

SUGARS AND MOLASSES.

An examination of the Custom-House Returns for the past three years shows a material falling off in the importation of Refined and Raw Sugars in 1863, as contrasted with the preceding year; receipts of Molasses have increased.

Quantity and Value of Sugar and Molasses Imported.

ARTICLES.	1863		1862		1861	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
Refined Sugar lbs.	219,629	\$ 12,365	783,098	\$ 57,067	21,570	\$ 1,747
Raw Sugar ..lbs.	21,559,607	863,993	25,811,507	1,029,193	24,891,121	910,810
Molassesgals.	956,900	166,103	790,447	147,009	790,298	128,551

REFINED.—The price of Dry Crushed Sugar has ranged from 10½c. to 12½c. per lb., during 1863, the lowest point having been reached in May. The total consumption of White Refined Sugar, in Canada, is believed to be about 6,000,000 lbs. There were 62,210 lbs. of Refined Sugar in Customs' Warehouse on 31st December last.

RAW.—Values in 1862, were:—In April, \$6, \$6.12½, \$6.75, and \$7 per 100 lbs. in quantity; subsequently there was an extra duty imposed, and in July and September there were sales at \$8.50 and \$9,—the range for the latter part of that year being \$8, \$8.12½ @ \$8.62½. During the first four months of 1863, \$8 @ \$8.60 included the rates paid,—\$7.50 being accepted at close of April; the range during next four months was \$8.12½ @ \$8.90; and from about middle of September to close of the year, \$9 @ \$10.12½. There were 3,933,619 lbs. of Raw Sugar in Customs' Warehouse on 31st December last.

MOLASSES.—In 1862, there was a sale as low as 21c. per gallon—the range in June, however, was 31½c. @ 35c.; transactions during the remainder of the year were from 28½c. @ 31½c.—the average of December being 30c. per gallon. In 1863, the range from January to August was 27c. @ 30c., and during the last four months, 31c. @ 34c. per gallon. There were 174,796 gallons in Customs' Warehouse on 31st December last. [The prices here noted were for Molasses in puncheons; in tierces the rates would be 1c. @ 1½c. per gallon higher—in barrels, 2c. @ 3c. higher, provided grades and qualities were the same, and the market not overstocked with any particular kind of package.]

The local consumption of Montreal includes considerable quantities used in distillation and refining. The Revenue Inspectors' returns show that 17,754 gallons had been employed in the first-named process in 1863—the quantity in 1862 being 19,635 gallons.

There have been various statements made relative to the deficiency of last year's Sugar crops. The following is a moderate estimate:—

Deficit in France (Beet-Root Sugar)	70,000 tons.
“ Reunion (formerly Bourbon)	30,000 “
“ Mauritius	40,000 “
“ Louisiana.....	150,000 “
Total,.....	290,000 tons.

The coming crops in Brazil and Cuba have also been reported as very deficient—although latterly the statement about Cuba has been questioned. It is believed, however, all things considered, that prices of Sugars are likely to rule high this year.

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