

Canned Goods—There is no change of importance to note this week. We quote:—Fish—Salmon, 1's flat, \$1.60 to \$1.80; salmon, 1's tall, \$1.45 to 1.55; lobster Clover Leaf, \$2.95; lobster, other 1's, \$1.75 to 2.25; mackerel, \$1 to 1.25; finnan haddie, \$1.40 to 1.50; sardines, French, 1/2's, 40c; sardines, French, 1/2's, 17c; sardines, American, 1/2's 6 to 8c; sardines, American 1/2's, 9c. **Fruits and Vegetables**—Tomatoes, 3's, 80c to \$1; corn, 2's, 85c to \$1.05; peas, 2's, 90c to \$1.00; beans, 90 to 95c; pumpkins, 75 to 90c; strawberries and raspberries, 2's, \$2.00; apples, gala, \$1.75 to \$2; 3's, 85c to \$1; peaches, 2's, \$2.00 to \$2.75; peaches, 3's, \$1.25 to \$3.75; plums, 2's, \$1.40 to 1.75; 3's, \$2.65; pears, 2's, \$1.60 to \$1.75; 3's, \$1.75 to \$2.10.

Spices, Rice, etc.—Rice, bags, 3 1/2 to 4; do, off grades, 3 1/2 to 3 3/4; do, patna, 4 1/2 to 5 1/2; do, Japan, 4 1/2 to 5 1/2; sago, 4 1/2 to 5c; tapioca, 4 1/2 to 5c; pepper, black, 1 1/2 to 12c; do, white 18 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 18 to 20c; cloves, 10 to 13c; allspice, 10 to 13c; nutmeg, 90c to \$1.10 cream tartar, 28 to 35c.

Peels.—Jobbers are running light stocks of all kinds. Prices are firm to stronger. Lemon is going at 15 to 16c; orange at 17 1/2 to 18c, and citron, 26 to 30c.—*Empire*, Dec. 30.

Prunes.

That favorite variety of plum known as the prune, and familiar to all in its conserved state, is cultivated in many parts of the world, and very largely in France, Turkey and Austria. Until the tree was introduced into California, our entire supplies, which aggregated thousands of tons yearly, were imported from these countries. The cultivation and growth of the tree in California has within the past three years made wonderful strides, and in a couple more years the state will produce all the prunes required in this country and some to spare.

In regard to the relative quality, Californians claim precedence, but laying aside all prejudice, we prefer the French in point of flavor and tenderness of the fruit. This may be in the preparing, and when the growers in California become as skilled as the French are, the quality of the fruit may be fully equal, if not superior, to any in the world. The process of curing the ripe fruit is simple. In Europe it is mostly done by putting it in ovens, and in California they rely to a great extent upon the sun, the fruit being placed on trays.

This fruit properly prepared for the table is not only delicious, but very healthful. Few people in this country know how to properly prepare the prune for the table, and we advise our readers to try the French way:

Take, say, one pound of good size fruit and place in a vessel with sufficient sweetened cool water to merely cover the fruit. Set aside for twenty-four hours or even more, and serve them on the table, and you will find a great improvement over the cooking process, during which much of the aroma of the fruit escapes with the steam.

Figs and Dates.

From the earliest dawn of history, figs and dates have been important articles of diet with Oriental nations. The fig tree thrives in most warm climates; but although it grows well in northern climates, it does not mature its fruit. Turkish figs excel all others, and all our supplies, with the exception of a small quantity from Italy, are derived from Turkey.

Smyrna is the chief market; the figs are brought to that city in sacks on the backs of camels, then assorted into four grades and packed in wood boxes, cartons and bags. In former years they were shipped mostly in wood drums to this country and not flattened down in layers as they are now. The object in flattening out the fruit is simply for show and to make the fruit look large, but it is a great mistake for the fruit does not keep so well as if packed as received from the growers; nor do we think they are as palatable. The only prep-

It began and ended in Smoke.

Cholly, ever smoke two cigars at once? No dear boy, what for? Too expensive for me, don't cher know. Why to distinguish between the flavahs. Ah; nevah though of that—did you? No Choley, Tasse, Wood & Co., gave me the wrinkle. I was lighting an ordinary ten center don't cher know when my friend handed me one of theirs, same price, and told me to smoke them alternately. Well, did you smoke them alter—go on. Yes—did and Tasse's cigar lasted over an hour and tasted sweet to the end. And the other bloomin weed? Burnt crooked and was used up in twenty minutes.

aration this fruit requires is drying in the sun, and it is then ready for the market.

The dates of commerce are the fruit of a species of palm grown in Africa, Asia, India and other warm countries. In Arabia it is one of the chief products and the staple article of food. The date-palm is grown also along the Mediterranean shore of Europe, but more for its foliage, as it is too far north for the fruit to mature.

Date palms are superb and beautiful trees, their tapering stems rising fifty feet or more without a branch, to a noble crown of leaves, depending gracefully from the summit in fronds as much as twelve feet long. Below the crown depend the great clusters of fruit, some of the stems several feet long, and bearing a hundred or more dates. The ripe fruit requires no preparation but packing.

In former years all the dates came to this country in skins and mats, the latter made from the leaf of the tree. The quality of the date differs, like other fruits. Those grown in Egypt are large and coarse and not desirable for this market. The finest dates are grown in Tunis and Malta, but they command a high price, are too tender to bear distant shipment, and are apt to sour. The Fardor black date, come from Muscat, Arabia, and are the best fruit we get and are good keepers. Bassora, Persia, supplies the greatest quantity; and the light colored Persian dates called "Hallowi" are preferred. The next grade is darker color and called "Khadrowi;" and a still lower grade, also dark, is called "Sair."

Why Gold Goes to Europe.

The recent large shipments of gold to Europe at a season of the year when it is unusual for such a movement to be in progress makes it pertinent to inquire into the cause that has such a dominating influence upon that article. The first suggestion is that the condition of our foreign commerce is the prime factor, but when we examine the statistics we find that although our exports of merchandise for the last two months were much less than last year, yet they were larger than in 1890, and in that year they were exceptionally good. So that it is not in consequence of an unfavorable balance of trade that gold leaves us but in spite of a favorable balance. For five months ending November 30, however, the merchandise imports increased about \$48,000,000 while the exports fell off nearly \$60,000,000 as compared with last year, and there was a slight excess of imports over exports, but the export of silver bullion exceeded the imports about \$5,000,000, so that there would naturally have been some exports of gold, but not to the extent of the actual sum which has gone out, unless there was some other reason to induce gold to go to Europe. This reason is evidently to be found in the wanting of confidence in Europe in our ability to maintain our currency on a gold basis while we continue to buy 4,500,000 ounces of silver per month. This is not a new sentiment, for it has been enter-

tained there as far back as when the silver law of 1890 was passed, but it has become more pronounced as time has passed. Little if any foreign capital now comes to us for investment, and as fast as European capital already invested here can be dislodged the money is taken away. This is in strong contrast with what prevailed for some years after we resumed specie payments, when we added to our gold holdings nearly every year. For ten years following 1875 we imported more gold than we exported each year except two, and in those two we did not export as much as we produced, but since the beginning of 1885 the exports each year have exceeded the imports, and the net exports of gold in 1889-91 inclusive, were over \$100,000,000. For the year 1892 the net exports of already exceed \$60,000,000 and are likely to reach \$65,000,000 by the close of this month.

The only thing that can be done to re-establish our finances upon a stable basis and restore confidence in Europe in our financial ability, is to cease adding to our currency obligations by stopping the purchase of silver bullion and issuing treasury notes to pay for it.

If we continue on in the path we are traveling it is only a question of time when our finances will become as badly demoralized as those of the Argentine Republic. We do not expect that, for the good sense of the people will not permit it, but our present course is tending in that direction.—*Cincinnati Post-Courier*.

C.P.R. Land Sales

Following is a statement of the Canadian Pacific railway land sales for the years of 1891 and 1892:

	1891.		1892.	
	Acres.	Amount.	Acres.	Amount.
January	6,500	\$16,000	15,000	\$53,000
February	4,300	10,000	25,000	93,000
March	4,000	18,000	38,000	143,000
April	2,100	8,000	60,000	240,000
May	6,100	26,500	8,100	120,000
June	8,000	3,000	48,500	167,000
July	11,500	45,310	40,500	137,500
August	3,000	20,100	21,500	80,000
September	4,000	17,500	15,400	60,650
October	10,200	40,250	32,000	103,000
November	2,450	44,947	38,500	121,000
December	13,000	60,000	13,000	44,000
Totals	97,330	\$400,237	302,600	1,350,472

The closing year's sales show an increase of 291,670 acres over that of 1891, or the total for this year exceeds that of last by nearly three times. The amount received exceeds the proceeds of 1891 by \$953,235. Included in the above the company have sold to settlers from the United States the following as per state.

Dakota	3,000
Michigan	100
Idaho	8,800
Minnesota	4,300
Nebraska	2,800
Washington	32,000
Wisconsin	200
Oregon	300
Indiana	100
New York	160
Kansas	480
Montana	160
Total	52,700