

Montreal Grocery Market.

The feature in the sugar market during the past week has been the much firmer feeling in the raw article abroad and prices for beet show an advance of 2-4d since this day last week. Cables received to-day quoting May at 8s 10 1-2d. Advices from New York to-day were also stronger for some soft sorts of refined, and prices advanced 1-16c per lb. Raws were also firmer, although the wants of refiners were small, and sales of 96 test centrifugals were made at 8 5-16c which figure shows an advance of 1-16c to 1-8c over previous transactions. The local market for the refined article is without any important phase. The feeling with refiners is still firm, and they show no disposition whatever to make concessions in order to force sales. The demand at present is very light, and will likely continue so until jobbers work down present stocks. We quote: Granulated at 41-8c to 41-4c, and yellows at 33-8c to 37-8c as to quality at factory.

There has been an improved demand for molasses on spot, especially so for Porto Rico stock, and several sales have been made at prices ranging from 24c to 32c, as to quality to arrive, including two cargoes of about 1,000 puncheons. In Barbadoes stock business on spot has been quiet, and prices at the island are steady at the decline noted last week, with a sale of a cargo lot on the basis of 7c, which means 23c net cash here. Importers in some cases state that the quality of the new crop of Barbadoes this season is not quite up to the standard and in consequence of which buyers are turning their attention to Porto Rico stock, of which they say the quality is fine.

There is no change or improvement in the syrup market. The demand is limited at 13-8c to 17-8 per lb., as to quality, at the factory.

The tone of the rice market is very firm as the recent advance in prices and late cables received from Europe fully confirm the above. Supplies on spot are scarce, but new importations are near at hand, which will relieve importers considerably as buyers are placing their orders more freely now since the tariff question has been settled. We quote: Crystal Japan, \$4.50 to \$5.00; standard B., \$3.50 to \$3.75; Patna, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Caraboa, \$6.75 to \$7.75; choice Burmah, \$4 to \$4.25 and Java kinds, \$4.25 to \$4.50.

The spice market is without any new feature. The demand at this season is as usual light, and the volume of business small at former values. We quote: Black pepper, 8c to 10c; white 11c to 14c; Jamaica ginger, 20c to 25c; cloves, 7 1-2c to 10c, and nutmegs, 60c to 90c.

Business in coffee continues chiefly of a small jobbing character, and the market in consequence is quiet with a disposition on the part of holders to shade prices. We quote: Maracabo, 17c to 18c; Santos, 11 1-2c to 14c; Rio, 11 1-2c to 15c; Mocha, 22 1-2c to 25c, and Javas, 22c to 26c.

The feature of the tea market this week was the cables received from Yokohama, stating that the market for new crop Japan had opened at an advance of 10 per cent. over last year's figures, with the quality only fair. Owing to rumors of a prospective duty of 10c per lb. on teas at American centres, the markets have been somewhat excited of late, and

considerable enquiry has been experienced here from New York and Chicago houses for Japans, and samples have been forwarded; in fact in some cases holders have made shipments on consignment. Locally, business has been quiet, and the easy feeling noted in our last continues.—Gazette.

British Food Supplies in War Time.

A correspondent of the London Economist writes to that paper: "In your article on the above subject in your issue of April 10, you say: 'As long as we command the sea we may quite safely eat Russian or American wheat as that of our own plowlands.' Does not this assume as a certainty that we shall never again be at war with Russia and America? If we are not at war with both our chief sources of life we may pull through. If we are at war with both it is certain they will not sell us food when they know our want of it will fight more for them than anything they can do to our fleet. If they will not sell it is impossible to hope to replace it in time to prevent famine on a tremendous scale in these islands. Such stupendous supplies of wheat and other grain as we get from North America and Russia never exist anywhere else on the face of the globe. In addition, the supplies we get from Turkey, Roumania and Persia could not come without Russia's consent. The supplies we get from Argentina—where the crop is nearly a failure this year—India, Australia, etc., are all they can send in peace time, and it will be difficult to send even that small amount in war time. Canada would want the small surplus she now sends us, if fighting her great neighbor. Although we had full command of the sea in 1800 and 1801, the average price of wheat then was £5 16s 8d per quarter for those years, though we grew it nearly all at home and had only about 14,000,000 instead of about 10,000,000 to feed. If these facts are true, surely the Economist might help, not in supporting any proposed remedy, but by admitting that the subject is of such vital importance as to call for the appointment of a royal commission, to be composed of naval, military and corn-trade experts, to consider the whole question."

Threatening England's Steel Trade.

A Washington Associated Press dispatch contained the following: "The formidable nature of the competition which United States steel makers are now offering toward the British steel trade is strikingly set forth in an article prepared by an expert for publication in London and transmitted to the department of state by Consul Parker at Birmingham. The expert shows that England is threatened in her supremacy as the ironmaster by two conditions: First, the exhaustion of her own ores and of the cheap foreign ores she has been so large a using, and, second, the rapid growth of American competition. It is this second factor that is naturally of interest to Americans in the estimation of Consul Parker. He directs especial attention to the means which have enabled American men to bring their ores 600 to 800 miles to the

blast furnaces, carry the finished product 500 miles from the interior to tide-water at New York and thence transport it a distance of 3,200 miles by sea and compete easily with British home-made steel. The expert believes that the most remarkable of these means is the gigantic scale upon which American iron-making plants are built and operated. One American furnace produces more than eight times as much steel as a British furnace, and about forty of the former would have produced all the iron that was made last year in England by 362 furnaces. One American rail mill produces 50,000 tons a month, which is more than the total output in Great Britain.

"Commenting upon the British expert's article, Consul Parker says he is continually being asked by British manufacturers whether the American competition will last, and, if so, where they can buy the steel. The shipments of steel, so far made, he says, have given general satisfaction as to quality. Indeed, there has been a strange complaint that it is "too good," which means that it is better than the manufacturer has been accustomed to employ for a given product. There is a genuine fear of this competition among those engaged in the British trade, says the consul. His statement closes as follows.

"When we can pay to one man the wages which two men can command in England, in the same time and for doing the like amount of work, and then can send the product of that man's labor abroad in competition with the two, backed as they are by unlimited capital, the result is certainly encouraging to try what we may do in other markets, where the pressure is not so direct."

The Spider-Growing Industry.

It is pointed out in Nature that when mine host in the ideal country of France, which all of us seek but none of us find brings up a bottle of crueted wine covered with cobwebs and dust this outward and visible sign is taken as convincing evidence of age. We grieve to have to record that the trust may now be misplaced. A bulletin (No. 7) of the division of entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture says that in France and Pennsylvania an industry has recently sprung up, which consists of the farming of spiders for the purpose of stocking wine cellars, and thus securing almost immediate coating of cobwebs to new wine bottles, giving them the appearance of great age. This industry is carried on in a little French village in the Department of Loire, and near Philadelphia, where *Epeira vulgaris* and *Nephila plumipes* are raised in large quantities and sold to wine merchants at the rate of \$10 per hundred. This application of entomology to industry is one which will not be highly commended."

Bicycle Trade.

E. F. Hutchings, wholesale saddlery, etc., Winnipeg, says that the saddlers throughout the country are taking hold of the bicycle trade and quite a number are now handling bicycles. Mr. Hutchings has the general agency for the Chief Cycle Manufacturing company of Milwaukee, who manufacture several grades of bicycles, and he is having a large sale for these goods among saddlers,