

Montreal Grocery Market.

Advices to-day from abroad were steadier in tone for the raw article, but prices showed no actual change. The market here for the refined article was quiet and without any new feature of note. Since the recent decline in values there has been some demand for round lots of granulated, but at prices which refiners would not entertain. The indications at present are that prices will not go any lower, providing the speculative element let up in pounding prices for the raw article, which are considered to be extremely low for this season of the year. We quote: Granulated at 4½c in 250 barrel lots and over; 4½c in 100-barrel lots, and 4 7/8c in smaller quantities. Yellows range from 3½c to 3¾c, as to quality, at the factory.

There has been no improvement in the demand for syrups, and the market in consequence has ruled very quiet, with prices unchanged at 1½c to 2½c per lb, as to quality at the factory.

The arrivals of Barbadoes molasses this week have been large, there being three cargoes in port, with about 3,000 puncheons in all, but this has had no depression on values, owing to the fact that the bulk of it was sold to arrive. In regard to new business there has been very little doing, as buyers now have ample stock to supply their customers' wants, and until such is worked off importers do not anticipate much activity. Round lots are offering at 28c to 28½c, and small quantities at 30c to 31c.

As this is the rice season the demand is general and an active business is doing. In sympathy with strong and advancing prices abroad values here are firmly held. We quote:—Crystal Japan, \$1.75 to \$5.00; standard B., \$3.45, Patna, \$1.25 to \$5, Carolina, \$3.50 to \$7.50; choice B. ruzia, \$3.75, and Java kinds, \$1.

In spices, business is quiet, the demand being only for small lots to fill actual requirements at steady prices. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only Penang black pepper, 6c to 7½c; white pepper, 10c to 12½c; cloves, 7½c to 9c, cassia, 8½ to 9½c, nutmegs, 60c to 90c, and Jamaica ginger, 15½c to 18½c.

There has been no improvement in the coffee market during the past week. The demand is slow and the feeling easy. Holders would, no doubt, shade present prices for round lots. We quote Maracaibo at 17½c to 18c; Rio, 16 to 17½c, Java, 23c to 25c, and Mocha, 23c to 26c.

In teas business continues dull, owing to the fact that buyers have ample supplies on hand, and until such are worked off dealers and importers do not anticipate much activity. Some samples of new crop teas continue to arrive, which are offering at a range in prices from 15c to 25c as to quality, and the demand for these are even limited. Gazette, July 10.

Crop Report.

Returns to the United States department of agriculture make the following averages of condition: Corn 92 per cent; winter wheat, 75.6; spring wheat, 93.3; combined spring and winter wheat, 83.4; oats, 96.3; winter rye, 93.8; spring rye 93.6; barley, 80.1; tobacco, 91.5, potatoes, 99; rice 82.9; apples, 64.6; peaches, 51.8. Acreage of potato, compared with 1895 is 93.7, and of tobacco, 93.8. The report on the acreage of corn, which is preliminary, shows 93.7 as compared with that of 1895, a decrease of 1.3 points. This makes in round figures 81,000,000 against 82,000,000 acres planted last year.

The average of the principal corn states are Ohio, 106.7; Michigan 106; Indiana 103; Illinois, 103; Iowa, 97; Missouri, 99; Kansas,

105; Nebraska, 102; Texas, 83; Tennessee, 94; Kentucky, 86.

The average condition of corn is 92.4, against 99.3 in July last year. The averages of condition in the principal states are as follows: Ohio 106, Michigan 100, Indiana 111, Illinois 98, Iowa 91, Missouri 81, Kansas 102, Nebraska 103, Texas, 89, Tennessee, 90, Kentucky 97.

The condition of winter wheat is 75.6, against 77.9 in June and 65.8 last July. The percentages by states are: New York 78, Pennsylvania, 70, Kentucky 64, Ohio 50, Michigan 73, Indiana 66, Illinois 80, Missouri 75, Kansas 75, California 100, Oregon 95, Kansas 75, California 100, Oregon 95, Washington 100. The condition of spring wheat is 93.3, against 99.9 in June and 102.2 in July of 1895. State averages are; Minnesota 88, Wisconsin 97, Iowa 96, Kansas 90, Nebraska 90c, South Dakota 99, North Dakota 96, Washington 97, Oregon 93. The average weight of wool per fleece is reported to be 5.7 pounds, against 5.6 pounds in 1895, and 5.3 pounds in 1891 and 1893.

Gold Mining in Ecuador.

The Pall Mall Gazette, London, says. "In reports as to the position of the Playa de Oro Mining Company, it is contended that among the gold-producing countries of the world Ecuador promises in the near future to take up a standing in the first rank. The placer gold fields, situated in the province of Esmeraldas, in the northeastern part of Ecuador, cover an area of 200 square miles, or thereabouts, and consist of huge banks of gold-bearing gravel. This vast tract of auriferous country, it is said, is held in fee simple by four companies, prominent among which is the Playa de Oro Mining Company, which has already expended over \$600,000 on its plant, which is being rapidly pushed on to completion, and already shipments of gold have been made by this company of over 1,150 ounces from the washing done during the progress of development operations. The three other companies working in the district are also engaged in active development, and the necessary machinery for the treatment of the gravel is being erected. The deposits are situated at the foot of the Andes, and from their location can be worked economically, the water power for hydraulic mining being supplied by the Santiago river and other large streams in the neighborhood of the properties, while the lands are well timbered. Another favorable point is the climate, which boasts of little variation during the year, and is very suitable to Europeans. Under the amended Ecuadorian mining laws, mining property, mining machinery and the output of the mines enjoy immunity from any description of taxation for a period of twenty-five years from the date of the new law three or four years ago. Labor can be obtained both plentifully and cheaply, and cable communication with New York is being established by the Ecuadorian government, while negotiations are in hand with the Pacific Steamship Company for the establishment of a service."

Live Stock Breeders.

The fifth annual report of the Pure Bred Cattle Breeders' Association and second annual report of the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association has been issued in pamphlet form and can be had from the secretary, Geo. H. Groig, Winnipeg. The report contains a number of valuable papers, prepared by practical live stock breeders, giving information which will be useful to farmers and stock men generally.

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