

## FISH AND OYSTERS.

The demand for all lines of fish has been good during the past week, with prices improving daily, due to the high price of meats, which should make the fish business during the summer a record one. The prospects for this week are good, with the exception of haddock, which are scarce, due to the stormy weather all spring on the Atlantic Coast. Cod and herring are coming in good quantities. Gaspe salmon has made its appearance on the market at prices ranging from 45c to 50c per lb. As the season advances these prices will doubtless come down considerably as larger supplies come forward. Canadian shad is starting to arrive, at 90c for roe, and 50c for buck. There has been a certain quantity of fresh mackerel arriving from the United States at 12c per lb. As soon as this fish makes its appearance in our own waters the price will decline. The season for brook trout opened on the first of the month under satisfactory conditions, the fish have been biting well, and the catch has been good. These delicious little fish are selling at 25c a pound. Pacific fish, such as halibut and salmon, are coming in larger quantities, and are selling at lower prices. The season for pickerel opened yesterday. Lobsters are plentiful, selling at about as low a price as they will ever reach this season. Bulk and shell oysters, scallops and shrimps are quiet and without feature.

## Fresh:—

Haddock, per lb. ....	0.06
Steak Codfish, per lb. ....	0.07
Brook Trout, per lb. ....	0.26
Carp, per lb. ....	0.10
Lobsters, live, per lb. ....	0.22
Salmon, Gaspe, per lb. ....	0.45
Salmon, Red, Dressed, Spring and Headless, per lb. ....	0.20
Halibut, medium, per lb. ....	0.13
Herrings, medium, each ....	0.02
Whitefish, per lb. ....	0.11
Pike, per lb. ....	0.09
Shad fish, each, roe ....	0.90
Shad, Buck, per lb. ....	0.50
Perch, dressed, per lb. ....	0.10
Bullheads, dressed, per lb. ....	0.10
Fresh Mackerel, per lb. ....	0.12
Gaspereaux, each ....	0.01½

## Smoked Fish:—

Haddies, per lb. ....	0.09
Kippers, large, per box ....	1.20
Bloaters, per box ....	1.10
Smoked Herring, mediums, per box ....	0.15
Boneless Smoked Herring, boxes 10 lbs. each ....	1.25
Smoked Eels, per lb. ....	0.12

## Oysters:—

Standard Solid Meats—No water.	
No. 5 Can containing 3 wine gals. ....	4.25
Ordinary Bulk Oysters, Standards, per Imp. gallon ....	1.40
Ordinary Do., Selects, per Imp. gallon ....	1.70
Shell Oysters, Cape Cods in large barrels ..	12.00

## AN HOUR AHEAD.

In Europe, where saving is now so necessary, several countries have jumped all the clocks ahead an hour, with intent of economizing those valuable 60 minutes from sleep or sloth for the urgent needs of daywork. Germany alone estimates an annual saving of over \$400,000,000 a year in light and power bills.

Possibly it is a reflex of this stimulus of innovation that is displayed in a kindred proposition advanced on this side of the water whereby one of our foremost activities — Stock Exchange trading — would gain an hour. The gain would not lie in stealing any march upon the clock, but in shoving the whole trading day itself ahead 60 minutes, as measured in terms of the old reckoning and as compared with other everyday activities.

And there is a real economy urged — not so much in physical light as in better distribution and use of time — in favor of the proposition recently agitated in New York to open the Exchange at nine o'clock and close at two. The usually convivial type of broker, who never appeared at the office until ten o'clock, has passed into limbo, along with the "bet a million" financier and the salesman whose business "compels" him to drink. And in his stead we find the man of affairs who realizes that his mental structure is reared on a basis of physical fitness, and who, accordingly, finds on the links, the tennis courts and the broad highways the well-being he requires.

The great American game — baseball — will bring many more devotees into the sun and open air when the market closes at two o'clock; and that extra hour of daylight, invested in out-of-doors employments, will yield goodly dividends of health and enjoyment, whereas in its present position, before the market opens, it is simply idle funds. — Boston News Bureau.

## General Crop Condition

## First Government Report Shows Fall Wheat in Good Shape.

Ottawa, May 12th, 1916. The Census and Statistics Office issued today, in the form of a press bulletin, the first crop report of the present season. It deals with the area and condition on the Fall Wheat crop, the condition of hay and clover meadows at the close of the winter and the progress of spring seeding up to the end of April.

## Area and Condition of Fall Wheat.

Owing to the heavy fall of snow during the month of March, which protected the young plants from the spring frosts, the fall wheat is reported as being in exceptionally good condition at the end of April. In Ontario, where 820,600 acres were sown, as estimated last fall, not more than 5.6 per cent is reported as winter killed and in Alberta with 260,500 acres estimated as sown, the proportion winter killed is placed at .9 per cent. These proportions are lower than in any previous year, on record, for these provinces. In 1914 the percentage winter killed was 19 in Ontario and 15.6 in Alberta, while last year it was 6.8 in Ontario and 6.2 in Alberta. The area winter killed this year was 45,800 acres in Ontario and 12,800 acres in Alberta as against 71,000 acres in Ontario and 14,300 acres in Alberta last year. The area of fall wheat to be harvested this year is placed at 774,800 acres in Ontario, 247,700 acres in Alberta, 9,400 acres in Manitoba, 4,100 acres in Saskatchewan and 6,200 in British Columbia, being a total for the Dominion of 1,042,200 acres as against 1,208,700 acres in 1915 and 973,300 acres in 1914.

The general conditions of the crops on April 30th, which measured by the standard of 100 as representing a full crop, is 89 in Ontario, as compared with 93 last year and 78 in Alberta as compared with 83. For Ontario the figure was only surpassed last year and in 1910. The condition for the whole of Canada on April 30 was 88, which converted into a standard of 100 as representing the average condition at the same period for the seven years 1909 to 1915 indicated a condition of 108 or an anticipated yield per acre of 8 per cent in excess of the seven year's average, provided that conditions between now and harvest time are not abnormal.

## Hay and Clover Meadows.

The proportion of hay and clover meadows winter killed proved to be unusually small, being only 3.5 per cent for all Canada as compared with 10 per cent last year, 14 per cent in 1914 and 22 per cent in 1913. The average condition was 92 per cent of the standard or full crop as compared with 91 per cent last year, 86.7 per cent in 1914, 89.6 per cent in 1913 and 74.6 per cent in 1912.

## Progress of Spring Seeding.

It is as yet too soon to report on the Maritime provinces. The spring is late, and the general conditions in Quebec and Ontario are not favourable for early planting. Last year on April 30, it was estimated that 63 per cent of the planting was completed as against 27 per cent this year. Of Spring Wheat this year 1.8 per cent of the estimated acreage was sown in Quebec, 4.3 per cent in Ontario, and from 26 to 80 per cent in the middle west, being 26 per cent in Manitoba, 36 per cent in Saskatchewan and 80 per cent in Alberta. In 1915 not more than 8 per cent of the acreage under wheat remained to be sown after May first. The quantities of oats and barley sown at this date are also relatively small.

## OCEAN FREIGHT RATES.

After rapid advance in transatlantic freight rates during first quarter of year, amounting in some instances to more than 100 per cent, upward movement in last month has been temporarily suspended, while rates on several classes of goods, principally to United Kingdom ports, have declined. Shipping men attribute this to use of British merchant tonnage that has been taken over by government and is now being used to bring supplies to allies. At close of 1915 grain rate to United Kingdom was 20d per bushel and at end of March it had decreased to 23d. Since then it has fallen off to 19d. Similar movement in sack flour rates has been noted.

McDonald and Robb, of Valleyfield, Que., have purchased the flour business of Bruneau and Currie Co., of that place, and Jas. Currie has retired from active business.

## THE COFFEE MARKET REVIEWED.

The 1915-16 coffee year terminates on June 30. Reviewing the past season, dealers appear to be satisfied with results. Production has been above the average of the last two years and there are ample supplies in sight to meet requirements for the coming twelve months. Prospects for 1916-17 are, on the whole, regarded as encouraging, the new crop being stated as fully equal to its predecessor. The best qualities of coffee are at present coming from Central America, Venezuela, and parts of Mexico. "Java" today stands for little more than the name of any high grade coffee whether from Java or elsewhere, the product of the Dutch island so favourably known in the past having deteriorated both in quantity and quality. The island of Java being controlled by Holland, the bulk of its exports seems to be finding its way into Germany in spite of the vigilance of the British navy. "Mocha" has shared the same fate as "Java", and is no longer considered a factor in the world's market, due to many years of neglect on the part of the Arabs who have allowed their plantations to go to ruin through lack of proper fertilization and scientific cultivation.

On the whole the coffee market has been firm during the year, the chief feature being a rise in the price of Rio coffee, which has brought it up to a slightly highly level than Santos. This abnormal condition has been brought about by the unusual demand of the Allied Governments for the grades of coffee for army supplies, which has forced the price up three cents a lb. over last year's prices, in the United States and Canada. With this unusual demand for cheap coffee, the dearer grades have had a tendency to rise in sympathy. The actual increase, however, has not been sufficient to affect the consumer.

The freight situation has played an important part in the coffee market. The greater part of the tramp steamers formerly employed in the trade were British, the majority of which have been either commandeered, torpedoed, or tempted to other ports by more profitable business. As a result freight rates on coffee to New York from Brazilian points have increased from \$60 per bag in 1915 to \$2.00 in 1916. This in itself has accounted for one cent in the rise in price.

In spite of the fact that, since the war, Germany and Austria have been excluded from the market, and with them a large proportion of the world's total coffee consumption in the past, the general increase in the demand for coffee has been sufficient to retain normal conditions. With the movement towards prohibition in the warring nations, and the high prices ruling in teas, the consumption of coffee has increased largely in France, England, and even in the United States and Canada the demand has shown considerable growth.

The general feeling in the coffee trade is one of confidence, with ample supplies on the one hand and prospects of an increased demand on the other.

## CITY OF MONTREAL BONDS.

The Bank of Montreal, Montreal, acting on behalf of the City of Montreal, is calling for tenders for \$2,000,000 5 per cent gold bonds, dated May 1, 1916, and due May 1, 1936. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable in gold in both Montreal and New York. The Bonds will be in the denomination of \$1,000 each.

Tenders will be received by the Bank of Montreal, Montreal, marked "Tender for City of Montreal Bonds" up to 12 o'clock noon on May 22nd. This loan was authorized at the last session of the Quebec Provincial Legislature and an annual special tax will be levied on all assessable immovables in this city to meet the interest and to provide a sinking fund sufficient to pay the loan at maturity.

## NOTES.

John Caldwell, one of the best known wholesale fruit merchants of Montreal, died at his home in that city, on May 14. The late Mr. Caldwell conducted business under the name of John Caldwell and Co., at 611 St. Paul St., Montreal.

## BRITISH TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade returns for April show that imports increased £2,046,000, while exports increased £4,648,000. Imports of food and chemicals show increases, but cotton imports show a decrease of £2,500,000. There were increased exports of manufactured articles, of which iron and cotton textile products show increases of £1,250,000 each.