

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The acreage planted in beans in Michigan and Canada has been much decreased. In Wisconsin farmers planted much less than usual, owing to the low prices last season.

A letter from Eastport, Me., dated July 31st, states that there are no sardine fish anywhere on the coast and no prospect of any for some time to come, the porgies having driven them off.

There are 150 salt-producing establishments in the United States, and during 1896 there were placed on the market in that country 15,671,015 barrels of salt, 280 pounds to the barrel.

The New Brunswick cherry crop is hardly going to be up to the average this year, according to St. John papers. At the present there are very few of the luscious fruit sufficiently ripe for picking. The Nova Scotia crop is also a failure.

Elsewhere we show that shipments of cheese keep up well, being much ahead of last year to date. The export of butter from Montreal has amounted to 44,619 packages since the opening of navigation this season. That of last year to corresponding date was 19,147 packages.

On Monday last two large schooner cargoes of cod (schooners "Theresa" and "Victoria")—several thousand quintals in all—that were at Halifax Market wharf, were purchased, one each, by N. & M. Smith and R. I. Hart. Fish now oscillates in the neighborhood of \$3 a quintal.

Messrs. McWilliam & Everist quote the prices of watermelons at Toronto 20 to 25 cents each. They announce Canadian peaches at 50 to 60 cents per basket, and Canadian cooking cherries at 60 to 75 cents per basket. California Crawford peaches, also pears, plums and grapes, are in the market.

In New York on the 4th inst., California dried prunes were firmer and there was a firmer feeling. More interest was being shown in California dried fruits by both home and export buyers. The inquiry was chiefly for forward shipment. Stocks of desirable quality on the spot are reported to be small.

The Glucose Sugar Refining Company, with an authorized capital stock of \$40,000,000, has been incorporated in New Jersey. The company is empowered to make sugar from corn, and also to manufacture all the products and by-products of corn. Among the incorporators is F. O. Matthiessen, New York, the big sugar refiner.

The circular of Hills Brothers, dated July 31st, have the following regarding the currant situation: "Demand continues fair, but mostly for small lots, as dealers seem inclined to work from hand to mouth; from present appearances there will be little, if anything, remaining here by the time the new crop arrives. Latest advices from Greece indicate a middling crop, and variously estimated from 140,000 to 150,000 pounds."

Rice was firm in New York on Wednesday, Japan quoting 4½c. and Java 4½c. The demand for domestic was quiet, as the orders received were exclusively of the hand-to-mouth character usual at the tail of a crop, jobbers generally holding off awaiting for free offerings of the new crop; prices were quoted unchanged and steady, as dealers held only limited stocks and showed no disposition to hurry business.

New York has been distanced by Montreal as a cheese-shipping port. Last week's New York shipments of cheese were 21,899 boxes; those of Montreal for the same period were 110,880 boxes. The last-mentioned quantity was despatched to London, Bristol, Liverpool, Leith and several other ports. Thus far this season Montreal has exported 215,000 boxes more than up to same date 1896.

The remarkable run of salmon on the Fraser River was still in progress on Tuesday last, and all the canneries had placed a limit on the number to be taken from each boat. The fishermen usually only make one drift, and catches of 200 and 300 fish are quite common, while 654 fish were caught in one drift on Monday night. Large quantities of salmon are being salted and as a result salt has jumped in price from \$11 to \$35 per ton.

Large quantities of fruit arrived by steamer "Olivette" last night from Boston, says the *Halifax Recorder* of 2nd August, California Bartlett's selling at \$3 a box; Georgia Delaware grapes, \$3 a crate; water melons, 35c. each; apples, \$3.50 to \$4 a barrel; pineapples, good-sized, about 15c.; cukes, 3½c. each; bananas, \$1.75 to \$2.25; oranges, Messinas, \$4.50 a box, 160 count; Valencias, \$9 a case, 400; lemons, \$6 to \$7 a case. These prices are considered very fair.

A dodge which we do not remember to have heard referred to in the annals of Canadian smuggling is that of hollowing out logs of wood and filling the hollow with tobacco. The customs officials at Havana, Cuba, examined eight out of a consignment of 155 logs, which reached that port on the steamer "Seguranca," and were placed in the custody of the police at the Tallapiedra wharf. They were found to have been

packed with fine Sumatra leaf tobacco. If the remainder of the logs contain an amount of tobacco proportionate to that found in those already examined (over 9,000 lbs.), the total shipments of tobacco will probably reach 4,000 kilos. The logs, it is said, were shipped by a Maine lumber company.

Even in the halcyon regions of California such happy and philosophic persons as fruit-growers are speculators. The *San Francisco Country Merchant* pitches into them after this fashion: "Our raisin-growers have been busy making asses of themselves by holding organized meetings to protest against short sales of the coming crop by certain shippers at very low prices. An incurable ignorance of commercial principles appears to have got hold of our fruit producers. We found exactly the same disease amongst the orange-growers of the southern portion of the State. Afflicted with that species of rabies they are incapable of learning that while conventions and caucuses may be excellent in politics, applied to a commercial commodity they simply convince everybody that the market is rotten, and has no other foundation than bluff and intimidation. Regarded from a genuine commercial point of view (and no other will be found to work) short sales at low prices are the very best thing on earth for a product about to come on the market. Such low prices have the effect of warding off foreign competition and of stimulating investment."

ABOUT DRY GOODS.

On Saturday last there reached New York per West Shore road 370 bales of raw and manufactured silk from Japan, via Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Silk Association of America issues a monthly report of the imports of silk manufactures at the port of New York during the month of July in three years. In July, 1895, the value was \$1,921,980; in July, 1896, it had fallen to \$1,672,276; and last month (in which there were five weeks) it reached \$2,419,550.

A cable of Monday last from Manchester, England, says of yarns that the home demand is very quiet, though prices are very firm. Cloth also is firm, but this is due to the fact that a large number of looms are idle and the output is restricted. Eastern staples are suffering from the fluctuating exchanges. The German market is very dull, and already begins to feel the effect of over-production.

The American print cloth market rules firm, and the feeling in cottons generally is cheerful. Sales of contracts of print cloths are reported by the *New York Journal of Commerce* as 84,000 pieces deliverable in August, 40,000 in September, 9,000, 4,000 and 2,000 in October, November and December respectively. The reported stocks for the week ended Saturday last were as under, compared with those for the corresponding week the previous two years:

	1895.	1896.	1897.
At Fall River, 64s.	66,000	1,002,000	1,040,000
At Fall River, odds ..	108,000	663,000	
At Providence, 64s. ..	186,000	340,000	
Total	360,000	2,005,000	1,540,000

Although Japanese cotton goods are generally inferior in quality to those made in Manchester, they are said to be largely superseding English goods in Corea. The British consul there states that the imports of these goods dropped from £495,968 in 1895 to £361,664 in the following year, a decrease which arose almost entirely from diminished British imports. The Japanese imports amounted to £126,000, where four years ago the imports from Japan were only £5,000 in value, and from this it is evident that Japanese goods have not only got a foothold in the country, but have come to stay, for the Japanese manufacturer has proved a successful imitator, and his goods commend themselves by their cheapness and the attention which has been paid to the requirements of the Korean market.

It is stated respecting the rhea fibre, that many experiments have been tried for the prize of 50,000 rupees (not far from \$20,000) offered by the Indian Government for a process or machine which would, at reasonable cost, separate the delicate fibre of the rhea from the bark without injury. The Indian authorities now consider the problem solved by an English chemist, Gomess, who uses zincate of soda for the elimination of the resins, which is effected without injury to the delicate fibres. The ribbons or strips of bark, after being freed from dirt, are placed in a weak acid bath for a night, and are then passed through a mild bath of caustic soda to which zinc has been applied. The fibres are then washed and dried mechanically, and emerge as a long silky filasse, free from cuticle or gums, ready for the spinning comb. They take dyes beautifully, and are suitable for all kinds of fabrics, from cheap drills to gorgeous velvets or delicate laces, and peculiarly adapted for tents and sails, combining great strength with lightness and elasticity.