THE GROCERY TRADE.

Foreign Dried Fruit Market.

"According to private cables received this week from Denia," says the Montreal Gazette, "the tone of the market for Valencia raisins is very firm. Well known brands for shipment by first direct steamer are quoted as follows: Layers, 23s 6d; selected 21s 6d, and fine off stock 19s, but cables from other shippers quote fine off stalk as low as 17s to 18s. The demand from buyers here up to the present has been slow, which importers state is due chiefly to the high prices ruling for choice brands, and as the first steamer does not sail for ten days yet they will probably hold off until the last in hopes of securing supplies at lower prices. Some orders have been placed for fair sized lots, but the volume of business so far is small as compared with previous years. Cables to hand from Patras on currants report the market very strong, and note a further advance in prices of 1s to 1s 6d, with provincials quoted at 14s 9d; Filiatras, at 15s 3d, Patras at 18s, and Vostizza at 20s 6d. Recent advices note that the gathering of the crop has progressed satisfactorily, and no doubt has been safely housed by this time. Some authorities estimate the outturn at only 140,000 tons, but it is the general impression that it will come fully up to 145,000 tons. It seems that the carrying out of the retention law as to the collection and sale of the retained currants has been turned over to the "currant bank," all growers being shareholders of the bank in proportion to their crops the shareholders being able to obtain advances in small amounts at a moderate interest."

A later report of the dried fruit market from the same source reads as follows:

"Since our last report of the dried fruit market, a weaker feeling has developed in raisins, as cable advices received from Denia note a decline of 1s to 1s 6d in the price of well known brands for shipment by second steamer. layers now being quoted at 22s 6d; selected at 20s 6d; fine off-stalk, at 17s 6d, and off-stalk at 15s 6d, which figures are equal to 6 1-4c for layers; 5 3-4c for selected, 5c for fine off-stalk, and 4 1-2c for off-stalk, laid down here. Another cable received from Denia quoted fine off-stalk at 17s 6d: fine selected at 19s 6d; two crown layers, at 18s 6d, and four crown layers at 20s 6d. The first direct steamer for this port with fruit sailed on the 18th inst., and will be due here between the 10th and 15th of October. In regard to currants, a cable received from Patras reported the market better with an upward tendency, owing to the improved demand, but only small quantities were obtainable at higher prices, and quoted provincials, 14s 6d: Filiatras, 15s: Amalias, 15s 6d; and Patras, 17s. Another cable noted a decline of 3d in the price of provincials and Filiatras, but quoted higher grades the same as a week ago. Provincials 14s 6d; Filiatras, 15s; Amalias, 16s 9d; Patras, 18s; and Vostizza, 20s 6d. The demand for both raisins and currants so far has not been up to the average of other seasons, which is due, it is said, to the high prices ruling."

GROCERY TRADE NOTES.

Currant prices advanced 1-4c in Greece last week and the market outlook is strong.

Receipts of Rio coffee at primary markets are expected to fall off materially this season.

A single shipment of 100,000 pounds of coffee arrived at Minneapolis for one jobbing house last week.

It is predicted that some of the Ontario apple growers who contracted to sell their winter apples at $1.25 per barrel on the trees, will refuse to deliver the goods for that price on the plea that it is always understood that if the market price advances the grower is entitled to the rise. The force of such reasoning is not very apparent.

A considerable portion of the apple crop of Ontario has been purchased at prices equal to $2, $2.25 and $2.50 f.o.b., at points of shipment for future delivery, some early contracts being made at equal to $1.75 f.o.b. One large Toronto firm is credited with having purchased 75,000 barrels, another with 35,000 barrels. Some large contracts are also reported in the Annapolis Valley at $1.85 to $2 f.o.b. points of shipment, but it is stated that no choice winter stock can be had at under $2, some holders wanting more money.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

MEN'S HAT STYLES.

Fashion, which has been kept rather busy of late, probably impelled by the easier flow of dollars and cents, has not entirely skipped the hat in her efforts at having man dressed as he should be for the fall season. The variety of styles being much larger than was shown before the days of specialties in shades, bands, etc., admits of proportionately larger scope for the originator of ideas, so the man who to-day thinks of buying a hat must consider, in addition to the shape, the redeeming or objectionable features shown in the infinite variety of shades, etc., according as they present themselves to his notice.

The fall styles in stiff hats are noticeably smaller, having a round crown and being well rolled on the brim. Blacks are always fashionable but a large number of browns and tans will be worn. Soft fedoras are still in demand, and judging by the sales of grey fedoras, they will continue to be worn throughout the fall. *The bands and rims of these are mostly* of a seal brown. Light brown fedoras are also shown without a rim but with the edge turned pretty well up.

Silk hats still show the bell crown, the only real change being in those selected by young men, which are slightly smaller. Boys derby hats are always fashionable; not much change has been made in these. The soft knock-about hat is again coming in favor to replace the tweed cap which has been so much worn by touring wheelmen, etc.

Ladies' English walking hats are receiving much attention and are conspicuous in fall window displays. They are shown in grey, brown, green, blue and moss colors, the shapes being very neat.—Montreal Journal of Commerce.

DRY GOODS TRADE NOTES.

English made hats are growing in favor in Canada as is evidenced by the the large imports of 1898, amounting 73,548 dozen, valued at $159,000. In the same year Canada imported 71,529 dozen straw hats from the old country at a cost of $175,000.

In England the taste for crepons in raised designs continues to be very pronounced.

Blinds of fine and coarse wools are being put upon the market by English manufacturers of woolen goods to relieve the pressure caused by the scarcity of fine wools.

The very heavy demand for velvets is making prices firm at manufacturing centres. Raw material has advanced in price fully 25 per cent and factories are behind with their orders.

The present season's cotton crop in the United States according to the official bulletin for September 1st, is shown to be the lowest in twenty-five years, excepting that of 1896. Unseasonable weather has been the cause.

Hardware Trade Notes.

White lead prices are pointing upwards at manufacturing centres.

W. H. Sparling, of Minnedosa, formerly of Portage la Prairie, has purchased the hardware store of J. F. Boyd at Minnedosa.

There are now four blast furnace companies in operation in Canada, namely, the Hamilton, the Deseronto, the Radnor and the Nova Scotia Steel and Iron Co.

Large sales of steel rails, standard sections were made last week for 1900 delivery at $33, Chicago. This is an advance of $2 over recent quotations for shipment during the current year.

Iron bars went up $3 last week in United States markets. Steel hoops and bands advanced a like amount. Black sheets are also $3 per ton higher. Steel axles are $5 per ton higher. Pig iron is up 50 cents to $1 on some grades.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Wholesale Hardware Association, which was organized in January last, was held in Hamilton, on September 14 and 15. No business affecting the conduct of the hardware trade was transacted, the meeting being largely of a social character.

Canadian and United States manufacturers of harvest tools have entered into an agreement which is likely to result in high prices for these goods in Canada next year. In return for a promise on the part of Canadian makers to keep out of the foreign field United States makers have agreed not to sell in Canada.

An independent eastern manufacturer of bicycles in the United States has announced the following trade prices on wheels for next year: "Medium grade roadster, $25; high grade roadster $35; with coaster break $10; with cushion frame $50; chainless $60." As these prices are a cut of $15 on each grade, and as the manufacturer is one of high repute in the trade, it is a question if the "trust" will be able to advance the cost of wheels next season.

Makers of high-grade locks in the United States, including the Yale-Towne Manufacturing Co., Sargeant & Co., and Russell & Erwin, have entered into an arrangement whereby their locks will be sold at uniform figures. Prices of locks in both the United States and Canada have been advanced almost one-half. This is due to high prices for raw material. Makers are now so nervous regarding prices that they refuse to quote prices except for immediate acceptance. Our telegraphic report from Toronto of last week noted a reduction to 33 1-3 in the Canadian discount. The old rate was 40 per cent.