

# The Monetary Times

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#### GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The wholesale grocery trade has been distinctly dull this week, though this condition is believed to be due to the only moderate improvement in the state of the country roads, rather, than to any poverty of the consumptive demand. Payments by retailers continue to be fairly satisfactory. Prices are quite steady also. In sugar, the movement latterly has not been by any means heavy, though there is now visible a considerable improvement. There was an advance recently in Berlin granulated beet, so that now this product is within 5c. per cwt. of a parity with refined cane. The St. Lawrence Refinery advanced their price 5c. per cwt. in sympathy with the New York advance of 15c., but this has not been followed generally. Maple syrup is meeting with particularly good sale this year, perhaps on account of the efforts which are being made to keep up its standard of purity. Other syrups and molasses are without special feature. Stocks of the latter are in small compass.

The coffee market has been easier during the last two weeks, and the high rate of exchange for Brazilian money has perhaps restricted trading in this article. In teas the business transacted is of very fair volume, especially in Ceylons. Indians and Ceylons have advanced 1d. in the London market.

Canned goods of every description are very firm. Tomatoes of last year's crop are almost out of the market. With regard to the future for this article, opinions vary. It is known that growers have threatened to stop growing them if higher prices are not paid. In some quarters the canners have succeeded, so it is said, in placing all the orders necessary for tomatoes at 25c per bushel, while on the other hand, it is asserted that this will be a famine year. Canned asparagus has advanced 25c. per case. Canned fruits are coming now into greater demand

every day, with the diminution of the supplies of fresh fruit.

Dried fruits are meeting with a normal demand for this season of the year. For prunes the enquiry is quite brisk. Stocks in the growers' hands and on the primary markets on the Pacific Coast are reported abnormally small, and it would not surprise the trade, were the whole crop to be cleared out. Apricots are very scarce, while the demand is very active. Raisins and sultanas are going well for this time of the year. Currants also are in fairly good request. Advices from Greece say that the results of the latest retention law have been so disappointing that an agitation has been raised to do away with all legislative restriction altogether.

The demand for fish, which has naturally thus far during Lent been very brisk, is now easing off. Fresh fish is now arriving in the usual quantities, and cod and halibut are beginning to be plentiful in the cities.

Eggs are coming into the Toronto market freely, and prices are declining daily. About 14 to 15c. would cover the present quotations. It is expected by some dealers that prices will be considerably lower this year than last. In the West, the egg trade is in a more or less demoralized condition. Owing to the very high prices realized there last spring, preparations were made on a very extensive scale in the following fall to put up large quantities for pickling and in cold storage. These eggs were bought in many instances for as high as 22c., and it is said they are in some cases selling as low as 10c. per dozen. A large amount of money is bound to be lost in any event, as now that fresh eggs are being received in volume, it is very difficult to dispose of held stock at any price. Dealers in the western provinces will certainly be extremely cautious buyers during the coming season. From Great Britain comes word that the dealers there