

THE GROCERY TRADE.

TO CONTROL THE COFFEE MARKET

That the condition of coffee growing countries under the extremely low prices which have ruled for the berry in the markets of the world for some considerable time past, was serious, has been known, and from time to time reports have emanated from various growing points that comprehensive steps were to be taken to remedy conditions so that planters would derive sufficient profit to enable them to remain solvent; but to date, every effort has been fruitless. Now, however, according to information furnished by correspondents in Caracas, the Venezuelans have put their shoulders to the wheel in earnest, spurred on to make a hard fight, under the threatening cloud which is hanging over coffee estates in that country by reason of low prices. It is estimated that the coffee-producers of the Latin-American republics under prevailing conditions are losing \$15,000,000 annually, of which about one-half falls upon the Brazilian producer. Calculating the total production of the world at 13,000,000 bags, of 132 lbs. each, and the consumption at 12,000,000 bags, the fall of price is considered due to over-production. The government of Venezuela proposes to take the initiative in the formation of a coffee combination, the first aim of which will be to restrict the output, and to control the sales by a general export duty of \$1.00 per bag. The production of all countries is to be restricted to 10,500,000 bags per annum, of which Brazil will be permitted to export slightly more than one-half, and the remainder to be divided among all other countries.—Canadian Journal of Commerce.

DRIED FRUITS.

Reports from the coast indicate that the demand from the canners and green fruit shippers for peaches has been so heavy that prices have advanced beyond the point where it is profitable to dry them, says the Minneapolis Commercial Bulletin. The canners and shippers are taking very heavy supplies of green peaches, and the quantity to be dried will be greatly curtailed. Prices for new stock peaches are very high and it is claimed that speculators and jobbers are taking hold very carefully, with the result that the quantity changing hands is nominal. Apricots are moving from coast hands slowly, owing to the high prices they command. Speculators do not seem to care to take hold of them. In raisins there is a better feeling. Loose muscatels and two-crown are likely to advance shortly if present demand continues. New York reports an advance on prunes of half a cent, with stocks there held very firm. This advance is not expected to affect the western market directly, as jobbers in this territory are not dependent upon the eastern coast for their supplies.

APRICOTS.

The Los Angeles Times says: The apricot season is over. The crop as a general rule has been a good one and growers have had a prosperous year. Here in Southern California there will be harvested a total of about 7,000 tons of the fruit, perhaps 1,000 tons more. Buyers began by taking the whole orchards at \$20, and little by little prices crept up until growers got \$30 per ton, the buyer taking

everything. At these prices the growers got \$10 to \$60 per acre from their crops. Canners have run night and day to handle the fruit. The soft fruit has gone to make pulp, for which fruit there is an active demand. It is thought that the apricot crop of the state will be 50 per cent greater than the average. But the amount of dried fruit will be smaller.

GROCERY TRADE NOTES.

Lemons have advanced 25c per box at Minneapolis.

Dr. Price's extracts have advanced 20 to 25 per cent in the United States.

The quotation for taploca, August shipment from Singapore is 3 1-8c f.o.b. point of shipment.

Recent cables from Greece quote currants at 11s 4 1-2d for Amalias, equal to 4 5-8c laid down in New York.

According to a report received from one source cable advices were received saying that the Foochow Oolong tea crop is 30 to 40 per cent less than last year.

Grapes promise an enormous crop in Essex, which means that the wine industry of the country will flourish this fall. Essex is also the greatest corn growing county in Canada, and the yield this season will be very heavy.

During the week ending Thursday last between 60 and 75 cars of southern watermelons from Texas, Missouri, Georgia and other states were received by dealers in Minneapolis for distribution throughout the northwest. This is the largest single week's business on record.

The anticipated further cut in the price of refined sugar at Montreal by the dissenting grocery houses materialized at the end of last week, and they are now quoting sugar which cost \$3.70 at the refineries, at \$3.50, and they threaten to make still another 10c cut. The trouble is between certain wholesale grocers and the other houses in the trade and refineries. The dissenting houses are trying to break an agreement which exists between the other houses and refiners. Prices at the refineries remain firm, and an active trade is reported.

There is still a steady demand for new pack canned salmon, and further sales of round lots have taken place for future delivery, but owing to the strong condition of the market it is stated that canners in some cases have withdrawn from the market while others have reduced their selling quantity considerably. Sales of 1,050 cases Clover Leaf brand were made on local account at \$4.75, f.o.b. Coast, but it is reported that \$4.50 has been accepted in the west for the same brand. There has also been some fair sized sales of Lowe's and similar brands at \$4, f.o.b. coast.—Montreal Gazette.

Advices to the Canadian trade from Greece state that the chamber of deputies has passed a law providing for the retention of a certain portion of the currant crop. The law provides for fixing the quantity of currants to be retained by a committee, which will meet in Athens on August 4th of each year, and by a majority vote fix the amount of retention for the crop of that year, the date of such retention being fixed between August 13 and 18. Shipments of the new crop will not be permitted before August 18 in each year. The law also provides that in the event of

damage to the crop by unfavorable weather conditions during the cutting and drying period up to September 18, the minister of the interior and finance can reduce the retained quantity as previously fixed by the retention committee, but he cannot under any circumstances make it less than 10 per cent. Recent advices from Greece report a continuance of the favorable weather and estimates on the crop place the probable total at 160,000 tons, against 135,000 tons in the crop about coming to a close. The carry-over of the present crop will be about 15,000 tons, making a total visible supply of 175,000 tons.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

BRITISH DRY GOODS IN CANADA.

The Toronto Monetary Times reviews the dry goods situation as regards British imports as follows:

"British textile exporters are looking with increased interest towards the Dominion. There are at present a host of prominent Canadian dry goods men selecting stocks in British and Continental markets. For the twelve months ending with June, Canadian purchases of Irish linen piece goods exceeded those of the previous year by 29.7 per cent., while in the month of June they were 35.9 per cent. larger than in the same month a year ago. A report from Belfast states that: 'The development of trade with Canada has been one of the features of the past twelve months, and is steadily continuing. In other centres of the textile industry a like interest is being aroused. The Manchester correspondent of the Draper's Record states: 'The Hudson's Bay Company, with a staff of only twenty-eight men in England (there are 600 I believe in Canada), was able during its last trading year to make a profit of over £125,000. The territories which yield profit to the Governor and Company of Adventurers trading with Hudson's Bay, have, in the past, been comparatively neglected here. But a change is noticeable. The local houses are sending out more young men to the Dominion, and the city is becoming more and more a gathering place for wholesale and retail buyers representing Canadian houses.' We are naturally the more pleased with this increased interest with the manufacturers of the Mother Country in that the home producers of textiles are very busily employed."

Good Roads in Manitoba.

One of the councillors of Shoal Lake municipality has introduced a good roads proposition which indicates that the agitation in that direction is bearing fruit. The proposition made to the council and ratepayers of Shoal Lake is that \$30,000 be borrowed at 4 per cent. interest and running for a term of thirty years, with which four main roads could be built through the municipality under the supervision of a competent engineer, which would immensely improve the traveling facilities of the municipality. The interest and sinking fund charges for this expenditure would be, according to the councillor's estimate, \$2,200 per year, whereas the present expenditure on roads is \$3,000 a year and annually becoming larger. This would admit of the same rate of taxation being maintained as at present and still leave \$900 per year for maintenance of side roads.