

For the Grocery Trade.

Canadian refiners are selling sugar about 3c lower than prices at New York.

The first fruit boat, the *Fromona*, for Montreal, will start to load at Palermo this week and on her way she will stop at Messina, she will have a cargo of some 25,000 boxes of oranges and lemons.

Advices from Patras on currants are very firm, and advise the buying of currants to hold for the coming season, on the ground that the market must be higher for the new crop, and the statement is made that 12,000 tons less currants were shipped to the London market the past year than for the previous year, which goes to show that the supply there will be short.

Jordan and Valencia almonds are higher abroad the former being cabled 25s 6d to 26s and the latter 14s 6d to 15s.

There is an easier feeling in the Montreal molasses market, and prices for choice Barbadoes stock have been reduced 1½c per gallon, recent sales having taken place at 31½c and one lot of 10 puncheons sold at 31c and we quote the range at 28½c to 31½c, as to quality, Porto Rico has sold at 26c to 27c and Trinidad at 25c to 26c.

"I had to hurrah for Canada again the other day," says a correspondent of the *Grocer*. It was up in the office and sample room of the Selling Committee of the Canadian Packers' Association. There were about a dozen packers present, and one of them I think it was Mr. Flynn, of St. Catharines, had sent out on the street and bought a tin each of California peaches and cherries and opened them up alongside Canadian packs. There were two kinds of Canadian peaches, one from a cannery in the Niagara peninsula and the other from a cannery in Montreal, but both containing peaches produced in the Niagara district. As far as size is concerned, the Canadian peach is not in it with the California article, but when it comes to flavor and appearance the California peach is not in it with the Canadian, although the former was what is known as the lemon cling variety. In flavor, the Canadian embodied all the richness of the peach in its natural state, while on going from it to the California quite an insipidness and lack of flavor was noticeable compared with the home product. In cherries there was the same difference in size in favor of the California article, but in flavor there was not as marked a difference as in the peaches, although there too the preference must be given to the Canadian fruit. It was pointed out to me that although the Canadian and the American peaches were both 3's, the former was a half pound heavier than the latter."

Bosnia prunes were about four weeks late reaching the Canadian market this season, owing to the steamer bringing the supply being delayed by a series of mishaps.

There has been an advance of one shilling in Bosnia prunes in Trieste. This makes an aggregate advance of two shillings from the lowest point. The cause is assigned to a short supply. Cable advices received from Marseilles indicate that similar conditions obtain in regard to French prunes.

The financial difficulties of Meredith & O'Brien, stock brokers, of Montreal, caused considerable excitement in that city and elsewhere. Their liabilities will be large, exceeding it is said \$150,000. James O'Brien, senior, it is said, is interested to a considerable extent over and above the \$20,000 alleged to have been obtained under false pretences, on a note discounted at the Quebec Bank for which Mr. James O'Brien, junior, was arrested. Meredith & O'Brien were said to be long on Canadian Pacific Railway and short on Richelieu stocks.

Communications.

Distribution of Samples of Grain from the Experimental Farm at Ottawa.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COMMERCIAL.

During the past eight years samples of those varieties of grain which have succeeded best on the Experimental Farms have been distributed on application in 8-lb. bags to farmers in all parts of the Dominion free through the mail. The object in view in this distribution has been to improve the quality and character of these important agricultural products throughout the country. This work has met with much appreciation and a considerable degree of success.

Last year I was instructed by the Honorable Minister of Agriculture to forward, as far as practicable, two samples to each applicant, but the applications received were so numerous that on this basis of distribution all the available stock had been promised by the middle of February, and all later applicants could not be supplied.

This year my instructions are to send one sample only to each applicant, with the hope that with this limitation every farmer in the Dominion who so desires may share in the benefits of this useful branch of the work of the Experimental Farms.

The distribution now in progress consists of some of the most promising sorts of Oats, Barley, Spring Wheat, Pease, Field Corn and Potatoes. Already more than 7,000 applications have been filled. All farmers desiring to participate in this distribution should send in their applications early, and state which of the above named samples they would prefer, and their wishes will be met as far as practicable, until the available stock is exhausted. The grain can be sent early, but the potatoes will not be distributed until the danger of being injured in transit by frost is over. Letters addressed to the Central Experimental Farm may be sent free of postage.

WM. SAUNDERS,

Director Experimental Farms.

Ottawa, March 11th, 1897.

Immigration to the United States

There was a remarkable falling off in immigration to the United States last year. The following table gives the totals by countries for the twelve months of 1893 and 1894.

From	1893.	1894
Bohemia.....	4,627	1,600
Hungary.....	26,219	9,000
Other Austrian States.	35,022	12,865
Belgium.....	3,323	1,365
Denmark.....	8,374	4,390
France.....	5,242	3,443
Germany.....	89,603	40,436
Greece.....	1,446	1,141
Italy.....	70,381	39,821
Netherlands.....	7,757	2,262
Poland.....	6,122	1,088
Portugal.....	3,958	686
Roumania.....	997	468
Russia (except Poland)...	15,173	26,830
Finland.....	6,468	1,272
Spain.....	910	997
Sweden and Norway.....	51,723	19,468
Switzerland.....	4,807	2,660
Turkey.....	514	219
England.....	11,252	29,185
Scotland.....	11,815	5,005
Ireland.....	50,061	36,421
West Indies.....	430	832
Syria.....	1,410	1,562
China.....	3,017	2,939
Japan.....	661	721
Australasia.....	1,085	475
Hawaiian Islands.....	1,100	267
Other countries.....	2,091	1,461
Total.....	448,776	248,983

Hides, Furs, Wool, etc.

Jas. McMillan & Co., in their last circular dated March 15, report as follows:

A decided advance in Green Hides and Tallow are the essential features of this circular.

Hides.—The receipts are light as is always the case at this time of the year, but this year they are unusually light, and the packers in the large killing centers are also sold up close. The market is excited for all classes of salted hides, and active for salted calfskins and dry hides. We advance our prices on salted hides very materially. Hides in the winter are long-haired and the poorest in quality of any season of the year, but for all that we have orders that we can not fill and at high prices regardless of the poor quality. The heaviest advance has been made in cow hides, which are nearly as high as steer hides. If the weather should grow warmer, as it is likely to do, your hides would get soft and become hair-slipped unless you went to the trouble and expense of salting them.

Furs.—While we have not reduced our prices or made any material changes, the market is easier than it was in February. The reason is that at that time the quantities of the different kinds of furs to be offered in the March sale were not known, and it was expected that there would be a short collection on account of the very severe weather in January which interfered with trapping, but it appears the offerings of nearly every article are equal to or in excess of the offerings in the March sale last year. In the spring of the year all classes of furs grow poorer in quality. Mink grow pale or red in color, Skunk begin to shed sooner than any other animal, although in our northern country it will be some time before any shedding furs are received. The water animals, viz., beaver, muskrat and otter, are the best in the spring of the year. Furs should be shipped in before the weather gets warm because winter-caught furs will command higher prices now than they will when the weather is warm.

Wool.—The market is very dull, and while the trade papers talk lower prices on some grades we cannot but believe we have seen the lowest point reached for a good many years and any change must be for the better, especially as times are going to gradually improve, but prices cannot be materially higher with such quantities of foreign wool hanging over the market that can be imported from abroad on short notice.

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	7.15 pm	Lv. Ashland	Ar. 8.15 am	
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