

EDITORIAL NOTES.

(Continued from Page 261)

cause of the low prices, and is not accountable for the general depression in foreign as well as native wheats in British markets. At this rate, wheat growing in England can hardly be maintained, for it would seem impossible for the English farmer, with his high rents, cost of fertilizing, etc., to produce wheat at the October average, equal to 58½c per bushel. Commenting on the wheat prices the Miller says: "To landowners the meaning is, farms out of cultivation, and tenants leaving through sheer inability to pay their way, while farmers themselves must surely see that whatever may have been their doubts in the past, the time for doubt is over, and wheat in future should only be grown in small quantity, and then only on the fittest soil."

Montreal Grocery Trade.

The feature of the sugar market during the past week has been the weaker feeling which has prevailed in granulated, and prices show a decline of 1-16c to ¼c per lb since this day last week. Granulated has sold at ¼c and yellows at 8-16 to 8½, as to quality, at the factory. Private cable advices from London to-day report the market for beet dull and easy at 9s 7½d for November and December.

The stock of Canadian syrups is very light, both refiners being completely cleaned out; consequently business is dull, as buyers are unable to fill their wants. Some lots of United States syrup have been brought in, which has met with a good demand, and sales are reported at 21c per gallon. We quote Canadian nominally at 2c to 2½c for bright grades, and 1½c to 1¾c for dark per lb. at the factory.

In Barbadoes molasses the feeling has been weaker and prices have declined ¼c to 1c per gallon. The demand is fair and sales of several lots of fifty puncheons are reported at 2½ to 27c ex-store. The combine price is unchanged at 29c for car lots and 30c for single puncheons.

Price—We quote: Japan, standard \$4.25 to \$4.40; crystal Japan, \$4.74 to \$5; standard B \$3.45; English style, \$3.30; Patna, \$4.25 to \$5; and Carolina at \$6.50 to \$7.50.

The colder weather of late caused an improvement in the demand for spices, and a fairly active trade has been done, but there is no change in prices to note:—Penang black pepper, 6c to 7½c; white pepper, 10 to 12½c; cloves, 7½c to 7c; Cassia, 9c to 10c; nutmegs, 60c to 90c, and Jamaica ginger, 15 to 22c.

In coffees there is no new feature of importance to note. The market has ruled quiet, with only a moderate amount of business at steady prices. We quote:—Maracaibo, 20c to 22c; Rio, 20c to 21c; Java 23c to 29c, and Mocha 25c to 29c.

During the past week the tea market has been of a quiet character and without any new phase to note. The demand has fallen off to some extent, owing to the fact that country buyers have filled their wants for the present. On the whole business is quiet, and outside of sales of one or two small lots of low grade Japan being made at 12c to 14c we do not hear of much doing. A private letter received from Yokohama states that there has been an advance in the price of putting up teas on account of the scarcity of labor.

The raisin market remains steady as last noted for all offerings of prime fruit; in fact it is just possible that a buyer would have to advance his bid to get fresh supplies. There is however, a large quantity of cheap trashy stock on the market, which is offering at very low prices and this is unsettling the market.

For such stock 8½c is about the idea, but a buyer of it has to take chances on the stock he gets. For prime fruit we hear of business in ordinary off stalk Valencia at 1c to 1¼c, fire 1¼c, selected 1¼c to 5c and layers 5c to 5½ for round lots from first hands. The stocks held in this latter connection are not heavy, there being only one large line of goods here, and the fact that the holders of it have been compelled to lend supplies from it to regular customers of theirs who have supplies on the way, illustrates pretty plainly that stocks are not heavy. In currants business is very dull, and prices rule about the same. Filiatrias and provincials have changed hands at 8c to 8½c in barrels, and 3½c to 4c in cases.

Patras are held rather steadier, 4½c to 4¾c, while Vostizas are firm at 6½c to 6¾c for extra quality, which is about the only kind offering of the latter description. The first shipment of new Bosina prunes got in last Monday, which is about a week earlier than in previous seasons. Business in it has been done on the basis of 5c. Bordeaux prunes 4 to 5c; according to grade. Figs are about steady, fancy figs in large boxes selling at 15c to 16c, while ordinary grades are quotable at 5½c. Bag stock is obtainable at 5c.

There has been no improvement in the market for canned goods, business having continued quiet and principally of a jobbing character. The feeling generally is steady and values show no change. Pink salmon has been offered as low as \$1.10 per dozen. We quote: Lobsters at \$5 to 6.50 per case; sardines at \$3.50 to 9.50; salmon at \$1.10 to 1.40 per dozen; tomatoes at 85 to 90c per dozen; peaches at \$2 to 2.70 per dozen; corn at 95c to \$1 per dozen; and marrow-fat peas at 85 to 90c per dozen.—Gazette, Nov. 15.

Montreal Chemical Prices.

Borax continues to rule weak and has declined to \$20 10s per ton, which is the lowest point yet touched. An impression exists that a purchase of this article at the above low figure would show a handsome profit if the market takes an upward turn, which is more than likely to do after such a big break. In bleaching powder the feeling is firmer and prices have advanced ¼c per pound. Morphia sulph, has had a further rise and is now quoted at 5s 6d per ounce. Latest advices from abroad state that there is a move in progress among manufacturers of glycerine to form a combine which, if carried through, will, no doubt, have a decided effect upon prices. We quote: Bleaching powder, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Bicarb, soda \$2.25 to \$2.35; sal soda, 70 to 75c; carbolic acid, 1 pound bottles, 25c to 30c; caustic soda, 60 per cent. \$2.15 to \$2.75; do 70 per cent. \$2.40 to \$2.50; chlorate of potash, 20 to 22c; alum, \$1.40 to \$1.50; coppers, 75c to 80c; sulphur flour, \$1.75 to \$2; do roll, \$2 to \$2.10; sulphate of copper, \$1.50 to \$5; white sugar of lead, 7½c to 8½c; bich. potash, 10c to 12c; sulphur Sicily, per ton, \$75 to \$80; soda ash, 48 to 50 per cent, \$1.15 to \$1.50; chip logwood, \$2 to \$2.10; castor oil, 6½c to 7c, and Norwegian cod liver oil, \$25 to \$26.

Evaporated Apples

Unsatisfactory indeed has been the market so far this season for evaporated apples. As is usual the good prices obtaining last season led a good many factories to expect that they would get the same or better figures in this year of grace. The folly of such a hope must have been patent to everyone who was at all cognizant of the condition of the apple crop of this continent. If every factoryman did not know that the crop was heavy it was his own fault. He should have known; it was his business to have known. But whether the

evaporators were in touch with the market or not, they have so far all season been playing a losing game.

With not a few of them the idea at the opening of the season was 11c. per pound, but since then they have gradually come down in these views, yet they appear to be still following at a distance. To their sorrow, some factories have lately been compelled to take 6½c, where a few weeks before they might have had 8c.

It is all very well to hold an article for a price if a careful reading of the signs of the times encourages it, but how anyone could have been led to hold evaporated apples this season in the face of the obvious outlook is past man's understanding. The fact of the matter is some of the factories were either blind or could not read the auguries.

The prospects for an improvement or the present low prices are not by any means light. The local demand is said to be pretty well satisfied, while relief can hardly be expected from the export trade owing to the low prices quoted and taken by the factories in the United States.

It pays in the long run to take good prices when they are going; and many of the evaporated apple men no doubt realize this at the moment.

But gone as the market has against the evaporated apple factories, the responsibility for all the losses sustained by them does not lie with the market. Some of the fruit that has been offered on the Toronto market has been admirable. And what has been Toronto's experience has probably been the experience of other trade centres. For this the responsibility must lie with the factories themselves. Cases after case opened up has been found to be improperly cored, some being scarcely cored at all, while others were made from worm-eaten fruit, and presented anything but an inviting appearance. But by far the greater cause for poor quality is improper curing, which in turn induces fermentation.

So large has been the quantity of poor fruit on the market this season that although more apples than ever before were evaporated, the quantity of real first-class stock is short rather than otherwise.—Canadian Grocer.

Do You Close at Six.

The hardware dealers in Charlottetown, P.E.I., made an agreement three years ago to close at six o'clock every night. They have adhered carefully to it ever since. Other firms have begun business in the meantime, and they have, on their own account, done the same, excepting one who keeps open later Saturday night. "We would not go back to the old system for anything," writes one of them. "We enjoy our long evenings, especially in summer, when we often go to the country. People now know that we close at six, and they never think of going to a hardware store after that hour. A week or so before Christmas we all keep open late, as there is so much shopping which must necessarily be done then. Many stores in other lines now follow our example." What the Charlottetown dealers have done, so can those in other parts of Canada, though many of them say they cannot.

"There is No Royal Road

To public favor any more than to learning. This is true, at all events, in America where intrinsic excellence is necessary to secure and retain the popular favor. The reason The North-Western Line is one of the most popular railroads is that its service is not only always up to date but *away ahead of the date*. In our opinion, this is the Best Line between Chicago and the Twin Cities.—The Excursionist, Chicago.