

THE GROCERY TRADE.

CROCKERY ADVANCING.

An item has been going the rounds of some of the eastern trade papers lately to the effect that crockery ware is lower. There is evidently a mistake about this. Crockery was cheapened somewhat when the British preferential tariff went into effect, by the reduction then made in the duty. This, however, was nearly a year ago. Recently the tendency has been toward firm prices. Porter & Co., Winnipeg, wholesale dealers in these goods, only a few days ago received a notice from the largest pottery in England, that prices had been advanced on the cheaper grades equal to about 5 per cent, and this advance will take effect on any repeat orders. The general tendency of the market is therefore firm.

THE SALMON PACK OF 1898.

"While the total output of salmon on the Pacific coast in 1898 was 637,117 cases higher than that of 1897, it was 99,373 cases above the average annual pack for the five years 1894-98," says the American Grocer. "The total output during that period was 11,923,135 cases, or an average yearly pack of 2,384,627 cases, equivalent to 11,462,096 one-pound tins per annum. For the pack in detail we are indebted to M. S. Lowenthal, of San Francisco, Cal., and which is as follows:

ESTIMATED PACK, 1898.

Columbia river—	Cases.	Cases.
Spring	383,530	
Fall	115,000	498,530
Sacramento river—		
Spring	13,900	
Fall	13,250	27,150
Rogue river—		
Spring	8,906	
Fall	1,549	10,455
Oregon rivers—		
Fall		76,000
Puget Sound—		
Spring	272,400	
Fall	152,600	425,000
Alaska		960,365
British Columbia—		
Fraser river	205,000	
Northern rivers	236,300	
Cohoos	45,200	486,500

Total cases 2,484,000
 "Pack of 1898, 3,121,117. "Total shortage, 637,117 cases.

"The pack of 1898 compares with previous outputs as follows:

SALMON PACK, 1883 TO 1898.

	Cases & doz. each.	Col. river. All points.
1883	629,400	1,108,600
1884	629,000	985,295
1885	553,800	835,715
1886	479,250	983,354
1887	373,800	997,890
1888	372,750	1,189,372
1889	325,500	1,714,875
1890	433,500	1,623,867
1891	372,750	1,678,051
1892	502,880	1,355,150
1893	375,700	1,787,031
1894	611,000	1,884,910
1895	634,000	2,101,116
1896	601,200	2,331,962
1897	618,200	3,121,117
1898	498,530	2,484,000

GROCERY TRADE NOTES.

Spices continue strong in price east, and pimento has advanced 1c per lb.

G. F. & J. Galt, Winnipeg, have issued a handsome new descriptive list and catalogue of the goods which they handle.

California stocks of dried and evaporated fruits have been considerably reduced recently by liberal sales to the government.

There has been an advance in the price of brooms at Toronto of 10c to 20c in sympathy with the rise in the outside markets in broom corn.

California peaches and apricots are in good demand in the east. The stock of peaches has become much reduced and that of apricots in first hands is said not to exceed five cars, and traders are in consequence only able to secure small lots.

Predictions are being freely made of higher prices for Pacific coast canned salmon. At the prices which will be paid for sockeyes, packers on Puget Sound will have to get \$1.05 per dozen in order to get back their money.

A wire to The Commercial from Vancouver says British Columbia wholesale grocers have formed a guild and will take action to get as favorable freight rates to the Crow's Nest Pass country as is given to Winnipeg jobbers.

Dried fruits are very strong in California, and holders there are asking higher prices. Stocks of some lines in the Winnipeg market are light, and as fresh supplies will have to be brought in, higher prices may be necessary here.

The broom corn market in the United States has been cornered and as a result prices have gone up to \$150 per ton for brush which represents an advance of \$50 per ton within four months. There is every likelihood of higher prices still being reached.

Cables and correspondence from abroad note widening operations generally in rice, and marked activity, especially in the lower grades. Unless the near future brings forth evidences of radical enlargement of crop promises, decidedly higher price levels may be expected."

Sugar continues firm east and prices for the raw article are strong in the foreign market. New York is also tending upwards, and an advance of 1-8c per pound on all grades was recorded there early last week, which makes standard granulated \$1.81 per 100 pounds.

Teas are very strong. Recent advices from leading tea markets show an advance of 4 to 5c since the season opened. The outlook seems favorable for firm tea markets for some time. Teas have been reduced in price until values have reached an unprofitable point for the producer, and the tendency should naturally be for a lasting reaction in the direction of better prices for the grower.

Recent advices from London, England, supply some interesting information regarding the India and Ceylon tea markets. The very low prices which have prevailed for these teas in recent years has discouraged production so much that the crop has increased but very little, comparatively speaking for some time. Consumption, nevertheless, has been quietly but steadily increasing and many new markets have been opened up, no less than 20 million pounds being taken by new markets last year. With an increasing demand and an almost stationary supply, the natural outcome was a heightening of values. This is now taking place, Indian teas of less than 8d value have advanced within the past few weeks in London from 1-4 to 1-2d per lb and better grades

are well competed for at firm prices. Ceylon teas under 8d have also risen in value to the extent of nearly 1-2d per lb, and higher grades are firm. Foreign and colonial markets absorbed over 52 million pounds of Indian and Ceylon teas during 1898. The consumption of India and Ceylon teas increased last year 53 million pounds. The official estimate places the Ceylon tea crop for 1899 at 125 million pounds, against 119,769,071 pounds in 1898.

GRAIN AND MILLING

THE CROP OF 1898.

The final estimates of acreage, production and value of the following crops in the United States for 1899, made by the statistician of the Department of Agriculture, are as follows:

	Bushels.	Value.
Wheat	676,148,705	\$392,770,320
Corn	1,924,184,660	552,023,428
Oats	730,905,643	186,405,564
Rye	26,057,522	11,876,350
Barley	65,792,257	23,064,879
Buckwheat	11,721,927	5,271,462
Potatoes	192,306,388	79,574,772
Hay	66,876,920	398,060,647

*Tons.
 The acreage of winter wheat for the present season is estimated at 29,553,639 which is 2,311,968 acres greater than the area sown in the fall of 1897 and 4,208,509 acres in excess of the winter-wheat area actually harvested in 1898. The acreage of winter rye is estimated at 5.7 per cent. less than that of last year.

GRAIN AND MILLING NOTES

E. Simpson & Co., of Moose Jaw, Assn., contemplate the erection of a flour mill this year.

The farmers of Churchbridge, Assn., contemplates the erection of a flour mill and elevator.

The Rosebank Farmers' Elevator Co., and the Myrtle Farmers' Elevator Co., are applying for incorporation.

Dow & Curry, oatmeal millers, Pilot Mound, have imported three car loads of seed oats from Edmonton for the purpose of improving the sample in the localities from whence they draw their mill's supplies. The oats will be sold to the farmers for seed purposes.

A representative of the Dominion Oil Cloth Company is at present visiting various sections of Manitoba and the Territories for the purpose of inducing farmers to enter more extensively into the raising of flax seed. He states that there will be five different concerns buying in this country next fall.

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange received an invitation to send delegates to the "Grain Growers' convention," which met at Fargo, North Dakota, this week to discuss matters connected with the growing of grain, and especially of the damage done by noxious weeds. Mr. Braithwaite was sent as a delegate by the Manitoba government.

Wilson & George have completed arrangements for the machinery for the flour mill which they purpose erecting at Indian Head. The contract has been given to the North American Milling company, of Stratford, Ont. In addition to the milling machinery an electric light plant will be added. The plant will cost in the neighborhood of \$5,000. Material for the building is being placed now and as soon as