

How the Graduated Scale of Sugar Duties Operates.

We take the following from the last number of the *London Produce Markets Review*:—

From Mauritius it is reported that the first lots of the new crops have been offered, but that the white sorts, which were formerly so much sought after, are now at a discount. This is owing to the fact that a very large number of the planters have followed the plan of Dr. Leary in bleaching their sugar by monosulphite of lime. This plan which is very simple and costs little, allows splendid whitesugar (No. 17 to 18) to be made at a very low cost. But the Planters are afraid to send this fine sugar to our market, which is its natural outlet, because of our graduated scale of duties, which imposes a punishment of a higher duty of 50 per cent. on those who make fine sugar; which extra charge as the trade buy at the duty-paid price, and by the intrinsic difference in the value of sugar, and not by the duty charged upon it, is a dead loss to the producer of fine kinds. For instance, a planter may prepare a sugar worth 40s. which pays the 12s duty, while another may prepare a sugar worth 32s and paying the 8s. duty. The maker of the fine sugar obtains a price (less the 12s duty) of 28s; the maker of the common sugar obtains 24s. Thus the intrinsic difference in favor of the skilled maker being 8s. per cwt., by the unjust operation of the sugar duties, he has his extra care rewarded by a fine of 4s per cwt. or 14 per cent. on the price he gets. It is surprising that such facts so often repeated, and indeed well-known to every one who has studied the question, should still be allowed in a reformed Parliament to be set aside for the protection of the British refiners, and for the fancied advantage of a few antediluvian West Indian merchants.

Petroleum.

Exports from the United States, from January 1st to September 14th:

From New York, gals.	46,612,094	39,753,981
Boston	1,728,027	1,741,612
Philadelphia	19,798,807	26,832,283
Baltimore	879,678	1,991,391
Portland		568,970

Total Export from the		
United States	69,018,606	79,888,237
Same time, 1867		42,078,445
Same time, 1866		41,657,049

Duties on Canadian Malt.

A New York paper says:—Acting Secretary Richardson has addressed a letter to A. D. Shaw, United States Consul at Toronto, Canada, relative to the subject of the dutiable value of malt imported into the United States from the Dominion of Canada, saying the law declares the duties on imports shall be levied on the actual market value or the wholesale price thereof, at the period of exportation to the United States, in the principal markets of the country whence exported, and the Department holds that this value refers to the value of the merchandise in open market, uninfluenced by any peculiar conditions growing out of special regulations in a foreign country.

The French Wine Crop.

The Wine Crop of 1869, in France, is estimated by the *Moniteur Vinicole* at the enormous total of 60,000,000 hectolitres, or 1,320,000,000 gallons. The British consumption of 15,000,000 gallons is thus little more than 1 per cent. of the quantity produced by France alone, without counting any other producing districts.

Comparative shipments from ports of Chicago, Milwaukee, Toledo, Detroit, and Cleveland:

	1869.	1868.	1867.	1866.
Flour, brls.	1,285,599	1,075,248	903,497	914,601
Wheat, bus.	18,068,981	9,744,967	9,151,333	8,597,989
Corn, bus.	14,173,957	21,303,147	15,696,672	27,338,588
Oats, bus.	4,110,898	7,474,785	4,272,277	7,209,675
Barley, bus.	48,617	21,226	457,529	243,608
Rye, bus.	115,122	299,366	439,523	710,255

Total grain, bus. 36,509,575 38,483,591 27,017,334 44,100,195

Wool Trade of Cobourg.

The Cobourg *Sentinel* says that Messrs. Minans & Butler, of that place, purchased upwards of 800,000 lbs. of wool during the season just closed. The next largest dealers in wool is the firm of Frazer & Co., the proprietors of the Ontario Woolen Mills. The transactions of the firm this season show a purchase of 300,000 lbs of Canadian wool, about 200,000 lbs. of which was from farmers in this vicinity. This is not, however, all used in their mills, the crude wool having been sorted, the short or fine wool only retained and the long or "combing wool" is exported to the United States. The mills consume about 240,000 lbs. annually, half of which is composed of "Cape Wool" (from the Cape of Good Hope), Australian wool, and Merino Wool from the United States, the other half being Canadian wool. All the material purchased in Canada is assorted here, and what is not used in the mills is exported, which is no small quantity. The 240,000 lbs. of wool used annually by the mills is turned out in the shape of 200,000 yards of the best and finest quality of woollen cloths produced in the world. The foreign wools generally loose largely in scouring, generally fifty per cent. The Messrs. Fraser & Co., have not yet completed their purchases of foreign wools for the season, 150,000 lbs. being the amount still required for this year's operations in their mills.

The Foreign Fruit Crop.

The speculation in Valencia, on the part of the wholesale trade, has continued, and has been seconded in Spain by keeping back the supplies. The grocers, on the other hand, cannot see their way to giving such exorbitant rates, which they fear must materially aid the consumption, and they therefore buy in the most cautious manner. The position of the market may be summed up as a struggle between the English grocers on the one side, and a few wholesale dealers and Spanish shippers on the other, as to whether prices shall rise or fall. In our opinion there can be little doubt of the result, for prices are manifestly too high, and must inevitably drop when the farmers get tired of holding and the stock increases here. Prices remain unchanged, and the market is firm, as there is nothing unsold in first hands, and a large portion of the trilling quantity afloat is disposed of. New Currants arrived on Friday, and most extravagant rates, from 33s. to 50s. for good to fine fruit, and 30s. for common, are asked for them. The quality as yet is very poor, and much below what the advices led us to expect, so that the first ships probably bring ordinary kinds only. Up to the present, few transactions have taken place. Old currants have advanced 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt., owing to a speculative demand. The London stock of old currants is small. Elémé Raisins are 1s. to 2s. dearer, owing to the small stock, and the price of new Valencias. Old Valencias have advanced 1s., but can still be retailed at 4d. per lb. The Normandy Pippin crop will be unusually small this year.—*London Produce Markets Review*, Sept. 2.

The American Fishing Fleet.

The Gloucester *Advertiser* says the fleet in the bay this year is smaller than last, and their success has been better than usual up to this time, though there is nothing to indicate a large fall catch. The Gloucester fleet so far arrived have averaged a catch of about two hundred and ninety barrels each. Besides the fleet of mackerelmen there has been a large fleet of vessels employed at Cape North and the vicinity of the Bay of St. Lawrence in the cod and halibut fishery. Twenty-one vessels have returned from trips of this kind, and some seven or eight vessels remain to arrive. The business has not been a profitable one, the fares secured being very small for the time employed, and relatively much below the Bank catch, so that it is probable this branch of the fisheries will not be very extensively followed another season. The shore mackerel fleet is meeting with very meagre success. Good fares are the excep-

tion, and the mackerel are mostly small, but few number ones being secured. Some eighty vessels have made fishing trips to the Eastern coast in pursuit of mackerel this season, but the number remaining in this branch of the fisheries will not probably reach that number. A large number of vessels have remained in the Bank fisheries throughout the season, and others have resumed it after making a trip or two after mackerel. About fifty vessels are employed in the George's fishery, and some thirty-five or forty vessels remain in the Grand and Western Bank fishery, and are meeting with fair success.

Stock in English Bonded Warehouses.

The following are the quantities of the following articles subject to duties, remaining in the warehouses under bond on the 31st July:

	1867	1868	1869
Cocoa, lbs.	6,599,461	7,006,945	8,674,655
Coffee, lbs.	38,676,415	42,700,982	49,202,896
Currants, cwt.	117,460	192,061	78,274
Raisins, cwt.	12,034	38,073	19,975
Rum (proof), galls.	7,599,580	6,859,176	6,079,066
Brandy, galls.	6,940,491	7,748,125	8,084,346
Sugar (refined) cwt.	135,277	83,995	54,492
" (unrefined) cwt.	3,137,361	2,190,985	2,137,827
Tea, lbs.	84,729,842	71,630,895	76,153,089
Tobacco, unman'd, lbs.	57,421,642	57,947,150	41,578,594
" manufactured "	3,143,092	2,575,735	2,960,102
Wine, galls.	13,984,258	13,893,773	13,954,203

American Hop Crop.

The following is from E. Well's circular:—The following figures show what we believe the growth of 1869 to have been, also our estimate of growth of 1869:—

New York State	100,000 bales	90,000 bales
Wisconsin	80,000 "	25,000 "
Eastern States	10,000 "	8,000 "
Michigan	8,000 "	6,000 "
Other States	2,000 "	1,000 "
Total	200,000 "	130,000 "

We will now see what disposition has been made of last year's hops:—

Home consumption	90,000 bales
Exports from the port of New York	70,000 "
" other parts of the U. States	10,000 "
Stock on hand in New York city	15,000 "
Stock back in the country	15,000 "
Total	200,000 "

By the above figures it will be seen that without an export demand from England last season, we would now be saddled with a surplus of 110,000 bales, including the stock we now have on hand of 1868's. Fortunately, England took from us 80,000 bales, leaving us but 30,000 bales surplus. Should the yield of 1869 reach the number of bales we have estimated, viz.: 130,000, we shall be able to spare for export this year 40,000 bales, leaving us 90,000 for home consumption. If the estimates we have given prove correct, 70,000 bales will have to be shipped out of the country (40,000 new and 30,000 old) this year, in order to give us a clean market on the opening of the new season, September-1, 1870.

Indian Tea.

Chinese teas have now to encounter a formidable rival in the production of India, which has made vast strides both in the quantity of tea produced, and in the improvement of its manufacture. Some two or three years ago, it was comparatively rare to find a grocer using Indian tea to any extent, but during the last twelve months, owing mostly to the inferiority of China teas, the grocer has been compelled to use it largely, and it would appear that the public are so satisfied with the change that, in some parts of the kingdom, more than two-thirds of Indian tea are used to one of China, and it is doubtful if the public, having once been accustomed to the peculiarly rich flavour and pungency of Indian teas, will ever be satisfied with the comparatively negative quality of China teas. In other parts of the country the taste is spreading, much we are assured, to the benefit of the grocery trade.—*Morgan's Trade Journal*.