

JUTE AND HEMP.

Higher prices than ever are looked for in the jute market in the New Year, owing to the sinking of a jute laden ship and the commandeering of six weeks' burlap production at Dundee, beginning January 1st. This order on the part of the British Government is likely to be for bagging, and therefore it is expected that wide goods, such as burlap for linoleums, will not suffer to the same extent. Stocks of jute are already light, so that the loss of 30,000 bales on the Girden, bound for Dundee is looked upon as a very bullish factor. This is the fourth shipment to have been sunk in the Mediterranean, and as the cargo was the first of the new crop, and therefore an unusually good selection, the loss will hamper manufacturers greatly.

Following the gradual advance of 3c a pound in fair current Manila hemp recently, the price of Yucatan sisal was advanced a further 3c last week. The visible supply may be lower than it has been in a decade, and a marked decrease in production may be expected.

Current prices in the New York market are as follows:

Manila Hemp, fair current spot	14
Manila shipment	13 1/2
Manila Good Current shipment	20
Istle Hemp, Palma	4 1/2
Istle Hemp, Tula	4
Istle Hemp, Jaumauve	5 1/2
New Zealand shipment	12 1/2
Jute, Spot	8 1/2 8 3/4

GROCERIES.

The grocery market was quiet last week, for as far as wholesalers were concerned the Christmas rush was over the week before. Contrary to the experience of other years the demand is likely to continue evenly during the next few weeks, as dealers have bought more on a hand to mouth basis this season. The sugar market suffered a decline last week. Prices were lowered 10c, and with the present weak conditions prevailing a further drop is predicted in the near future. No. 1 granulated is now quoted at \$7.60 per 100 lbs. This weakness at Montreal is the result of a similar situation in New York, where very little activity is apparent in sugar circles. Latest statistics are for a very heavy crop in Cuba and the West Indies.

There is an easier feeling to the absence of prices. Coming at \$1.25 today, a drop of 15c under the most issued on the new crop. Even at this price there are very few buyers. Canned Salmon is firm as stocks are scarce.

The long talked of advance in soaps has come to pass, all varieties having been marked up 30 cents a case. Soap has been one of the few commodities that had not gone up in price since the war. The makers are receiving such high figures for glycerine that they have hitherto been able to meet the increased cost of manufacturing materials without altering the price of the finished article. Evidently the increases in such items as freight rates, insurance, and overhead expenses have now exceeded the limit and the consumer is called upon to make up the difference.

We are informed that coffee is likely to advance early in the new year about a cent a pound. This will be to a great extent the outcome of speculation on the outcome of peace, and the heavy demand that would ensue from the Central Powers. The increased cost of manufacturing is felt in coffee as in other lines. Tea is also firm, particularly black tea. The new crop tea which is now coming on to this market will undoubtedly be higher in price, on account of the heavy demand in the primary markets from Russia and other warring nations where the sale of liquor has been curtailed. Tea is in good demand in Montreal and other Eastern centres at present, as many lumber camps are laying in their winter supplies in addition to the regular demand. Peas and beans are scarce and dear. Substitutes are being used as much as possible. The export trade for both the raw product as well as for canned pork and beans leaves the supply low for domestic consumption.

Sugar quotations are as follows:

100 lbs.	
Granulated No. 1	\$7.55
Yellow, No. 1	7.15

Special icing, barrels	7.75
Powdered, barrels	7.65
Paris, lumps, barrels	8.15
Crystal Diamonds, barrels	8.15
Assorted tea cubes, boxes	8.15

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

The peace situation entirely overshadowed all other features in the wheat market at the beginning of last week, and while more or less attention was given to factors which ordinarily can be counted upon to bring about pronounced fluctuations, they had in reality little influence on the market. Wheat rose and fell wildly, the rush to sell at times being equalled by the eagerness of buyers to repurchase when political news turned bullish. By Thursday and Friday, however, it became known that foreign buying had taken advantage of the smash in prices to a marked extent. Purchases made by the European Governments, with Great Britain as leader, amounted to two million bushels and more in one day. Prices consequently turned upwards, the steady rise being accelerated further by gossip to the effect that a big fleet of steamers would soon arrive at Eastern seaboard and relieve the existing freight congestion there. The United States Government crop report last week showed a material enlargement of the domestic area planted with winter wheat, but at the same time conditions were said to be the lowest since 1911.

As regards the Montreal market, business has been very quiet in all lines of grain owing to the embargoes on American and Canadian railway lines. Consignments of goods are on order, but deliveries cannot be guaranteed. Toronto reports that no corn is arriving from the States owing to the railway congestion. A good enquiry is reported for coarse grains from country buyers, but the export cable has been quiet.

As we go to press Chicago wheat is quoted at \$1.62 1/2 for December and \$1.70 1/2 for May, a gain of 8 1/2 cents and 6 cents respectively, since December 18. Winnipeg quotations stand at \$1.75 1/2 for December and \$1.76 1/2 for May, or a gain of 7 1/2 cents for December and 3 cents for May during the week.

Current cash prices are as follows:

Grains:	Montreal per bushel	Toronto per bushel
Wheat, No. 1	1.90 1/2	
Do., No. 2		
Do., No. 3		
Do., No. 4		
Do., No. 5		
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Do., No. 99		
Do., No. 100		

N. B.—Montreal prices are quoted one day in advance of Toronto.

MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

Receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past two weeks follow:

	—Week ending—	
	Dec. 23.	Dec. 16.
Wheat, bushels	117,649	260,256
Oats, bushels	182,665	491,154
Barley, bushels	21,065	38,771
Flour, barrels	19,836	22,475
Eggs, cases	2,845	421
Butter, packages	2,972	3,341
Cheese, boxes	8,727	5,874
Potatoes, bags	5	14
Hay, bales	44,651	40,876

ONLY RESULTS DIFFER.

A submersible comes to the surface, shoots a torpedo which destroys a ship and then sinks out of sight. If American lives or property have been lost, our state department comes into view for a moment, shoots a note and then the whole matter drops out of sight. The procedure is broadly the same, the principal difference being that our notes never accomplish anything, whereas the torpedoes do accomplish very much.—Rochester Post-Express.

DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS

DRIED FRUITS: A heavy trade was done at Canadian centres last week to meet the demand for the holiday season. Dealers shipped heavily, especially at the beginning of the week. In New York the rush was over earlier being practically completed the previous week, as everyone was anxious to clean up stocks and make delivery. The carry over is not likely to be heavy. Quite a few quality currants arrived on the SS. Themistocles in the middle of the month. This consignment did not affect the market to any extent as the demand was more for better quality goods. Stocks of currants were not heavy. A good demand is reported for Malaga raisins. Lower values are expected on citron and peels in January, but prices will hardly go down to last year's levels on account of the increased cost of the raw material to which must be added 10 to 15 per cent war risk on all fruits imported from the Mediterranean.

There is very little activity in prunes at the present time owing to the car shortage on the lines from California, which is showing little improvement as yet. Large holders on the coast seem to feel that prunes will be worth more money in January, as holdings are low. On the spot there is a moderate demand generally on the basis of previously quoted prices. Offerings of apricots are light and consequently there is very little activity in this line owing to the high prices. Hallowi dates have been selling freely and are pretty well cleaned up.

NUTS: Stocks of Brazil nuts were nearly exhausted a week ago, and the Christmas trade has pretty much cleaned up the remainder.

Dried Fruits:	
Apples, choice winter, 50 lb. boxes	0.11
Apricots	0.19
Peaches, choice	0.11
Candied Citron peel	0.29
Candied lemon peel	0.23
Candied orange peel	0.24
Currants, loose cleaned	0.18
Currants, carton cleaned	0.18 1/2
Dates, loose Hallowee	0.12
Dates, Fards choicest	0.12 1/2
Do., Carton, pkg.	0.14 1/2
Do., California bricks	0.09
Prunes, Santa Clara, 60-70's	0.10 1/2
Raisins, 4 Crown	0.10 1/2
Do., 3 Crown	0.10
Do., Muscatels	0.10 1/2
Do., California seedless	0.11 1/2
Nuts.	
Walnut, Grenoble	0.16
Do., Parrot	0.17
Do., Tarragona	0.21
Sicily	0.18 1/2
Almonds, washed	0.22
Do., shelled	0.21
Almonds, shelled	0.40
Walnuts, shelled, Bordeaux fine split	0.47
Peanuts	0.10
Hickory nuts	0.09

WINNIPEG GRAIN RECEIPTS.

The receipts of grain at Winnipeg for the week ended December 23, 1916, compared with last week and the corresponding week a year ago were as follows:

	This week.	Last week.	Last year.
No. 1 Northern	234	400	....
No. 2 Northern	437	916	....
No. 3 Northern	525	960	....
No. 4 Northern	309	381	....
No. 5 Northern	135	187	....
No. 6 Northern	84	116	....
Feed Wheat	55	144	....
Rejected	48	94	....
No. grade	609	771	....
No. 4 Special	102	203	....
No. 5 Special	104	153	....
No. 6 Special	36	76	....
Winter Wheat	2	2	....
Totals	2,584	4,435	6,579
Oats	934	1,442	1,387
Barley	141	239	283
Flax	98	163	108

CHICAGO'S PLANS.

Detailed plans for a new transportation system for Chicago which will provide adequate service for population of 5,000,000 at cost of \$490,000,000 in 1960 have been sent to the city council by the Chicago traction and subway commission. Under arrangement recommended, the city may purchase and operate entire system when work is completed in 1960.