

## CANNED GOODS GOSSIP.

Some brokers intimate that local buyers are endeavoring to bear the market for canned tomatoes, but in one or more instances buyers claimed that bids were solicited for good-sized lots at prices slightly below current quotations.—N.Y. Bulletin.

The organization of a company for the purpose of establishing a canning factory at Natchez, Miss., is about perfected. A factory with a capacity of 20,000 cans daily will be build in time for doing some work this season in vegetables.

A. W. Habersham & Co., Baltimore, Md., writes as follows regarding the market for canned tomatoes: "A sharp advance is threatened; the near future may find them scarce at any price. For ten days we have been paying alternately 1.10 less the discount and 1.10 net. At this moment can offer a choice brand at 1.10 sixty days, or cash less 1 1-2 per cent f.o.b. country."

Those cheap lines of standard canned tomatoes, about which there have been whisperings latterly, have failed to materialize on the market thus far. To all accounts \$1.15 is still bottom price for sull standard goods.—N.Y. Bulletin.

The Columbia River salmon fishermen have combined on \$1.15 per fish. The canners have not combined. At \$1.15 per fish the cost of the canned article will be on ordinary calculations about 45c. per case higher than it was last year.

A London report, date of March 18th, says: "California canned fruits are now experiencing a flat market, and apricots in ordinary standards, which is the kind most dealt in where business is concluded, can be had at 6s. to 6s. 3d. per dozen without attracting many buyers, while pears are offering at 7s. 6d. to 8s. 3d., and peaches at the latter price."

The Alaska Packers' Association is still busy getting vessels off loaded with supplies for the salmon canneries.

A new canning factory is soon to be started at Leonardsville, N. Y. A company has been formed with a capital of \$10,000, and the stock has all been taken. A building will be erected 30x80 feet, with two stories above a basement. The building will be located near the U. V. railroad depot. Two hundred acres of corn are called for by the company for this season, after which they will begin canning fruits, vegetables, etc.

Opening prices for Clover Leaf brand Columbia River salmon, 1893 season pack, have been fixed by Delafield, McGovern & Co. at \$1.40 f.o.b. Astoria for tall tins and \$1.55 for flats in car load or larger lots. One-half of the probable pack under the Clover Leaf label has already been placed, with the guarantee of protection to buyers in the event of any decline in price of the brand. The

limited selling prices heretofore prescribed continue in force. Cheaper rates of freight permit the salmon to be delivered in the East at last year's cost, although the f.o.b. cost prices are somewhat higher. A new and elegant Clover Leaf label will be used this year, and the contents of the cans will be of as high class as the label. Orders will be taken for the goods with key opening attachment at 5c. per dozen advance on the prices above quoted.—N. Y. Bulletin.

Most reports are to the effect that orders for 1893 season pack Columbia River salmon have largely run on flat tins thus far, and the surface indications are that tardy buyers will likely be inconvenienced later on.—N.Y. Bulletin.

The Alaska Packers' Association have fixed opening prices for 1893 season pack salmon at \$1.05 f.o.b. San Francisco for prime red fish. At present rate of rail freight that price is equivalent to \$1.13 3-4 landed here. On spot stock, however, \$1.15 is the popular quotation.—N.Y. Bulletin.

Some of the Maine papers mention the opening of half a dozen new sardine factories along the coast, and suggest that sardines will be likely to be low. Information received here indicate the new concerns are small affairs and not capable of committing a great deal of mischief.

At least 2,000 cases of gallon canned apples, Maine and New York packs, have been picked up during the past few days, and, to present appearances, there is nothing in the way of desirable stock on offer at less than \$2.70 to \$2.75. Some authorities intimated the supply is now closely concentrated.—N.Y. Bulletin.

The N.Y. Bulletin says: "There was some evidence of a little awakening on coming season pack of canned tomatoes. In any event a number of orders for ordinary standard goods were placed at 90c., and some for fancy stock at \$1 per dozen, delivered.

San Francisco papers at hand by latest mails confirm previous reports of failure of the attempt to combine the salmon packers on the Columbia River. Private accounts and the newspaper reports are in accord. In the natural course of events the failure to combine is likely to lead to what may be termed an enlargement of spleen, which, on the Pacific Coast, is paramount to vindictiveness on the part of aggressive canners, and opportunity for fishermen to exact fancy prices for raw stock that is almost certain to be made the most of. Hence the cost of new pack Columbia River salmon is shrouded in more than ordinary uncertainty, with the probabilities that nothing short of heavy run of fish will prevent an advance on last season's cost. The Alaska canners, unless they deviate from plans already laid out, will pack no greater quantity than was distributed

last year. The British Columbia canners have also decided upon a limited pack. In short, there seems to be a nice opening for the Columbia River people, since spot stocks are low, and the restrictions upon packing in Alaska and on the Frazer River sufficient to divert more attention to Columbia River fish. Thus far, opening prices are about the same as those that ruled at the beginning of the 1892 season.—N.Y. Bulletin.

The Baltimore Trade, in its weekly review, says: "This year it seems as if there would be wisdom in any jobber buying at reduced prices on present quotations, for there is a real scarcity of canned goods in nearly every line, and retail prices will certainly hold for all that they can secure. The desire of the packer to sell out at this time is natural, and is altogether different from such a desire in the fall. It is the chance for the dealer, for, as we have said, sacrifices are often made at this time to clear out for new season, even when there is steady call for the goods. We believe it would be a good thing if there could be about this time auction sales to dispose of all goods of previous season in packers' hands. It would let the country know just how much was on hand; it would compel the jobber to take what he wanted, and know he could not get them cheaper before new packing began; and if an excess of goods was developed it would tend to prevent overpacking in the line that was excessive. The trouble is that packers will always believe that they can get a better price through keeping the public ignorant, than by giving the people full information. But, somehow the packers do not get this advantage from ignorance; the only privilege they have is to learn that an excess will not prevent prices breaking from weight of supply—this comes inevitably, sooner or later, and the jobbers make nothing by waiting till confidence is quite gone from the supply. The only articles which can be sacrificed this season would be some fruits, and few of those, with many months of good request before they will be in market in the form of fresh fruits. Any break in the price of vegetables is negated by the lack of goods."

The last Havana mail reported as follows upon the tobacco market: "A quieter tone has been prevailing since the American buyers have now completely retired from the market, leaving our stores pretty nearly empty of both Remedios and Partidos leaf, only some few lots of these descriptions remain unsold. Of Vuelas stocks are still plentiful; however, of such tobacco to suit buyers there is not much to be met with; fine good burning fillers are in demand at prices ranging from \$35 to \$45 qtl., according to quality and size. No change can be reported so far in regard to the new crop; some rain would come apropos for the filler part of the yield still uncut on the fields."