

Montreal Grocery Market.

Notwithstanding the activity and strength in the sugar there has been no improvement in syrups, the demand being slow and prices steady at 1½ to 2½c per lb., as to quality, at the factory.

The demand for molasses continues slow, owing to the fact that buyers are well supplied, and sales at present are chiefly in small lots at 27c to 27½c for Barbadoes, and at 28c for Porto Rico.

There is no change in the situation of the spice market, the feeling being still firm, and prices are fully maintained. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only: Penang black pepper, 6 to 7½c; white pepper, 10 to 12½c; cloves, 7½ to 9c; cassia, 8½ to 9½c; nutmegs, 60 to 90c, and Jamaica ginger, 15½c to 18½c.

In rice the feeling is very firm, and prices are fully maintained at the recent advance. The advices from abroad continue of a strong nature, and higher figures are anticipated in the near future. The demand here at present is slow, and business rules quiet. We quote: Crystal Japan, \$5 to \$5.25, standard B., \$3.70; Patna, \$1.50 to \$5.25; Carolina, \$6.75 to \$7.75; choice Bermuda, \$1, and Java kinds, \$1.25.

Owing to the recent sharp advance in prices for all lines of tea the demand has been checked somewhat, and in consequence business has been rather quiet during the past week, but the tone of the market is firm, and holders show no disposition to make concessions. In New York the market for gun-powders has been strong, and prices have advanced fully 2c per lb, in consequence of which there has been some demand here for these teas, and some round lots have been sold for shipment. Some small sales of low grade Japans are reported at 14 to 16c, and siftings are scarce and firm.

There is no alteration in the strength of the dried fruit market. Locally there is no Valencia stock available in first hands and a leading commission firm who represent some of the very best brands, state that their fall business is over, as their correspondents in Spain have all the orders they can attend to. Stocks in jobbers' hands also are by no means well assorted. A few have fair supplies of fine off-stalk, and they are making a profit of fully ½c per pound on turn overs to other jobbers. These firms got in early, before prices reached the top. They have made sales recently to western buyers at 5½c for fine off-stalk in s'raight lots. There are very few selected Valencias in second hands, and the same remark applies to layers. The former are held at 6c and the latter at 6½c.

Grocery Trade Notes.

A Toronto report says the season is getting pretty well under way now for Valencia raisins and there is a better demand for the Malaga fruits just arriving. The supply this year is very short and the prospect is for good prices. They have advanced from 40c to 50c per box from the low point. The shipments to Canada have been very small. There is something new in Malaga raisins in fancy cartoons at reasonable figures. These are specially for the Christmas trade.

In rice the Japan market is very strong and the tendency is for higher prices for imported goods.

The New York Journal of Commerce says: The tea trade has shown changed conditions in that, while the country and general distributing hands have fallen off, yet investors have taken hold of large invoices with the belief that there will be a short supply by comparison with the previous year that the production will all be needed. Therefore there have been taken up some large invoices

of Japans, for future distribution, while the prices made have been quite firm without showing a further advance.

The raisin situation in California at the end of October is thus reviewed by The California Fruit Grower: Heavy rains on Monday last did some damage to raisins in the field, and will cut the second crop short. Owing to early frosts, the first and second crop have been harvested largely at one and the same time. Curers of Valencia style raisins report some damage from rains. There is an active demand and prices are firm. The f. o. b. prices are 3½c, 4c and 5c for 2, 3 and 4 crown respectively. A few packers are holding for ½c higher, but the eastern trade does not respond. Fancy goods for holiday trade are in demand at full quotations.

There is another Santos coffee crop estimate, placing next crop at 3,500,000 bags.

Advices from Dania report a firm and advancing market, supplies there being small and the growers holding back stocks for better prices.

The receipts of Brazil coffee at Rio and Santos reach thus far, since July 1, fully 4,210,000 bags, against 2,819,000 bags same time the previous year.

The New York Commercial Bulletin says of nuts: "Stocks in the hands of distributors are about the smallest on record and short crops of nearly all leading varieties has caused a very firm feeling among holders. Sicily filberts have come in for a good share of attention, and the report is that the crop is fully one-third smaller than that of last year. The market here shows a tendency to advance in sympathy with advices from primary points, cables received this morning making the price for prompt shipment equivalent to 7½c laid down here."

The Montreal Gazette of November 18 says. The firmness in all kinds of dried fruit continues and advices this week note further appreciation abroad. New dates are selling, to arrive, at 5½ to 6c in jobbing lots, and figs at 9½ to 15c as to quality. It costs fully 5½c to lay down new Bosnia prunes here, and jobbers are asking 5½ to 6c for them to arrive. New French prunes are already in the hands of the trade, and jobbers quote them 5 to 9c, according to grade. No fresh supplies could be laid down under 4½c net cash for ordinary stock, and the goods are held firm as a result. New Valencia almonds were cabled 6d higher on Monday, and another 6d to-day, making 1s advance per box at Dania since the week opened. They are the only new nuts offering here yet this fall, selling at 18 to 20c for shelled. New Almeria grapes are held firm at \$5 to \$7.50 per keg, as to quality. Last year they never ruled much above \$5 to \$5.50 per keg.

Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended Nov. 14, 1896, shows an increase of 1,085,000 bushels, against an increase of 3,390,000 for the corresponding week last year, an increase of 1,062,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and an increase of 2,701,000 bushels three years ago.

The following table shows the total visible supply of wheat at the end of the first trade week of each month for four years, as compiled by the Chicago board of trade and includes stocks at most important points of accumulation in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. There are some important points not covered by this statement;

	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Jan. 2...	83,581,000	80,223,000	81,233,000	45,907,000
Feb. 5...	83,378,000	79,803,000	81,393,000	43,161,000
Mar. 4...	78,708,000	75,609,000	70,033,000	41,556,000
April 1...	74,308,000	71,459,000	77,054,000	41,036,000
May 6...	62,190,000	65,156,000	73,069,000	36,190,000
June 3...	62,229,000	69,394,000	71,030,000	27,110,000
July 1...	41,561,000	64,057,000	62,310,000	21,262,000
Aug. 3...	38,517,000	60,001,000	69,424,000	26,079,000
Sept. 7...	36,784,000	63,103,000	56,140,000	33,700,000
Oct. 7...	41,832,000	73,014,000	63,276,000	61,250,000
Nov. 4...	62,990,000	80,047,000	71,306,000	61,717,000
Dec. 2...	63,903,000	85,179,000	78,091,000	72,330,000

The following shows the visible supply by weeks, for four years:

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
Jan. 4...	69,812,000	87,850,000	79,053,000	81,736,000
" 11...	69,945,000	80,615,000	80,433,000	83,029,000
" 18...	67,963,000	85,236,000	81,332,000	82,247,000
" 25...	67,623,000	84,006,000	80,277,000	81,437,000
Feb. 1...	66,734,000	83,376,000	79,833,000	81,190,000
" 8...	66,110,000	82,322,000	79,500,000	80,733,000
" 15...	65,926,000	80,733,000	78,607,000	80,214,000
" 22...	65,011,000	79,476,000	77,257,000	79,443,000
March 1...	64,089,000	78,701,000	76,569,000	79,033,000
" 7...	62,590,000	77,717,000	74,607,000	74,103,000
" 14...	62,123,000	76,713,000	73,359,000	74,020,000
" 21...	61,348,000	75,771,000	72,103,000	73,204,000
" 28...	61,043,000	74,908,000	71,458,000	77,651,000
April 4...	60,322,000	74,703,000	70,702,000	77,204,000
" 11...	59,330,000	70,147,000	69,217,000	76,038,000
" 18...	58,483,000	68,920,000	68,425,000	71,803,000
" 25...	57,910,000	68,776,000	66,637,000	76,027,000
May 2...	56,810,000	62,190,000	65,166,000	73,069,000
" 9...	54,000,000	60,023,000	63,510,000	72,407,000
" 16...	53,140,000	60,481,000	62,044,000	71,520,000
" 23...	51,293,000	54,244,000	61,329,000	70,167,000
" 30...	50,340,000	62,229,000	69,324,000	70,307,000
June 6...	50,147,000	49,739,000	58,214,000	63,605,000
" 13...	49,458,000	47,717,000	57,105,000	66,370,000
" 20...	49,319,000	46,225,000	65,351,000	63,681,000
" 27...	47,800,000	44,561,000	61,657,000	62,101,000
July 4...	47,193,000	43,359,000	64,114,000	61,319,000
" 11...	47,220,000	41,327,000	63,154,000	60,328,000
" 18...	46,743,000	40,438,000	63,714,000	60,893,000
" 25...	47,142,000	39,229,000	67,144,000	60,319,000
Aug. 1...	46,734,000	38,517,000	69,001,000	60,421,000
" 8...	46,420,000	37,339,000	68,321,000	59,869,000
" 15...	46,876,000	36,892,000	63,901,000	57,844,000
" 22...	45,189,000	35,088,000	64,711,000	57,241,000
" 29...	45,574,000	33,433,000	66,949,000	60,881,000
Sept. 5...	46,495,000	36,754,000	69,168,000	66,110,000
" 12...	47,602,000	38,062,000	69,214,000	67,341,000
" 19...	49,055,000	39,385,000	70,139,000	68,093,000
" 26...	48,716,000	40,703,000	71,413,000	69,228,000
Oct. 3...	49,116,000	41,832,000	73,044,000	69,675,000
" 10...	49,434,000	41,431,000	75,771,000	69,233,000
" 17...	54,803,000	46,199,000	70,039,000	66,975,000
" 24...	57,235,000	54,458,000	78,180,000	69,327,000
" 31...	68,030,000	62,094,000	81,279,000	71,396,000
Nov. 7...	69,033,000	66,036,000	81,226,000	74,000,000
" 14...	61,003,000	69,326,000	82,231,000	76,103,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on November 7 is as follows:

	Bushels.
Montreal	512,000
Toronto	217,000
Kingston	—
Winnipeg	265,000
Manitoba interior elevators	2,425,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keowatin	2,673,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on November 7, 1896:

	Bushels.
East of the Mountains	78,617,000
Pacific Coast	6,833,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels.
East of the Mountains	80,236,000
Pacific Coast	9,651,000

Bradstreet's report for the week ended Nov. 14, shows an increase of 1,633,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 80,300,000 bushels on the latter date.

Worlds stocks of wheat on November 1, 1896, (United States, Canada, in Europe and afloat for Europe) were 137,575,000 bushels, as compared with 153,633,000 bushels on Nov. 1, 1895; 173,632,000 on November 1, 1894; 172,825,000 on November 1, 1893; 151,272,000 on November 1, 1892; 133,611,000 on Nov. 1, 1891; 91,151,000 on November 1, 1890, and 109,117,000 bushels on Nov. 1, 1889, exclusive of flour.

Financial and Insurance Notes.

J. J. Macartney has been appointed manager in Winnipeg, of the Provincial Life Association Society of New York.