

Dried Fruits.

As a rule importers of dried fruit have been rather indifferent to the firm news from all primary markets on staple lines, such as Valencia and California raisins, French, Austrian and California prunes and currants. From time to time since the season opened increasing strength was reported, and buyers as persistently ignored it. The rise has become so pronounced, especially within the past week or so, that they had a violent awakening. Valencia raisins are a notable example. It is estimated that their aggregate appreciation since the opening is fully 40 per cent. As a result demand from importers here for them was so strong this week that though the Avlona landed 41,000 boxes, there is hardly any stock left in first hands. Admission men state that they never remember such a quick turn-over. Since they set out also they have cabled large offers but received no replies yet. At this writing the market is very firm in Dania. Cables were submitted to-day offering 14s, 16s, 19s, and 21s for the four different grades, but agents fully expect to have these offers refused. On the basis of latest offers good off-stalk could not be had under 4½c, fine 4½c, and layers 6c, but as already stated it is likely that to repeat orders importers will have to pay an advance on these prices.

California raisins are anything stronger than Valencias. Buyers were not urgent in regard to these either, opinions being conflicting in regard to the volume of the output. Within the past few days advices came to hand stating that it would be 1,500 car loads short of what of last year. When this news was followed by a sharp advance of fully 2c at New York and Chicago, our own market had to follow suit and values were marked up all round.

The initial influence in causing the advance was the sudden demand for fruit originated from buyers at St. Louis and Chicago, who had held off all along. When they commenced they went at it with a rush, and prices on the coast promptly went up, until now they stand fully 2c per pound above the opening figure of the season. On the basis of recent offers, it would cost laid down here 5½c to 6s for 2-crown, 6½ to 7c for 3-crown, and 7½ to 8c for 4-crown. Whether they will go higher is uncertain. It will be remarked that 3-crown now costs more than Valencia layers, and this fact, unless the latter also advanced, is apt to swing the demand to the Spanish stock. The first shipments of new 2 and 3 crown California were distributed among jobbers here this week. They are of the G. & S. brand, and show first-class quality.

Prunes continue firm, cables on both French and Austrian to-day being higher. The former have advanced fully 2s from the opening and the latter 9d to 1c. We quote French at 5c to 6c, and Austrian 6c to 6½c. No new California prunes have been offered yet.

Agents have been advised to demand advances on evaporated California apricots, which cannot now be laid down under 12½ to 15c as to grade. Evaporated peaches have gone up fully 2c on the opening, and would now cost 9c to import.

Currants are very firmly held also at 3½ to 3¾c in barrels' 4 to 4½c in half barrels, and 4½ to 4¾c in cases.—Montreal Gazette.

Montreal Grocery Market

The feature of the sugar market has been the weakness in the raw article, and prices broke early in the week 4½d to 7½d for October, which was due to the crop of best being estimated at 4,960,000 tons. These figures were considerably larger than was generally expected, and, in consequence, had depressing effect upon values at the time,

but since a firmer feeling has prevailed and prices have fully recovered, private cables to-day quoting best at 9s 1½ for October and November. The impression both here and in New York is that the best crop is largely over estimated. The local market for refined sugar is easier in tone, but refiners show no disposition to shade prices for round lots of granulated. The demand for the season is fair, which will likely continue until the close of navigation. Granulated in round lots has sold at 13 16c, and in small lots at 8½, which yellows have changed hands at 2½ to 3½c as to quality, at the factory.

There was no material change in the situation of the syrup market, business being quiet and prices unchanged at 1½ to 2½c per lb. as to quality, at the factory.

The demand for molasses has been of a limited character, and the market on the whole has ruled quiet with no new features to note. The feeling is about steady, and small lots of Barbadoes have sold at 27½, and Porto Rico at 28c.

There was no change in the rice market. The demand for the season is fair, and prices are maintained. We quote:—Crystal Japan, \$1 75 to \$ standard B. \$3.45; Patna, \$1 25 to \$5, Carolina, \$6 50 to \$7.50; choice Bermuda, \$3.75, and Java kinds, \$4.

The demand for spices is improving, and the market is more active, with a larger volume of business doing at steady prices. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only —Penang black pepper, 6c to 7½c white pepper 10c to 12½c; cloves, 7½c to 9c; cassia, 8½c to 9½c; nutmegs, 60c to 90c, and Jamaica ginger, 15½c to 18½c.

The coffee market continues to rule quiet, the demand being principally for small lots and prices show no important change. We quote:—Maracaibo at 16c to 17c; Rio, 15c to 16c; Java, 21c to 24c, and Mocha, 21c to 25c.

Since our last there has been considerable business done in teas and the market rules active and firm with an upward tendency. A lot of 100 packages of Japan was sold to day at an advance of 1c per lb. over what was offered for it last week, and another round lot of low grade Japan was placed for shipment at an advance of 1½c. The best offer that could be obtained for this lot last week was 10c per lb. Some large sales of Young Hyson have been made for English account at 9c. A sale of 500 packages of new crop Japan at 15c to 16c, and several hundred boxes of Pak-Lung at prices ranging from 10c to 16c.—Gazette, October, 23.

Oatmeal Higher.

The Montreal Gazette says; "There has been a decidedly strong feeling in the oatmeal market of late and a sharp advance in prices has taken place at the different points of shipment, that is to say, the millers are now asking equivalent to \$3.40 per barrel and \$1.65 per bag for rolled oats delivered here in car lots, but it is doubtful if any sales have transpired in this market at the above figures."

The Territorial Legislature is taking action to impress upon the Dominion government the importance of the early construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railway.

Nearly the whole of the season's lumber out of the Ottawa mills amounting to 100,000,000 feet, has been bought by English dealers.

Canadian Pacific traffic accounts for the nine months ending September 30th, 1896, are as follows: Gross earnings \$14,669,892; work'g expenses \$9,253,031; net profits \$5,386,861. For the nine months ending September 30th, 1895, there was a net profit of \$4,448,773. The gain in net profits over the same period last year is therefore for September, \$18,783, and from January 1 to September 30, \$892,597.

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