

Toronto Grocery Market.

There is really no new features in the grocery trade. The jobbing houses are stock-taking and retailers are not buying but a few odds and ends. There is almost nothing doing. Payments have been rather better notwithstanding the holidays; no doubt many retailers were anxious to close up all the accounts possible at the end of the year.

Sugars, syrups and molasses—Though there is no demand there is a better feeling in the market, as refiners are stiffer in their views. Sugars—Granulated, 1 to 15 bbls, 5c; do., 15 bbls. and over, 4½c; grocers' A, 1 to 15 bbls, 4½c; do., 15 bbls. and over, 4½c; Paris lump, boxes, 5½ to 5¾; extra ground bbls, 5½; do, boxes or less than bbls, 5½; powdered bbls 5½c; do, less than bbls, 5½ to 5¾; refined, dark to bright, 3½ to 4½c; Trinidad, raw, 3½ to 4c; Demerara, 4½ to 4¾c. Syrups—D., 2½ to 2¾c; V., 2½ to 2¾c; B., 2½ to 2¾c; V. B., 2½ to 2¾c; E. V. B., 2½ to 3c; ex-super, 3 to 3½c; XX., 3½c to 3¾c; XXX and special, 3¾ to 3½c. Molasses—West Indian, bbls 30 to 45c; New Orleans, 28 to 35c; fancy, 45 to 50c.

Teas and coffees—A good movement has been going on in fine blacks at 50 to 60c, and greens at 40 to 50c, but other grades are very dull. Coffees in fair demand, at unchanged prices. Prices are. Rios, 18 to 20c; Jamaica, 18½ to 20c; Java, 27c to 32c; Mocha, 29 to 33c; Porto Rico, 25 to 28c.

Dried fruits—Currants—Barrels, new, 5½ to 6c; half barrels, 5½ to 6½c; cases, 6½ to 6¾c; Vostizza, new, cases, 7 to 10c; Patras, bbls, 7 to 7½c; half bbls, 7½ to 7¾c; cases, 7½ to 7¾c. Raisins—Valencias, 5½ to 6c; do, selected, 7½ to 8c; layers, 8½ to 9c; Sultanas, 10 to 13c; London layers, \$2.25 to 2.50; black baskets, \$3.50 to \$3.75; do ½ boxes, \$1.20; blue baskets \$4 to \$4.50; finest Dehessas, \$4.75 \$5; do ½ boxes, \$2; muscatel, 2 cr, \$2.25; do 3 cr, \$3. Figs.—Elenes, 10 lbs and up, 11 to 16c. Malaga 56 lb bags, 5 to 5½c; natural bags, 4½ to 5½; Dates —Hallowee, 3½ to 6½c. Nuts —Almonds, Tarragona, new, 13½c to 15c; Ivica, 14 to 15c; do, shelled Valencia, 29 to 35 cents; filberts, Sicily, 10½ to 11c. Walnuts, Grenoble, 14 to 15c.

Canned goods—Fish Salmon, 1's, flat, \$1.60 to \$1.70; salmon, 1's tall, \$1.35 to \$1.45; lobster, Clover leaf, \$2.95; lobster, other 1's, \$2.10 to \$2.30; mackerel, \$1 to \$1.10; sardines, French, 1's, 40c; sardines, French, ½'s, 17c; sardines, American, ½'s, 6 to 8c; sardines, American, ½'s 9c. Fruits and vegetables—Tomatoes, 3's, \$1.05 to \$1.10; Corn, 2's, \$1.00 to \$1.05; corn, 3's, \$1.50 to \$1.60; peas, 2's, \$1.10 to \$1.25; beans, \$1; pumpkins, 85c to \$1; strawberries and raspberries, 2's, \$2.25 to \$2.40; peaches, 2's, \$1.90 to \$2.10; peaches, 3's, \$2.75 to \$3.50; plums, 2's, \$1.45 to \$1.65; 3's, \$2.60; pears, 2's, \$1.90 to \$2.00; pears, 3's, \$2.90 to \$3.

Rice, spices, etc—Rice, bags, 3½ to 4½c; do., off grades, 3½ to 3¾c; do, Patna, 6½ to 6¾c; do, Japan, 4½ to 5½c; Carolina, 8 to 8½c; sago, 3½ to 4½c; tapioca, 4½ to 6c; pepper, black, 12 to 15c; do, white, 18 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 30c; cloves, 15 to 20c; allspice, 12 to 15c; nutmegs, 90c. to \$1.10; cream tartar, 25c. to 35c.

Peels—Demand dull, but values are firm at 16 to 18c for lemon, 16½ to 18c for orange and 25 to 28c for citron.—*Empire*, January 2.

The Deterioration of Wheat.

The greatest problem in milling is the general improvement of our wheat. As the quality of our milling systems and machinery has improved, the quality of our wheat has deteriorated. There is much truth in the boasts of old millers that good stone flour of a quarter of a century ago would compare favorably with the average of roller flour now. It is as true that the wheat of the present could not be handled at all now with the crude apparatus of the old system as that really good wheat produces much better flour now than good wheat did with the old process. In the older States the soil has become, or is becoming, exhausted, the berry is not so plump nor its nutrient qualities so strong. American farming methods have been careless, and tons of the richest material have been taken off the lands where pounds have been put back into them. The principal reason why spring wheat flour is stronger in gluten is owing to the virgin richness of the soil. But even now deterioration is evident in the older spring wheat districts, and the time will surely come when the spring wheat will lose its pre-eminence for strength, as it has successively been lost by New York, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Climate may modify this somewhat, but it cannot prevent the final deterioration of wheat in all sections unless farmers become wiser, and apply measures that will keep up the strength of their soils. Improvement is noticeable in many sections, and it is also noticeable that the mills in those sections are the ones that produce the best flour at the least expense.—*Millstone*.

Railway Construction in 1891.

From statistics compiled by the *Railway Age* and *Northwestern Railroader* it appears that while 1891 has been a comparatively dull year as regards railway construction, new track has been laid in forty-three States and Territories, on 249 lines and branches, to an aggregate of 4,168 miles. This increases the railway system of the United States to 171,000 miles.

Since the year of the greatest railroad building, in 1887, when almost 13,000 miles of new lines were added, the falling off in construction has been rapid, the new mileage for each of the last five years being as follows: 1887, 12,878; 1888, 7,076; 1889, 5,706; 1890, 5,739; 1891, 4,168. In 1886 there were added 5,108 miles, and in the following year the construction increased over 50 per cent; but the four years preceding 1886 showed an era of diminishing railway building more marked than that of the last five years, the new mileage footing as follows: 1882, 11,569; 1883, 3,924; 1885, 2,982. It appears, therefore, that in only two of the last ten years the addition of mileage was less than in 1891. In those ten years the increase aggregated 68,800 miles, or an average of 6,880 miles a year.

It is found that the only portions of the country in which new track was not laid are the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Nevada and Mississippi—the latter showing in strong contrast to the other Southern States in which the activity has been notable. The States which have added the greatest mileage are: Pennsylvania, 26 lines, 260 miles; Georgia, 13 lines; 237 miles; Washington, 14 lines, 228 miles; South Carolina, 6 lines, 212 miles; New York, 6 lines, 198 miles; Montana, 4 lines, 188 miles;

Virginia, 10 lines, 188 miles; West Virginia, 10 lines, 188 miles, and so on.

It is notable that the length of lines averages only 16.7 miles, showing that the work of the year has been chiefly in the building of short extensions and branches, although several main lines of importance have also been completed or extended.

The Argentine Harvest.

In presenting some estimates of the agricultural products of the Argentine Republic in 1891 the Buenos Ayres *Standard* says: "The value of agricultural and pastoral products this year will probably far exceed anything ever before known in Argentine. We may look forward to a heavy crop of wheat and maize, a fair yield of alfalfa, a good vintage in San Juan and Mendoza, and an unprecedented clip of wool in Buenos Ayres and the neighboring provinces; besides all this, we learn that there has been a satisfactory increase of flocks and herds. If abundance of products could lift us out of the troubles that have been created by the fallies of the last ten years we might at once say that the crisis was really over. Few countries in the world possess a more industrious population than this, although you may often hear Europeans speak of all South America as inhabited by an idle race of cross-breeds. From Chubut in Patagonia to the sugar fields of the Montaco Indians on the borders of Bolivia you find the bulk of the people hard-working."

The following is offered as a fair estimate of the year's products in Argentine in 1891: Wheat, 800,000 tons; maize, 1,000,000 tons; alfalfa, 3,900,000 tons; sugar, 50,000 tons; wine, 6,500,000 gallons; linseed, 20,000 tons; wool, 150,000 tons; meat, 300,000 tons, tallow, 40,000 tons; hides, \$20,000,000 value. The value placed upon these and some additional agricultural productions is approximately \$190,000,000—and products of nearly half this value are considered exportable, in excess of home consumption.

Western Canada Products in England.

An excellent collection of samples of Canadian western produce has been received at the King William Street offices of the Canadian Pacific Railway company, and the commanding windows which face London Bridge are now the centre of attention among all passers-by. The samples of red fife wheat, of two-rowed barley, and other grains, are of singular excellence, while the grains in the straw show to the critical eye, as nothing else can do, the excellent harvesting weather with which the west was favored this year. The flax and grasses are also noteworthy evidences of western fertility. The samples were grown on various farms in the neighborhood of Calgary, and were forwarded to Archer Baker, through the Calgary board of trade. Other commercial and municipal bodies in the territories might take a leaf out of the book of the Calgary board in this matter. Samples of this kind have an incalculably beneficial effect upon emigration of the right class.—*Canadian Gazette*.

The creditors of Mills & Macdougall, dry goods importers, Montreal, held a meeting to consider the statements submitted by the firm, offering 60 cents on the dollar.