

QUEBEC MARKETS.

MONTREAL, October 9, 1901.

GROCERIES.

TRADE does not show much change from last week except that retailers show more inclination to buy dry fruits, now that they can feel pretty sure that the market is stable. Valencia raisins have declined somewhat this week, but the market is firmer again and prices here are not affected to any great extent. Currants are about steady. We understand that some concessions are being allowed on walnuts, but the market is very steady. There is still but little interest taken in canned foods of all kinds. Vegetables are obtainable at former prices and dealers show no eagerness to buy salmon. Spices are all firm and Japan tea is cabled somewhat higher. One of the leading features of the week is the drop in sugar and its continued weakness.

SUGAR.

The drop that materialized in the sugar market last week has not served to steady it any, as dealers are looking for further reductions to a cent at any moment. The raw sugar markets do not seem to show any tendency to recover from their depression and it is felt that the refined prices must come down to a proportionate level. Wholesalers report the demand only fairly good, dealers buying only from hand to mouth. The price of refined is \$4.30 for granulated and \$3.45 to \$4.20 for yellows, as to grade, per 100 lb. City 5c. extra.

TEAS.

The latest cable news from Japan is to the effect that prices are advancing, and have already recovered the decline that took place some weeks ago, putting quotations back to where they were at the opening of the season. Locally, there is not much life to the tea business, although a fair trade is reported by the wholesale houses.

SYRUPS.

There has been a moderate demand for syrup during the past week at unchanged prices. We quote: 3¼c. in bbls., 3¾c. in ½-bbls., 3½c. in ¼-bbls.; \$1.50 in 38½-lb. and \$1.10 in 25-lb. pails.

CANNED GOODS.

In spite of the continued reports about a short pack of vegetables, in spite of the advance made by the syndicate, and in spite of the fact that wholesalers have not yet advanced prices, there is little or no speculative demand for canned goods, and there is many a dealer who firmly believes that we shall yet see lower prices. Where he can find a basis for such a prophecy is hard to conceive. It seems that after the

heavy decline of last year no one has any confidence in the stability of the canned goods market. At present dealers are offering tomatoes at 82½ to 87½c., corn at 77½ to 82½c., and peas at 80 to 95c. There is nothing fresh to report in regard to canned fruits, which are unchanged.

There is little or no interest being taken in salmon, no change in prices coming from the Coast. Deliveries of contracts are now coming to hand. It seems that the standard brands will not be reduced, as the packers of these goods have but little surplus stock and do not wish to bear the value of all the goods they have shipped just to get quickly rid of a few thousand cases. No private brands of Fraser River sockeye are offered below \$4 to the jobber or \$5 to the retailer. Rivers Inlet salmon is quoted at \$4.80. It is now reported that there is a short run of humpback fish, but this will likely have little influence on prices. Kipperd herring, domestic and imported, is now in stock, the former worth \$1 per doz., the latter \$1.50 to \$1.60 for plain, and \$1.40 to \$1.50 in tomato sauce.

SPICES.

The latest New York advice is to the effect that the visible supplies of pepper, mace, pimento, cassia and ginger, are steadily decreasing. The prospects are favorable for an exceedingly large demand for consumption during the next 60 days, and "materially higher prices are certainly most probable." Nutmegs are still rather weak. We quote as follows: Nutmegs, 35 to 65c. per lb., as to size; Penang mace, 45 to 50c. per lb., as to quality; pimento, ground, 12½ to 15c.; cloves, 15 to 25c.; pepper, ground, black, 17 to 20c., according to grade; white, 25 to 27c.; ginger, whole, Cochin, 14 to 16c.; Japan, 10c.; Jamaica, 20c.; ground, Japan, 15c.; Cochin, 16c.; Jamaica, 25c.

RICE AND TAPIOCA.

Tapioca remains very firm and values are advancing. Otherwise there is no change. We quote in combine district: B rice, in bags, \$3.10; in ½ bags, \$3.15; in ¼ bags, \$3.20; in pockets, \$3.25. In 10-bag lots an allowance of 10c. is made. CC rice, \$3 in bags; \$3.05 in ½ bags; \$3.10 in ¼ bags; and \$3.15 in pockets. In the open territory prices are about 10c. less. Patna rice is worth 4¾c. per lb., and tapioca, 3¼ to 3¾c.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.

VALENCIA RAISINS—There is still some old fruit to be sold; it is now offered at \$1 per box, but is much candied. New Valencia raisins that are on the market are worth 6 to 7c., according to grade. For fruit to come by the second direct steamer, prices are rather unsteady, with an easy

tendency, a decline of 6d. to 1s. being recorded this week. The latest turn was upward. Prices for second steamer are about 1s. below those for the first. Dealers are quoting 5½ to 5¾c., according to brand, for fine off-stalk on the Escalona, and as low as 4¾c. for goods off the Bellona, to arrive three weeks later. Selected are ¾c. higher. Four-crown layers are selling at 6¼ to 6¾c.

CURRENTS—For fine off stalk Filiatras, in barrels and half-barrels to arrive, 5c. is asked; uncleaned, in half-cases, 5¾c.; cleaned, in half-cases, 6c.; cleaned in 1-lb. cartons, 8c., and finest Vostizza currants, 7¾ to 8¾c. The currant market is steady and retailers are placing their orders freely.

SULTANA RAISINS—New goods are being offered at 8 to 9c.

FIGS—Good sales of figs are reported on all sides, particularly for table figs. Some new goods have already arrived, and are selling well. In tapnets, Comadre figs are worth 3¼ to 3¾c. Eleme figs are worth 8 to 9½c. per lb. in 10 to 12-lb. boxes.

PRUNES—There are still some old prunes to be had, and they are selling freely. To arrive prunes are worth 7¾c. for 40 50's, 7¼c. for 50 60's, 7c. for 60 70's, 6¾c. for 70 80's, 6c. for 80 90's and 5½c. for 90-100's. Some old 90-100's are obtainable at 4¼c.

CALIFORNIA RAISINS—Some old 4-crown raisins are obtainable at 7½c. New seeded raisins are being offered at 9½ to 10c., and loose muscatels at 6½ to 7c.

PEELS—English peels for future delivery are worth 9½ to 10c. for lemon, 10 to 10½c. for orange and 14c. for citron.

NUTS.

It is said that this week importers have been offered some concessions on Grenobles. Prices are unchanged for new crop nuts. Grenobles are worth 10½ to 11c. to arrive, Sicily filberts, 8 to 8¾c.; Tarragona almonds, 10½ to 11c., and shelled almonds, 25c. Last year's shelled walnuts are worth 16 to 17c.

GREEN FRUITS.

Business is very active in seasonable fruits, particularly apples and grapes. A few peaches and plums are still coming to the market. Jamaica oranges are a little lower this week. Malaga grapes are now on the market as well as cranberries and sweet potatoes. We quote as follows: Californian Valencias, \$5 to \$6 per box; Jamaica oranges, \$5.50 per bbl.; Messina lemons, 300's, \$2.50 to \$3.50; 360's, \$2.50 per box; Verduli lemons, \$3.75 to \$4.75 per box; pineapples, 20 to 30c.; Canadian apples, 15 to 30c. per basket; Californian plums, \$1 to \$2 per box; peaches, \$1 to \$1.25; limes, \$1.50 per box; Ontario