

## FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Stocks of Valencia raisins are as a rule low, and so are those of California muscatels.

The market for canned vegetables is very firm and packers still hold quotations.

The pioneer meat canner, Mr. A. A. Libby, died last week at Pasadena, aged 67. It is well to remember, says The San Francisco Grocer, how much we are indebted to the ideas of such men.

Grapes promise an enormous crop in Essex, which means that the wine industry of the county will flourish this fall. Essex is the greatest corn-growing county in Canada and the yield this season will be very heavy.

An early closing agreement has been reached by the majority of the grocers of Fredericton, N.B., to take effect and go into operation on Monday next. On and after that date the grocery stores will close at 7 o'clock each evening, except Saturdays, when they will be open late, as at present.

The grain traffic on the line of the Ottawa and Parry Sound railway is now at its height, the staff at Depot Harbor being kept busy day and night in arranging for its transportation. Ever since the opening of navigation there has been a steady movement of grain and some idea of the large traffic may be formed from the fact that since spring a total of 5,087,350 bushels has been received at Depot Harbor, most of it being at once carried eastward for shipment to the Old Country.

A pleasing illustration of the way the English and French Canadians are drawing nearer together in the interests of trade is seen in the fact that the amalgamation of the English-speaking Retail Licensed Victuallers' Benevolent Association with the Montreal Licensed Victuallers' Association is now an accomplished fact. At a meeting of the former association, with the president, Mr. T. Lynch in the chair, the matter was fully discussed, and it was considered in the best interests of the whole body of retail dealers, as well as for the trade generally, to have but one association.

A charter has been granted, constituting the E. Girardot Wine Company, Limited, to make and sell wine and other products of the grape. The headquarters of this company are at Sandwich, in the richly endowed county of Essex, famous for grapes, peaches, tobacco, sorghum and Indian corn. The considerable scale of the company's intended operations may be inferred from the capital, which is placed at \$200,000. The provisional directors are: Ernest Girardot, wine maker; John Davis, Wm. J. Mc'ee and Frank H. Macpherson, of Windsor; Simon Fraser, of Amherstburg; Thomas J. Austin and Eugene Muffatt, of Detroit.

Stilton cheese is a household word in England, and the Cheddar cheese of Somersetshire is famous. Both of these varieties seem to have more charm for the average Britisher than Neufchatel, Brie, Gruyere, or other foreign sorts. A resolution was reached by the Royal Agricultural Society the other day, when it agreed to send Mr. J. Marshall Dugdale, a cheese expert and apparently a cheese enthusiast, to the Stilton district of England to make enquiry as to the methods employed and apparently to find the secret of Stilton manufacture and flavor. He found lots of things about these factories identical, a good many things different, but he did not discover the secret of the real flavor of Stilton. This expert says in his report that cheese equal to Cheddar and made by the same process is turned out in Galloway, Scotland, and in Canada. But that so far as he can discover, the flavor of the real Stilton is unattainable abroad.

Czarnikow, McDougall & Co., New York, report: "As regards the West Indian crops, Demerara reports that grinding is nearly over and will not be resumed until October, and Barbadoes reports that crop operations are coming to a close. In Trinidad the sugar crop is over, and as to Porto Rico, advices up to the 30th of June report that stocks of refined and centrifugal sugars are exhausted, and that with the exception of two or three sugar estates that had not yet finished, and might make 1,000 to 1,500 hhds., the crop was over. Cuba is asking prices much higher than our parity, and with the exception of a small sale of about 10,000 bags to New Orleans no business has been done on c.f. basis. Work is going on in the cane

fields, but rains are very disappointing in many districts, and the fields are not making the progress that is desired. No sales have been reported of Javas afloat or for shipment during this week. Some small sales have been made of beets for shipment in October to Montreal."

## IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

A Thompson, N.S. letter to the Amherst Press says: "B. F. Myles has sold his dry goods, groceries, etc., to Brown Bros. of Westchester, who are moving them away to that place.

The prospectus has been issued of the Brantford Woolen Mills Company, Limited. The capital is placed at \$95,000 in 950 shares of \$1,000 each and The Courier says the stock has been very liberally subscribed.

A Winnipeg paper states that: "A prominent dry goods and clothing establishment in the city turned its store window into a veritable bear garden last night by placing a young bear cub on show. He seemed quite happy in his unusual environment."

Letters of incorporation have been issued to the James Coristine Company, hatters and furriers, of Montreal. The incorporators are James Coristine, Charles Coristine, B. W. Brigg, D. MacPherson and C. B. Carter, of Montreal. The authorized capital is \$300,000.

A number of dealers in raw ostrich feathers in London are reported to have formed a somewhat ingenious buying combination. If they wish to buy several different kinds of goods each member of the syndicate will buy one kind and the purchases are afterward divided up.

A wholesale grocer in New York, so The Times of that city tells us, says his rule is, when he sells a bill of goods on credit, to subscribe for the local paper of his debtor. So long as his customer advertised liberally he rested, but as soon as he stopped his advertising the wholesale man took the fact as evidence that there was trouble ahead, and invariably went for the debtor. Said he: "The man who is too poor to make his business known is too poor to do business."

We learn from The New York Dry Goods Economist that John Field, of Philadelphia, president of the National Association of Credit Men, and William A. Prendergast, the new secretary of the organization, have had a discussion of the work laid out for the association by the convention held in Buffalo in June. It is the intention of the newly appointed officers to prosecute all the undertakings of the association with determination and energy. Among these is a systematic plan for the punishment of fraudulent debtors. The committee will so district the entire United States through the various local credit men's associations that there will be a vigilance committee in every State prepared to follow up those who are guilty of commercial dishonesty.

## INSURANCE MATTERS.

We find it stated in an English paper that an English gentleman in August, 1896, purchased a £1,000 annuity of the Mutual Life of New York, and has since increased his purchases so that the company is obligated to pay him £10,000 per annum for the balance of his life. He is now in his 69th year, and has paid the company £86,029 5s., and has received back so far £7,000. Further payments of £5,000 will be made this year if he survives. This is probably the largest annuity transaction yet recorded.

This is the week of the convention in New York of agents of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, and the occasion is the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of this great company, which was established in 1859. We are not yet told how many will attend, but we hear that 600 guests were to be at the dinner on Wednesday, presided over by Mr. James W. Alexander, president. The delegates have earned their right to represent their districts by competition, which resulted in the writing, in one day, we are told, of policies in excess of \$7,000,000, an unprecedented record in the history of the life insurance industry.