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SPECIAL TO OUR READERS.

As the design of THE CANADIAN GROCER is to benefit mutually all interested in the business, we would request all parties ordering goods or making purchases of any description from houses advertising with us to mention in their letter that such advertisement was noticed in THE CANADIAN GROCER.

The consumption of sugar in this country since the middle of last June far exceeds that of any former summer in our history. The high rate of activity at which it began has been steadily kept up, and the capacity of the demand could not have been more markedly increased by the sudden addition of a couple of millions to our population, than it has been by the real causes. Those causes are the removal of the duty and the uncommon yield of small fruits. It was expected that the cheapness of sugar would greatly expand the demand for small fruits and so make these dearer, but the fruits came to hand so much faster than the sugar did that prices ruled generally low for them. The process of the refiners was a slower one than the ripening process of nature. Yet the season was favorable to the sugar situation. There could not have been better weather. It was just sufficiently tempered by coolness to bring the large fruit crop into gradual maturity. In most summers the demand has a shorter spell of it, all classes of small fruits thronging together more closely, and making the necessity for sugar more urgent over the shorter space of time.

There is being more fruit put down this year by housewives throughout the country than there ever was before, as never before was the cost of raw material so cheap, and canning material was never cheaper. In this fact native canning houses have an extra inducement to look to an export trade for the better placing of their fruit output. There is a much more limited market for it at home than there ever was before, while the demand from Great Britain, Germany and some other countries has possibilities in it that will probably more than counter-balance the falling off of the home demand, and maintain a larger fruit-canning industry here. The possible direct and indirect effects of the removal of the sugar duty are many and interesting.

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One effect that might naturally be looked for to show itself before this is a distinct advance in the price of raw. With an average of nearly two cents a pound taken off the sugar consumed by the two English-speaking nations of this continent, a vast addition to the world's consumption is made, one that the stock of raw could scarcely be expected to be prepared for. Of course, the removal of the United States duty on the 1st of April last was not like the removal of ours on the 17th of June—a sudden step. It was provided for by a revision of the tariff that took general effect in the previous October. To a considerable extent the growers were therefore forewarned that an unusual consumption would rule this year, though as to Canada's part in the increase neither growers nor refiners could anticipate it, as the removal of the duty was not preceded by any announcement of the Government's intention in that respect.

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Another effect foreseen but, unlike the advance in price, now realized, is a larger importation of raw on the part of wholesale

grocers. Though the price of yellow refined is very low there is a demand for raw, both of darker and brighter grades than the lowest refined. This has been responded to by stocks of Trinidad, Barbados and Demerara sugars which have been brought in in large quantities. The trade in these grades is not now at its best, the call for granulated monopolizing present attention, but there is likelihood that they will divide with yellows the trade which has heretofore fallen altogether to the latter. Here raw sugar is duty-free up to No. 14 Dutch standard, but in the United States it is free up to No. 16. If it were free up to the same limit in this country there is little doubt that yellow refined would be still lower with us or the lowest grades would not be turned out, as the rivalry of raw for cooking purposes would have odds against lowest grade yellows in popularity and in price. All the applications to which the cheaper sugar will be put, now that it is so very low priced, have probably not yet been anticipated. One that has come under observation more generally than ever before is its use in the dairy. Some butter-makers, to make their product retain its sweetness, or probably to impart sweetness where there was none inherent, add sugar nowadays. The nasal sense and the palate may both be pleased by the addition, but neither can be deceived by it.

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Despite the fact that an unprecedented demand has been experienced in the United States, the price of granulated has kept pretty steady in the New York market. United States consumption for the past half of this year has increased about 20 per cent. over that of the corresponding half of last year, and the sugar supplies of the world appear not to be in excess of those of a year ago. The stationary price of granulated in the face of these facts seems inexplicable upon any other theory than that the United States refiners aim to keep down the price of raw. Prices here cannot well go up until a pending contracts are filled.