

Montreal Grocery Market.

The easy tone to the sugar market noted in our last has continued, and we have to note a further decline of 1 16c in granulated. The above is, no doubt, due to the weak cables on beet, which note a drop of 4 1/4 on the week, now being quoted at 12 3/4. In New York the feeling has ruled steady and granulated is unchanged at 4 1 16c. The demand on spot has been good, and the market has been active with a large volume of business doing at 4 3 16c for round lots of granulated, and 4 1/2 for small quantities. Yellows are moving well at 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 as to quality at the factory, but we understand that the above inside figure has been shaded for low grades.

The market for syrup has continued to rule fairly active, there being a good demand for fair sized lots, and prices are steady at 2 to 2 1/2 for bright and 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 for ordinary.

The market for molasses has ruled somewhat quiet during the past week, owing to the fact that buyers are holding off some, on account of the large offerings from the island. A fair business is reported in small lots, and prices are about steady at 31c for car lots, and 32c for smaller quantities.

The demand for tea has been fair and the market has ruled moderately active and steady. There is a good enquiry for Japans, ranging from 10 to 12 1/2. Congos have also met with a fair sale and one lot of 250 packages is reported at 10 to 11c.

In rice a fair business is doing for this season at steady prices. We quote: Standard, \$3.50 to 3.75, Japan, \$3.75 to 4.25, and Patna, \$4.25 to 4.75.

In dried fruit the feature is the firmness of raisins under very light stocks. Ordinary off stalk Valencias in round lots are held firm at 4 1/2 net, while selected are very scarce and firm at 5 1/2 to 6c, and layers at 6 to 8 1/2c.

Currants rule easy under heavy stocks and holders have conceded a 1/2c without inducing much business. In barrels, we quote 3c, half barrels, 3 1/2c and quarter barrels, 3 3/4c.

There are fair quantities of prunes on the way, but spot supplies are very light and prices are firm at 5 1/2c.

The only new feature in the market for canned goods has been the decided improvement in the demand for canned apples, which is due to the great scarcity and high prices of the green article, and sales in consequence of canned have been large, and some round lots have sold at \$2.65 to 2.75 per dozen for gallons. The prospects for the sale of new packed salmon are very poor at present, owing to the fact that stocks of old all over the world are large, and the indications are that prices will rule very low. Lobsters are offering freely in a jobbing way at \$6 per case without meeting with buyers. For round lots this price would, no doubt, be shaded to some extent. We quote: Lobsters at \$6 to 6.50 per case; sardines at \$8.50 to 9.50; salmon at \$1.15 to 1.30 per box; tomatoes at 80 to 85c per dozen; peaches at \$2 to 2.10 per dozen; corn at 85 to 90c per dozen and marrowfat peas at 85 to 90c per dozen. — Gazette, April 20.

Nail Situation in Toronto.

"We have not made or shipped so many nails in any one week since the works have been established as we have during the past week," said a representative of the Graham Nail Works, in reply to a query of Hardware, "nor have we ever had so many inquiries for prices in the same time. This is to us conclusive proof that stocks throughout Ontario, Northwest Territories and British Columbia must be very light. We have heard of a few cases where Montreal nails have been sold in the West since the drop in price, but the dealer was led to believe we would not meet the figure. We wish you to inform the trade that such is not the case. We make a full line of cut nails, clinch nails, coopers' nails,

and both bright and blued wire nails, and the quality of our nails is so well established that we do not have any trouble in selling them. We are surprised that some of the wholesale houses in the West are trying to induce people to buy Montreal nails in preference to ours; but the trade will study their interests by writing us for prices before placing their orders. One or two of our friends feel sore already, and they will think twice before again placing orders with firms who do not handle our nails. We naturally think that the Ontario dealers should buy Ontario made nails, especially when we can give them the best nail made in Canada at the same price they can buy in Montreal."

"How does the sale of cut compare with wire nails?"

"Well, cut nails are cheaper than wire, and the consumer knows now that they hold better than wire, so that it is hardly necessary to say we ship very many more cut nails than wire nails. We are making a blued wire nail which holds a great deal better than bright, but all the same the cut nails are having the best of it."

"Do you think nails will be any cheaper?"

"We do not see how they can unless the Government removes the duty on the raw material, and this is fixed for some time to come, the tariff having just lately been revised."

"Do you think nails will go up in price to the extent that they might under the present tariff?"

"Ask me something easy. No doubt the makers would put up the price if some satisfactory arrangement could be made." — Toronto Hardware.

Duty on Outlery.

The Montreal Importers of outlery have forwarded the following petition to Ottawa, regarding the duty on table outlery.

To the Honorable George E. Foster, Minister of Finance:—

The Importers of outlery respectfully desire to draw your attention to the proposed increase in the rate of duty on table outlery, from 25 to 32 1/2 per cent, asking you to reconsider the matter, and allow the duty to remain at the 25 per cent. rate.

The increase in the rate of duty will have but little effect, if any, in stimulating the consumption of home made goods, as the demand for Sheffield made goods exists and must be supplied, and in any event only the common and cheap class can be furnished by the home manufacturer, and that only to a limited extent, while the increased cost will apply to all classes of table outlery, of which the cheap class is but a small proportion in value. The increase in duty will therefore involve a heavy tax upon a class of goods which must be imported from Sheffield, as such are not made in Canada, and are not likely to be made in this country under any condition.

One effect in the advance in duty will be to increase the cost of all table outlery to the consumer, and this will bear most heavily upon the farmer and laboring class, and the users generally of the cheaper grades of knives and forks, whose purchases are, of necessity, of cheap qualities, which last but a short time in use compared with better qualities, and consequently the user of cheap goods will have to pay the advance in cost several times over as compared with the user of better qualities of goods.

It is an acknowledged fact that table outlery could not be made in the United States until an abnormally high rate of duty was imposed, and even when this had been done only the cheaper qualities could be manufactured there, while the better class of goods had still to be imported from Sheffield in the face of a duty intended to be prohibitory.

It is also an acknowledged fact that Germany, with the cheapest labor of any civilized country, has never been able to supply its own home market with table outlery and is dependent upon Sheffield for its supplies.

In view of the foregoing reasons we respectfully request that you will give the matter your serious consideration.

The memorial was signed by all except two firms who, however, it is said, expressed their approval.

The Tariff on Dry Goods.

One of the greatest requests of the trade was for a simplification of the tariff. This has been secured to a certain extent, but not by any means to the degree desired. Specifications have been abolished in nearly every case, and all classes of goods are under an ad valorem duty. This is simplification. Another example is furnished by serges. Dress serges were formerly 25 per cent, while men's serges came in as woollens, and paid 20 per cent and 10 cents per pound; now both are 30 per cent, and men's serges need no longer be entered as dress goods to save duty. Again, take Italian cloth. Under the old tariff wool Italian cloths paid 23 1/2, 25 or 27 1/2 per cent, according to quality, while cotton Italian cloths paid 32 1/2 per cent. Under the new tariff they all pay 30 per cent. These are but examples of the simplification which is being introduced into the schedules.

Another feature noticeable, but which might have been more so, is that unfinished goods pay less duty than finished goods. Cotton in hanks pays 2 1/2 per cent more than formerly, while spools remain the same. This is a decrease in protection to the Canadian spooling factories, and thread is likely to be advanced as a consequence.

The ready-made clothing men seem to have struck a serious snag. The duty is now 32 1/2 per cent ad valorem, as against the old duty of 10c per lb and 25 per cent. This old duty seems to have corresponded to the old duty on woollens of 10c per lb and 20 per cent. The new duty on woollens is 30 per cent and on manufactured clothing 32 1/2 per cent. That is, they have 2 1/2 per cent less protection than before, while the duty on thread has been increased. This is a case where we agree with the dry goods section of the Toronto board of trade, that this class of manufacturers should have at least 10 per cent protection, that is 10 per cent over any duties on cloth and other raw material. This would be protection not only for the manufacturer, but also directly for the Canadian workman. The German labor which we have to compete with in this class of goods should be taxed—or if not taxed, wages will be seriously depressed, and no thinking and observing person can deny that wages are low enough already in this branch of industry, and that the sweating system has already made deep enough inroads into this country. Pearl buttons have been changed from an ad valorem to a specific duty—a retrograde step. Under this schedule pearl buttons costing 15c a gross pay a duty 73.3 per cent, while buttons costing \$15 per gross pay only 20.5 per cent. The very cheapest pearls are not made in this country, the cheapest price being 60c per gross. This is one of the cases where the tariff discriminates in favor of the rich for the protection of a Canadian industry.

On collars, cuffs and shirts the duty has been slightly reduced, but the principle of specific duties maintained. The trend of the changes are right, but the degree of the change might have been greater without seriously crippling any industry.

The umbrella duty remains 25 per cent. There has been considerable discussion on this point, and the dry goods importers have declared themselves in favor of 20 per cent. The difference is not very great, and as umbrella tubes pay 15 per cent, and as there are a large number of persons employed in the making of domestic umbrellas, we cannot see that this duty is so very objectionable. There are certainly other things more objectionable, e.g., the specific duties which yet remain.