

### The Dried Fruit Market.

With the single exception of French and Austrian prunes, the tendency of dried fruits in general is either towards steadiness or in the direction of much higher prices than was the rule for full importation last year. Perhaps figs are the most notable illustration in this respect throughout the entire list. Importers here have paid 60c for shipments of these, similar consignments last fall costing only 25c so that compared with last year figs will cost 50 per cent more this season. This week local wholesale houses are offering 10-lb. figs to arrive at \$1.85, the same goods selling for \$1 in 1897, and 2-row 12-oz. fruit at 14c, as against 8c last year. Primary bulwicks on dates are also very firm, though little or no business has yet been done for importation, and no firm offers are obtainable, owing to the uncertainty which prevails regarding the date of the first shipments. It is expected that the earliest will be made from Bussora about the 30th of the present month, and the next about the 15th of October.

Valencia raisins manifest a much stronger tendency in Spain, and it is understood that some of the early contracts made in this market will have to be filled at a loss of 6d a box to the seller, owing to this fact. Offers are made this week by local jobbers of new crop Valentinas to arrive at 4 1-2c for fine off stalk, 5 3-8c for selected, and 5 3-4c for 4-crown layers. California raisins are very firm in tone, and business for forward delivery has been checked, owing to the attitude of the Growers' Association, on the coast, regarding the question of prices and deliveries. If they are successful in carrying out their intentions, prices will have to advance, and at present no business has been put through for October, at which time the earliest deliveries of Pacific coast raisins will be made in this market. Offers on these fruits to arrive are made as follows: Two-Crown loose muscatels, 5 1-2c; 3-crown do., 6 3-4c; 4-crown, 7 1-2c; seeded, 9 1-2c to 11c per lb.; fancy clusters, \$2.30 to \$2.50; Delmas, \$2.75 to \$3; and Imperial, \$3.25 to \$3.50 per box. Opinions in the trade seem to be divided regarding the action of the Growers' Association, and complaints are made about its method of doing business. On the other hand, it is held that through the work of the association the practice of indiscriminate consignments, which have had such a demoralizing influence in the past, has been made impossible and placed the eastern distributors of the fruit in a much more satisfactory position than they have occupied for a number of years.

Currents are firm in tone, also in line with other fruits. The first arrivals are expected shortly, and prices on goods to arrive are as follows: Filistinas in barrels, 4 1-4c; in half-barrels, 4 3-8c; in 1-2 cases, 4 1-2c. Patras, in 1-2 cases, 5c; Vostiznas, in 1-2 cases, 5 1-2c and extra choice do., 6c. In their circular, J. C. Houghton & Co., of Liverpool, say of currents: "We reported last week the arrival of the Aarat on the 1st inst., bringing about 400 tons of the new season's fruit. Business on the opening day was restricted by the paucity of samples offering, but the two following days saw a complete clearance of the supplies by this vessel, and our market was ready for the further arrival of 800 tons, per Sargossa, on Monday morning. This

latter cargo consisted almost entirely of provincial fruit, of which a considerable quantity had been sold previous to arrival. The quality in general of Pyrgos, Provincial and Amalinas—descriptions is satisfactory. An ample selection of all growths is now offering, as the Marootis, Cypris and Palm are discharging their cargoes. The first parcels of Gulf are quite satisfactory, and decidedly superior to what we have handled of this growth for the past two or three years. In Vostizna little has yet been seen of strictly fine; the majority consists of medium-sized, rather harsh fruit. Total sales made so far of all descriptions are fair, but the general feeling is that more would have been done were it not for the prolonged heat, it being generally recognized that the dried fruit trade does not settle down seriously to business until the summer is past."

California prunes are strong for future delivery, the first receipts of new crop being due here the first week of October. Reports from the coast state that supplies are not ample, and that higher prices are anticipated. On the first deliveries local jobbers are quoting the following prices to arrive: 40 to 50s, 10 3-4c; 50 to 60s, 9 1-4c; 60 to 70s, 8 1-4c; 70 to 80s, 7 3-4c; 80 to 90s, 7 1-4c, and 90 to 100s, 6 3-4c. No business of importance on forward account has transpired in French prunes, but reports indicate that they will be much cheaper than last year. The same is the case with Austrian fruit and others of Bosnia, 110 to 115s, in 35lb. boxes, are being made this week at 4 3-4c, the same fruit costing 6 3-4 last fall. The prune situation is thus reviewed by the California Fruit Grower: "There is an active enquiry for large prunes, 40-50s, and 50-60s for export to Europe. These sizes are scarce and but few are being offered at any price. Choice Santa Clara, 40-50s, would sell up close to 7c, and 50 to 60s, 5 1-2 to 6c, as to quality. There is as much, if not more difference in the quality of prunes as in other fruits. Prunes cannot now be sold upon count alone. There has never been enough difference in price between the large, medium and small sizes. In France, 30 to 40s to 50s, command a large premium over the basis price of the 4 sizes. Last season the Santa Clara County Fruit exchange was a free seller and at prices below the outside dealers. This displeased the stockholders, so this season the Exchange is holding out for prices above those at which outside dealers are loading up the trade east and west. It is hard to try and please every one and meet the market at one and the same time."

Demand for nuts to arrive is naturally assuming more activity, and the general disposition points to steadiness. This is particularly the case in Grenoble walnuts, on which importers have found it impossible as yet to get a firm offer. Shelled walnuts rule firm at 20c to 21c; Tharragona almonds, 10 1-2 to 11c; do. shelled, 25c, and Sicily filberts in 220-lb. packages, 7c to 7 1-2c per lb.

### Experimenting with Fruits.

From the many experiments now being carried on, it will soon be learned what fruits can be grown successfully in Manitoba. In addition to the experiments being carried on on a large scale at the experimental farms, many farmers and other private citizens have been experimenting with fruits. A large number of persons evidently

believe that fruit growing can be carried on successfully in Manitoba, as is evidenced by the fact that large quantities of nursery stock are brought here every spring and fall. E. P. Blackford & Co., nurserymen, of Toronto, have for some years given special attention to the Manitoba trade, and their shipments of nursery stock have been growing each season. This fall we are informed they have very large shipments to make to Manitoba. The writer has had a couple of packages of trees from this firm, and found their stock very healthy and vigorous.

The large quantity of nursery stock being brought in from this and other nurseries, will have a good effect in time. While many varieties are doomed to failure here, other varieties of fruit are proving equal to the climate. Those who first began experimenting are now beginning to meet with success even with some of the large fruits, and several parties have succeeded in growing apples in Manitoba, while a great measure of general success has been attained with small fruits.

### Spring Styles in Boots.

The question of colors in the coming season's boots and shoes is at present one of considerable interest. The immense popularity of chocolate, especially in women's shoes, created such a demand for this shade of leather for the past two or three years that the stock could not be supplied. Fancy is taking hold of lighter shades and in the samples a pre-eminence will be noticed in these shades. Vesting tops have been somewhat unsatisfactory as to wear, but the coming season, notwithstanding this will see many handsome samples in combinations of leather and vesting tops in which the defects as to durability will have been remedied. The demand for cloth in handsome designs for vesting tops has brought out many attractive specialties in this line. Fancifulness in design, ornamentation, etc., will be more noticeable than ever in the construction of spring shoes. Fancy facings, foxings and flies prevail. In the vesting tops the patterns are much quieter. Buttoned boots for men in both black and tan are being introduced more freely than for years. Imitation buttoned in congress in the lighter shades of chocolate and tan will be found very popular. In regard to shapes the tendency is towards wider toes, especially in ladies'. Some quite wide styles are shown, and it is predicted that another season will see wide bull dog toes in women's stylish shoes quite the thing. In ladies' slippers the finest lines show bead work on vamps and quarters with silk bows and gemmed buckles, long mohair tongues and Louis XV. heels.—Trade Review.

John Kuestner has sold his interest in the Commercial hotel, Morris, Man., to Messrs. Spence.

James Foreman, of Alexander, Man., furniture dealer, will sell his stock by auction and go out of this line.

The English bondholders have refused to accept the offer of the Winnipeg city council to buy the water-works property for \$40,000.

On October 10 the Canadian Pacific railway rate of 7c. per bushel on wheat from Fort William to Ontario points goes into effect. East of Peterboro, 8c.