

## Toronto Grocery Market.

A further advance of 4c in sugars has been about the only thing to cause anything approaching excitement, but even in this particular line the demand is limited and is confined to small lots. Canned goods are still in fair request at steady prices, and the improvement in coffee outside noted last week continues. Valencia raisins and currants are in fairly good demand, but outside these two particular lines there is not much doing in dried fruits. Rice remains in the same uninteresting condition as for some time past, but for spices there is some enquiry. Syrups and molasses are moving fairly well. Teas rule quiet but firm, and cables announce Indian and Ceylon higher. A further advance is announced in cocoa. While trade at the moment is so quiet the prospects for a good summer trade have lost some of their brightness. In fact during the last couple of days there appears to be prospects of a tendency towards that direction. Payments are not satisfactory.

**COFFEES.**—The outside markets have been a little irregular, but latest advices report both the Rio and Santos markets firm, and during the last few days there has been a gradual improvement. There is still a scarcity of fine grades. There is no material change on the local market, demand being moderate and prices much as before. We quote: Rio 20 to 22c., East Indian 27 to 30c., South America 21 to 23c. Mocha 26 to 30c., Santos 21 to 22c.

**COCOAS AND CHOCOLATES.**—The market is firmer and an advance of 1c. has been made in some lines. Advices from Trinidad under date of April 19 state that there has been a slight increase in deliveries, which are however still disappointing, the continued drought having retarded the ripening of the pods. A few heavy rains which fell lately did a good deal of good, and should moderate rains follow liberal supplies are expected during the next two months. It is stated that the "pick just commencing is bound to fall short of expectations, and we must look to October crop to make up the large deficiency in the year's production."

There is not much demand except for Valencia raisins and currants. Valencia raisins are in good demand for the season, chiefly of the cheaper qualities. The idea is about 4½c for second off-stalk and 5½c for fine off-stalk; fancy selected are worth 7½c and layers 6½ to 7½c. Currants are in good demand at 5½ to 5¾c for good sound fruit. There are a few cases of prunes moving, and the idea is 7½c in cases. Dates are quiet and unchanged, 5½c being the ruling figure. The market seems to be about cleaned out of figs.

**Nuts.**—There is nothing special to note. Both demand and stocks are light, while prices are unchanged. Brazil nuts, 11 to 11½c a pound. Sicily shelled almonds, 32 to 35c a pound; unshelled, 16 to 17c; peanuts, 13 to 14c for roasted and 11 to 12½c for green.

**Rice and Spices.**—No change is reported in rice. Until the new crop arrives in June not much movement or change in prices is anticipated; 3½c is still the ruling figure for ordinary quality. Spices are in good demand at steady prices. Whole ginger is quoted at 20 to 25c, pure white pepper at 20 to 28c., and pure black at 14 to 16c.

**Sugar.**—The market continues to gather strength, but there is no corresponding response in the demand. People are seemingly buying just as little as they possibly can, some evidently being of the opinion that the market will be unable to maintain its present position. There is nothing apparently however to warrant such a view being taken. Some of the refineries have withdrawn quotations and the outside markets are higher for present delivery than for July delivery, while from the present price of raws the refiners would be entitled to higher prices than those now obtaining. The idea for granulated is 5½c with the range running ½c higher, and in spite of the quietness, prices are firm at the figures quoted. A very

dark yellow sugar can be obtained on this market as low as 4½c, but the ruling price for ordinary dark is 4¾, bright 4½ to 4¾ and cream 4¾c.

**Syrups and Molasses.**—Syrups are in rather better supply, but demand continues light at steady prices; 2½ to 3½c is the idea, the outside figures being for common syrup. Demand for molasses is very small at prices ranging from 32c for Porto Rico to 38 to 48c for New Orleans.

**Teas.**—The local tea market continues quiet. Low grades of every kind are in light supply and dear. Blacks have advanced still further. Medium grades of all teas are now offering best value, and incomprehensibly better value than the low grades; so much so is this the case that it is held that either the latter have got to come down or the better grades advance. Old season Japan teas have been neglected, and holders are beginning to feel somewhat restless about getting rid of the balance on hand. Cables received on this market on Tuesday announced an advance of 1d in Ceylon and Indian Pekoes, broken Pekoes, and orange Pekoes.

**Dried Apples.**—Dull, and the little that is being done is confined to small lots. Jobbers are paying 4½ to 5c and selling at 5 to 5½c. Evaporated apples.—Not much doing and prices are easy; dealers are as a rule paying 8½ to 9c and quoting 9 to 9½c.

**Canned Goods.**—No new features have developed during the week. The good business noted a week ago appears to have been fairly well maintained, and prices are firm. The enquiry is chiefly for tomatoes and corn. Tomatoes sell as before at 35c to \$1. The recent expense in the police court regarding the soaked article seems for the moment to have affected the demand for canned peas, although not to any great extent. The trade expect however that business in this particular line will get down to a more legitimate basis now since the public have become enlightened through the recent legal proceedings. Prices rule as before at 85 to \$1 for ordinary and \$1.45 for sifted. Corn continues in the same active demand as noted a week ago, and stocks of this particular line are probably lighter than in either tomatoes or corn; ordinary are quoted at 85 to \$1 and extra at \$1.25. Beans are in fair demand and unchanged at 90c to \$1. Salmon, for the season, is in active demand; prices firm and unchanged, \$1.55 to \$1.65 for tails and \$1.70 to \$1.80 for flats being the idea for the first-class and red article, while a fairly good light pink can be obtained as low as \$1.30. Lobster is also in good demand for the season; \$2 to \$2.10 for tails and \$2.50 for flats are the ruling prices for good brands. Sardines are still attracting but small attention. Canned meats are beginning to move a little more briskly, and indications point to firm prices for the season. There is not much doing in peaches, and prices remain much as before at \$2.10 to \$2.25 for 2's and at \$3.25 to \$3.75 for 3's. Plums are in fair demand and unchanged at \$1.45 to \$1.55. Apples are in rather better demand than a week ago at 85 to \$1 for 3's and \$2 to \$2.25 for gallons.—*Greener, May 5.*

## The Real Estate Boom at Buffalo.

The Buffalo Courier says: "One who reads the newspapers which are printed in any of the prosperous villages within a hundred miles of Buffalo will often notice paragraphs and advertisements which show that the local capitalists have invested or are invited to invest in Buffalo real estate. In fact a hundred miles is by no means the limit of this sort of investment, and such cities as Auburn, Syracuse and Erie have their companies and Offices for operating in Buffalo lots, and so have such villages as Medina, Batavia, Albion, Olean, Honellsville, Mayville and many others.

"The way the money in these towns and in nearly all the smaller towns in western and Central New York and western Pennsylvania is being scraped together and sent to Buffalo for investment reminds one of the similar gathering up of local capital a quarter of a century ago

for investment in the newly opened oil fields of Pennsylvania. Oil investment became a craze. There were more companies than there have been wells since. Every company promised millions, and ninety-nine in one hundred of them sunk all the capital put into them, and never returned a cent. People had not then learned what a lottery the oil business is. Any plot of waste land in western Pennsylvania was thought sufficient basis for floating a company sure of as rich returns as those from the great Nobles oil well. In some cases noted business men, who wanted double certainty, were so foolish as to employ clairvoyants to tell them where to dig. The end of the matter was that all the small towns in these parts were literally 'cleaned out' of every dollar of their floating capital just as they had been twenty years earlier in equipping gold-digging expeditions for California. Now they have had time to accumulate another surplus, and they are putting it into Buffalo.

"The indications are very strong that this time they will make something—perhaps enough to replace the losses of '49 in the search for gold and of '69 in the search for oil. Buffalo really has already proved to many investors better than gold mines or oil wells, and according to all appearances there is more to be made hereafter than has been made heretofore. Real estate men say that up to date no losses have been made in Buffalo real estate. Some have not made as much as they had expected to make and some have struck it richer than others, but all have made something. Therefore let the twice cleaned-out village capitalists feel confidence and take comfort in their Buffalo investments, for, if not too far from the business center, they are likely to turn out well.

## Cut Nail Men Meet.

There was a quarterly meeting of the cut nail branch of the iron trade in Montreal on Monday last for the discussion of regular business. The representatives present were D. McLuttre, Ontario Rolling Mill Co.; J. Graham, Graham Nail Works; G. McCarty, Pillow, Hersey & Co.; W. Abbott, Abbott & Co.; Joseph Peck, Peck, Benny & Co.; and McMaster, Montreal Rolling Mill Co. The meeting had to consider a report to the effect that some of the manufacturers in the maritime provinces were cutting under the agreement. The complaint was based on the report of a traveller to the effect that representatives of makers down below instead of cutting adopted the device of betting the prospective buyer as the case might be \$25 or \$50 that they would not get the order. Those who attended the meeting, however, informed Hardware's representative that the story was without foundation, and that no such practices had occurred. The traveller in the case in point had simply been misinformed, for the maritime province men had satisfied the association that they were acting conscientiously. No change in the basis of cost was decided upon, the former rate \$2.25 f.o.b. Montreal and \$2.30 f.o.b. Toronto and Hamilton, and \$2.45 for the maritime provinces being confirmed.—*Hardware.*

## Crops in Iowa.

The weekly Iowa weather crop bulletin of May 6th says that for the third consecutive week the weather was cold and unfavorable. The first part of the month was exceptionally warm and favorable for seeding, and farmers made good progress. The last part was cold and stormy and retarded all field work, but conditions are more favorable than on May 1st 1892. Grass and Winter Grain have been benefited by the wet weather; but there are many reports of the rotting of small grain that had not germinated before the middle of April. Extent of damage cannot now be estimated. Reports from all parts of the State of the destruction of young Pigs by excessive cold and moisture, and it is probable that the spring Pig crop of Iowa will this year fall 20 to 25 per cent below the average.