauds run up into solid carloads, the veil of charity must be withdrawn and the rascality exposed. All this business should and must be stopped, if orange growers of Riverside and other sections expect to remain in business. The exchanges owe it to themselves, as well as the public, to deal with such dishonest growers or packers in a very vigorous manner. We have abstained from too close attention to this matter heretofore, believing that self-interest, if not common honesty, would have stopped the fraudulent practices long ago.

The exchanges can remedy this in short order, if they go about it. Let every box of fruit that is shipped to any market bear the marks of the exchange and an honest statement of its grade. Also let the sub-exchange from which the fruit was received be plainly lettered on the box, and also the name and post office address of the grower. Let the exchange refuse to receive all fruit not so branded. This course would put the people connected with every stage of the business on record, and frauds could be easily traced to their source. It is manifestly impossible for

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any inspector to know the character of the fruit that goes into each box. By the methods we propose, no special inspectors outside of the sub-exchanges would be needed, for with all the sub-exchanges in open competition, an honest pack would result, and much of the fruit that has come to the San Francisco market under the alluring brand, "Riverside Fancy Navels," would be plowed under the ground in the orchard to help fertilize the next crop.

Now, let us hear less about the "dishonest commission man" for a while, and let some of the men who have been so ready to accuse others take a look at themselves in the glass, to see how a genuine rascal really looks.—California Fruit Grower.

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