

# THE CANADIAN GROCER

& GENERAL STOREKEEPER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY  
\$2.00 PER YEAR

Published in the interest of Grocers, Cannery, Produce and Provision Dealers  
and General Storekeepers.

Vol. VI.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 25, 1892.

No. 48

J. B. McLEAN, President. HUGH O. McLEAN, Sec.-Treas.

**THE J. B. McLEAN PUBLISHING COMPANY,**  
FINE MAGAZINE PRINTERS  
AND  
TRADE JOURNAL PUBLISHERS.

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Grocers everywhere are interested in the issue of the appeal in England from the Wolverhampton police court to the Queen's Bench Division, to test the right of the grocer to give gross weight in paper-wrapped goods. It will be remembered that the inspector of weights and measures in Wolverhampton had prosecuted several grocers for including the wrapping paper in the weight paid for by the consumer. The appeal of the Wolverhampton Grocers' Association resulted the other day in the reversal of the decision of the police magistrate, and the legal affirming of the grocer's right to weigh the wrapping paper in with the goods and get his quoted price on the gross weight.

The retail merchants of Montreal held a meeting on the 17th inst., and appointed a committee which was instructed to obtain legal advice as to the constitutionality of the business tax imposed in the Province of Quebec. The committee is to report this week. The business tax was bitterly denounced by several of the speakers for its unfairness to the merchants. There is some

talk of resisting the collecting of the tax. There appears to be a spirit of accommodation manifested by the provincial government, as all the collectors of revenue have been notified that they are to take no action for the collection of the obnoxious tribute until they are further advised.

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Down-town grocers and fruit dealers are glad to see the street cars running again on Yonge St. in this city. Probably some of the up-town merchants would just as soon the long interruption for paving and track construction had been lengthened out still more, as they owed a good deal of trade to the suspended service. The telephone does not always prove a satisfactory medium between buyer and seller. People like to examine certain classes of goods before they order them to be sent to the house. Hence, if they cannot conveniently get down town to buy such goods they will go to the up-town store. The preference that many people show for dealing in down-town stores is on account of the opportunity such trade affords for getting out. Shopping means spending an hour or two on the main thoroughfares. The street cars are a powerful auxiliary to the down-town merchants.

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Traders who have bought any considerable stock of brooms at current prices may make their minds easy as to the stability of the market, for there is no likelihood that they will be able to buy at lower figures during the present raw material crop year. There is a shortage in the yield of broom corn. The Kansas crop is entirely sold out and was 25 per cent short; the crop in Nebraska, also much below the average magnitude, has been all bought up; in Illinois there was a fairly good crop on the whole, but it was unequal, in some districts being excellent, in others poor. A wet spring delayed ploughing and planting in the low lands, and in

some places made it impossible to begin cultivation at all. The rolling land was all that the growers had to fall back upon. It was planted, but much of it was not ready until six weeks past the usual time. The crop, however, promised well on those higher lands, and would no doubt have turned out a good one if cold nights had not set in and changed the color. The fact that the broom corn crop was short excited the large dealers to take hold, and they bought up the greater part of it in a few weeks. Ninety per cent. of the total crop is said to be sold already, and quite a strong advance has been made in the corn, which is still very firm. The United States requirements call for 3,500 tons, but if this crop is not larger than last year's, that country's wants will not be completely filled. Last year there were only 27,000 tons available. The large broom corn men in Chicago are said to be sold out of raw material, as they sell to manufacturers as fast as they receive from the farmers. Some men in the broom manufacturing industry claim that the shortage in raw material would warrant an advance of from 20 to 30 per cent. on the brooms.

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The Chief Analyst of the Inland Revenue Department has prepared another bulletin on coffee, which has just been published. It gives the result of the chemical analysis and microscopical examination of 141 samples, collected in April, May and June, at various points in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. It shows that there is still a considerable proportion of adulterated coffee sold as pure, 39 of the specimens proving to be compounds of coffee and some other constituent, as chicory, coffee husk, beans, peas, starch, potato. But a comparison of this bulletin with that issued last spring shows either that a long stride has been made towards absolute purity or that the trade have been more cautious in dealing