

Grocery Prices at Toronto.

Lugars, Syrups and Molasses.—Syrups more active. Molasses have not been so active; business has chiefly been in Porto Rico at 38c in hogsheads, 40c in barrels and 42c in halves. Sugars—Granulated, 1 to 15 bbls. 7½c; do. 15 bbls. and over 7c; Paris lump, boxes, 7½c; extra ground bbls. 8½c; do. boxes or less than bbls. 8½c; powdered, bbls. 7½c; do. less than bbls., 7½c; refined, dark to bright, 5½ to 6½.

Teas and Coffees.—There is a continued good demand for teas. Somewhat more interest than usual is being taken in the annual announcement that an import duty will be put on tea. It is now asserted that the sugar duties will be reduced and that the deficiency thus caused in the revenue will be made up by a tea duty. Stocks of low grade teas in the hands of wholesale merchants and brokers are much lighter than usual. Low grade Japans are particularly scarce, and there has been more enquiry for Young Hysons to take their place. Low grade Congous are firm at 16 to 18c. Japans are quoted at 18 to 20c and Young Hyson at 19 to 20c. Coffees quiet but firm. Rio, 22 to 23c; Jamaica, 22 to 23c; Java, 26 to 35c, and Mocha, 29 to 35c.

Rices and Spices.—Rices are firm and in good demand, but offered sparingly. Spices are quiet. Rice, bags, 3½ to 4½c per lb.; do. Patna, 6½ to 6¾c; do. Carolina, 8 to 8½c; sago, 5½ to 6c; tapioca, 6½ to 7c; pepper, black, 22 to 25c; do. white, 25 to 40c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 30c; cloves, 25 to 40c; allspice, 12 to 15c; nutmegs, 95c to \$1.20; cream tartar, 25 to 50c.

Dried Fruits.—Currants—Barrels, new, 6½ to 6¾c; half barrels, 6½ to 6¾c; Vostizza, new, cases, 6½ to 9c. Raisins—Valencias, 6½ to 6¾c; do. selects, 7½ to 8c; do. layers, 8½ to 9c; Sultanas, 16 to 18c; London layers, \$3 to \$3.25; black baskets, \$3.75 to \$4; blue baskets, \$4.75 to \$5; Dehesa, \$5.50 to \$6; Muscatel, \$2.25 to \$3.40. Prunes—Cases, 8½ to 10c; hogsheads and bags, 7½ to 7¾c. Figs—Natural bags, 5½ to 6c; Malaga mats, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Eleenes, 10 to 20 lbs. 12½ to 16c; do., 22 to 60 lbs., 15 to 20. Dates—Hallowee, 5½ to 6½c. Nuts—Almonds, Tarragona, 15 to 16c; Ivica, 14 to 14½c; filbeats, Sicily, 10½ to 11c; walnuts, Greenobles, 15½ to 16½c; Marbots, 12 to 13c; Bordeaux, 11½c.

Canned Goods—Fish—Salmon, 1's flat, \$1.60 to \$1.65; do, 1's tall, \$1.35 to \$1.55; lobster, clover leaf, \$2.75; do., other 1's, \$1.95 to \$2.20; mackerel, \$1.40 to \$1.50; sardines, French, 1's, 9 to 11; do., 1's, 14 to 22c; do., American, 1's, 6 to 8c; do, 1's, 9c. Fruits and vegetables—Corn, 2's \$1.10 to \$1.20; corn, cream, 3's, \$1.75 to \$1.80; peas, 2's, \$1.20 to \$1.25; strawberries, 2's, \$2.25 to \$2.40; tomatoes, 3's, \$1.35 to \$1.40; apples, 3's, \$1.05; gallons, \$2.90 to \$3; peaches, 2's, \$2.50 to \$2.65; peaches, 3's, \$3.50 to \$3.75; plums, 2's, \$1.85 to \$2.25; pears, 2's, \$2 — *Empire*, March 20.

Owing to a considerable quantity of out of condition stuff in the shape of Valencia raisins having been offered at Montreal by New York parties, says the *Trade Bulletin*, the market has been demoralized. Such qualities can be bought at 5½c per lb, and some say even less. Good to prime brands, however, cannot be reached under 6 to 6½c per lb. In currants a fair sale of Provincials has been made at 5½c in barrels. Cable advices from Patras show an advance in prices with prospects of a still further rise.

British Columbia Trade Letter.

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

VANCOUVER, March 23.—Business good, and general improvement is noticeable, although spring has not fairly arrived. There is nothing in shipping. Freight traffic between Vancouver and Victoria is very heavy. In lumber the local demand is good owing to the activity in building all through the province; but foreign shipments are light. The largest sealing fleet ever sent out of British Columbia is in the northern waters. The catch so far is light but not at all indicative of the season's success. Consequent upon the advance east and south flour has gone up considerably and feed has also an upward tendency. Eastern consignments of butter have ceased owing to the opening of the trade in the California article, which at this season and often earlier makes its appearance here. The salmon market is depressed and is said to be likely to continue so for some time as the large pack of the two previous years has exceeded the world's demand. The shortage of the world's wheat market reported by London papers is likely to act as a great stimulus to the industry in this Province, and this fall it will be found that the market will be largely supplied from home grown products. Good eggs are in demand, but the market has been affected by an effort to clean out old stocks. Fresh eggs are more plentiful than in previous years at this time.

Proceedings of the provincial legislature have been unusually tame during the past few days. The land bill and school bill have been productive of the most unfavorable criticism, as not in the interests of the people, and it is confidently predicted by the opposition that the legislature will have to be remodelled at next session, similar to what was done this session with the mining and railway acts of last session. A good deal of time has been consumed over the union miners' processions at Whilington which the government has undertaken to put an end to, and the snowballing at Northfield of the funeral of one of the non-union miners by some women and children, said to be encouraged by the union strikers. The former involves the principle of the right of processions of the kind, orderly in themselves, but the latter of course was reprehensible their importance, however, from a political standpoint seems to be considerable owing to the amount of time consumed and the attention paid to them. Speaking of the union miners, an effort is being made all along the coast to declare a boycott on the Dunsmuir mines, in which there are now from 160 to 200 non-union miners at work. Tully Boyce, the president of the union, says the only object of the Dunsmuir's was to break the back of the union. The tendency to consolidation, noticeable everywhere, has spread this far. In addition to the combinations, previously referred to, in the salmon canneries and lumber business, the breweries of the Island have been consolidated and have gone into the hands of an English syndicate.

Here, as elsewhere, preparations are being made to take the census. The difficulties of this, in this province, are obviously much greater than any other part of Canada, and doubtless special provisions will have to be made as to pay and expenses, or otherwise some trouble will be experienced in getting the work done outside of the cities.

Preparations for building, all over the pro-

vince, are extensive and the aggregate will be greater than ever before.

Prices are about as follows:—

Butter—Creamery, 29c; dairy, 20 to 24c for first-class quality and from 10 to 20c for second quality. Fresh California butter is now on the market at 30c per pound. Cheese, 12 to 13c.

Meats—Dry salt, 10½c; roll bacon, 10½c; breakfast bacon, 12½c.

Lard—Firm, in tubs, 11½c; in pails, 12c; in tins, 12½c; Chicago compound, 12c.

Sugars—B. C. Sugar Refinery, granulated, 7½c; yellow, 6½c.

Flour, grain and feed—Flour, Manitoba Patents, \$6.50; Manitoba Bakers, \$5.75; Oregon Valley, \$5.50; Spokane, \$5.25; Lily, \$5. Cornmeal, \$2.60 per sack; rolled oats \$3.75. Oatmeal, \$3.25 to \$3.75; oil cake is firm at \$4.00 per ton; shorts, \$26 per ton; bran, \$21; wheat, \$37.50 to \$40; oats \$35; hay, \$17 to \$18.

Vegetables—Potatoes, \$23 to \$24; Ashcroft potatoes, \$30 per ton; onions, Oregon, \$8.50 per 100 pounds; carrots and turnips \$10 to \$15 per ton; California cabbage, 3c per pound.

Eggs—Eastern pickled eggs, 10c. Some fresh eggs from Washington have been brought in during the week, and found a ready sale at 27 to 28c per dozen.

Fruits.—Oranges, Washington Navels, \$4.50 to \$4.75; per box; best Riverside seedlings, \$3; second quality seedlings, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Los Angeles, \$2.75; San Gabrielle, \$2.50. Sicilian lemons \$7 to \$8 per box; California, do., \$4. Washington apples are quoted at \$2 to \$2.25 per box.

Nuts—Quotations are as follows: Walnuts, 18c per pound; almonds, 22c; filberts, 20 to 22c; peanuts, 13 to 14c.

Dried Fruits—Seedlings Saltanas, \$3 per box. London layers, \$3.25; dried grapes, 8c per pound; black figs, 10c; white figs, 20c; evaporated apricots, 25c; evaporated peaches, 29c; pitted plums, 16c; prunes, 16c.

THE C. P. R. roundhouse at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., was burned on Monday morning, together with an express engine, which could not be got out. Loss, \$40,000.

The manner in which cheese has been taken from Canadian holders this season on English account, says the *Montreal Trade Bulletin*, has been most satisfactory, the demand having assumed a steady call from the beginning of the year up to the present time at steadily advancing prices. This week there have been several sales on this market at 10½ to 11½c, one lot of 1,000 boxes being placed over the cable at above the outside quotation but equal to 11½c here, the other transactions being spot. For local account a good sized lot of colored was taken at 12c.

The January receipts of grain at all primary markets in the United States were 24,149,480 bu, against 36,770,366 last year, a decrease of 34.3 per cent, and for February 20,284,210 bu. against 29,683,251 bu., a decrease of 31.6 per cent. This slender movement, in view of the prices of corn and oats, is strong evidence that the supply is reduced to the minimum limit, and larger shipments cannot be depended upon for the coming months. Of wheat the interior receipts for January were 7,842,948 bu, against 6,273,397 bu last year, an increase of 25 per cent, and for February 5,684,750 bu against 4,170,614 bu, an increase of 36.3 per cent,