

Produce and Provisions.

(From Saturday's Trade Review)
 Fish—The total exports this week were 63,722 quintals as follows:—

From Labrador and Outports—By schooner Esther, Hamilton, Lewis, Flat Island, Labrador, 6,000 quintals to Gibraltar for orders; by schooner Myrtle, Plover, from Messrs. J. & J. Moore, Flat Islands, Labrador, 4,135 quintals to Gibraltar for orders; by schooner Jas. O'Neill from Flat Island, Labrador, Munn & Co., 5,500 quintals to Gibraltar; by schooner Norma B. Strong, from Messrs. Strong & Murrell, Little Bay, 4,700 quintals to Malaga; by Marie, Earle & Sons, Fogo, 2,340 quintals to Lisbon; by schooner Iris, 2,250 quintals to Oporto; schooner Armistice from Agents Messrs. J. & Co., St. Anthony, 6,000 quintals to Seattle; by schooner Asquith from Messrs. Lazo & Co., 8,000 quintals to Seattle and by schooner N. Hensen, Newfoundland Labrador Export Co., 2,800 quintals to Oporto.

From St. John's—By schooner J. W. Bureau from Messrs. Job Bros. & Co., 2,679 quintals to Barbados; by the "Dugby" 568 quintals to New York and Boston from Messrs. B. M. Shipman and A. Stone.

Oil—There has been a steady improvement in Common Cod Oil and there is a better tone to the market this week. No doubt we have seen the best prices for this oil on the foreign market appear to be in short supply. Inquiries are now coming in for shipment to England and Scotland. We are not two large buyers in the market this week, ready to take round lots. We do not look for any sensational advance, but predict a healthy demand during the next month.

Cod Liver Oil—There is no improvement whatever to note in this product. Prices have now got to such a low ebb that the demand is so poor from all quarters that the Refined cod oil business may be said to be completely neglected.

Pork—The market shows no change and continues dull. American advices this week indicate no improvement in the export trade, quotations consequently show little change. The quotations to St. John's are increasing, this week's record being 880 barrels. Ham is quoted here at \$35.00, M. Family \$24.50, Fat Back and Short Cut \$3.00 per barrel wholesale.

Beef—The market is steady at last week's prices. The local demand this week showed considerable activity. Beef prices are to-day attractively low compared with pork, and it looks as if the bulk of the barrelled meat trade will run on beef. The imports this week were 1,341 barrels. Prices are as follows:—Dos Flank \$26.00, Special Family \$27.00, and Boneless \$20.00 to \$23.50 per barrel wholesale.

Flour—The local market is showing healthy demand. Outport dealers are now arriving, and are looking for the favorite brands. The question of all lower prices is a matter for future consideration, as the requirements of the moment must be attended to. Prices everywhere are coming down and there is no reason why flour should be the only exception. Canada has been blessed with a bountiful harvest and farmers are at last finding that they cannot keep up prices in the face of declining markets elsewhere. The S.S. "Manoa" and "Sable I." this week brought in 14,513 barrels.

Molasses—The market for Barbados molasses is firm. Most of the old has been cleared out there, and dealers are now looking forward to the new crop. The imports to St. John's since the season opened last spring up to date are 6,281 puncheons as compared with 4,170 for same date in 1920. As far as we can learn there is no more to come forward. Prices are still 55 and 50 cents per gallon wholesale.

Sugar—The sugar market continues weak and there is no confidence that the present prices have stabilized with such a demoralized feeling and absence of demand. Prices are forced still further down than in natural. Imports to St. John's are moving better and this week's record was 2,438 barrels, 30 cases and 400 sacks. The prices are lowest for the season, \$10.80 for 30 and \$11.00 single barrels.

Potatoes—The home-grown crop now being harvested is the best for many years, particularly in Conception Bay, Trinity and Bonavista Bays, and St. George's. The local price is now down to \$2.50 and \$3.00 according to quality and to \$2.00 in the outports. The importation of P.E.I. potatoes has now commenced and will go briskly till navigation closes. It is

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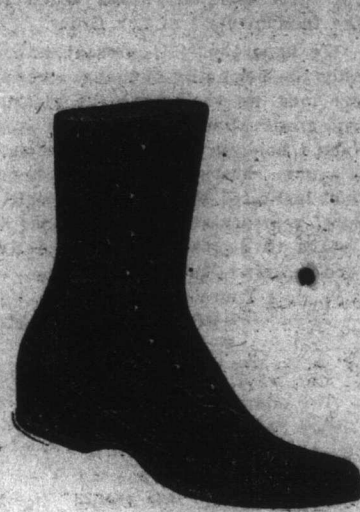
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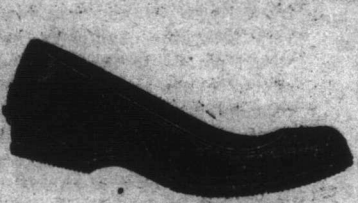


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and that the prices will be well under \$4.00 per sack of 130 pounds.

Hay—The market is steady at last week's prices viz: \$51.00 for large tim and \$52.00 to \$53.00 per ton for small. The local stock being large, the importation all the past month was very small, but from this time forward to the close of navigation on the Gulf there will be large imports for winter supply.

Oats—The general opinion amongst importers is that oats have now reached rock bottom and that there is nothing to be gained by holding off from importing. The quotations for mixed oats is down to \$3.50 this week and white to \$3.95 for large wholesale lots. The Gulf steamers "Sapper" and "Sealer" are bringing large consignments this week indicating that dealers have begun to stock up for the winter requirements.

Producing Your Tea.

How many people have any idea how the tea they drink is produced? People are so used to buying a packet of tea and using so many spoonfuls in the pot that very few try to find out by what process juicy, green leaves are turned into the dry, black, aromatic stuff we call tea.

A day in a tea garden in the plucking season would astound most people. First, they would be shown the bushes to be plucked—perfectly flat-topped they should be if they have been well pruned and the plucking so far has been scientifically done—and from the flat top of each bush—numerous shoots, two and three (sometimes four) leaves and a bud, have pushed their way. These it is the job of the coolie women to pluck, and they do it at an astonishing rate with both hands going at the same time.

Twice a day, generally, the leaf is brought in to the weighing shed, and the moment a woman has had her basket weighed the leaf is turned out into the general pile. From there it is taken away and spread out in the withering houses—large open structures, each a roof with a number of flat platforms under it, a few feet apart right down to the ground. Over each platform is spread heathen (sack) cloth, and on this the leaf is thinly spread there to remain and wither.

It is a ticklish job to determine when the leaf is withered to exactly the right degree, and it is not until this has been decided that the manufacture really begins.

The leaf is rolled in a machine for about 20 minutes—squashed and rolled so that it would be between two boards or the palms of the hand. It is then put through a wire sieve to separate the coarse from the fine leaf.

Presently these two grades are carried off to the fermenting room—a

long, dark room with cement or tiled floor, kept fairly cool—where it is laid out in squares to ferment. It ferments in a few hours and turns from a bright green to a rusty brown colour.

After this it is rolled again for a few minutes, and then put into a firing-machine. In this machine it passes on an endless chain, or tray, through a very hot chamber, from which it emerges looking more or less like the tea you see in shops. It is fired two or three times until it is quite dry and, in fact, properly cooked.

Now begins the sorting. The "broken" tea is put through a breaker and reduced to workable size; after which it passes through a number of rotary sieves of various meshes, which sort the fine from the coarse.

In the factory these varieties are packed in special cases and shipped to the agents. Thus they come finally into the hands of the blenders, who are responsible for the tea in the different brands, marks, and names familiarized to you by the packets or cases of tea you buy.—Daily Mail.

Bags of heavy crocheted silk show conventional designs of steel beads. Evening hats enhance their charm with metallic laces in gold and silver.

The Portuguese Agreement.

This agreement now being discussed in the daily press is attracting the attention of the whole country.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has been prating all the summer of the wonderful things he could do, and "mixing politics with business" (as our Spanish Government says), to such an extent, that it was a relief when Mr. Morine pulled him up, and showed that his agreement was worthless. The Trade Review has no interest in politics, and looks on these matters wholly from a business point of view. First we must contradict the statement that the merchants and exporters turned Coaker down.

A person now in town saw the telegram from the Premier to London last winter stating that the Newfoundland Government intended to take the advice of the parties, who had their fish at stake in Oporto and not the advice of any one else in relation to this Portuguese agreement. It was the Government who turned Coaker down,

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Oct 17, 1921.

and has been turning him down ever since. This time one year ago he was Acting Premier, but it was the Hon. Geo. Shea who was selected this Fall during the Premier's absence, and it is well known that the Government would be glad to be rid of him, as the

fishermen all know, who it is "has led them into all their troubles" and the end is not yet.

Mr. Morine has exposed this agreement from a lawyer's point of view, and has shown up Coaker as not fit for a seat in the "Fourth form."

From a business point of view when you make these agreements it is to extend your operations, but Coaker signs an agreement whereby the "International" need not carry a stock of over 25,000 quintals of fish at one time, whereas it is well known that our stocks of Newfoundland fish in

Portugal have been over 100,000 quintals at one time, and it is quite common to see a stock there of fifty or sixty thousand quintals of fish. This is the agreement that he boasts about that would cut in half our sales in Portugal.—Trade Review.

"REG'LAR FELLERS"

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By Gene Byrnes

