

Present stocks in Greece were estimated, the cable said, to be between 85,000 and 10,000 tons, which is likely to be exhausted before the new crop comes in. On the Toronto market trade is quiet and prices unchanged. We quote:—Filiatras, half-barrels, 4 to 4½c, barrels, 4½c; fine Filiatras, half-barrels, 4½c, barrels, 4½c; Patras, 5½c in cases; Casalinas, 5½ to 6c; Vostiznas, 6½ to 7½c in cases and half cases; Panartes, 8 to 8½c. Dates have been in fair demand at 4½ to 5c. Advices from Smyrna state that stocks of figs there are practically exhausted, and that the small stocks remaining consist of naturals. Business remains fairly good on the local market at unchanged prices. We quote: 14 oz., 8 to 9c; 10 lb, 8 to 10c; 18 lb, 12c; 28 lb, 15c; tans, 4½ to 4¾c; naturals, 6 to 7c.

Dried Apples.—There is not much doing, and prices are much as before, jobbers getting 5 to 5½c.

Evaporated Apples.—Dull and unchanged at 6½ to 7c.

Salt.—Packers are still liberal purchasers, but otherwise business is not as brisk as it was. We quote: Barrels, 90; coarse sacks, 56c, fine sacks, 60c; dairy, \$1.50; rock, \$9.—Canadian Grocer, Dec. 28.

Montreal Grain and Produce Markets.

Flour.—At the advance quoted by us last week in the price of strong bakers and Manitoba patents, there has been a steady business, and stocks in the city were never before so light as they are to-day. Straight rollers are steady, with sales of car loads on track at \$2.95 and \$3, resales of which in broken lots have been made at \$3.10. Patent spring, \$3.75 to \$3.90; Ontario patent \$3.20 to \$3.40; Manitoba patents \$3.85 to \$3.90; Straight roller \$3.00 to \$3.10; Extra \$2.70 to \$2.80; Superfine \$2.50 to \$2.60; city Strong bakers \$3.75 to \$3.85; Manitoba bakers \$3.50 to \$3.75; Ontario bags—extra \$1.35 to \$1.00; Straight rollers \$1.50 to \$1.55.

Oatmeal.—We quote as follows in a jobbing way. —Rolled and granulated \$3.85 to \$3.95, standard, \$3.60 to \$3.75. In bags granulated and rolled are quoted at \$1.80 to \$1.85 and standard at \$1.60 to \$1.75. Pot barley \$3.75 in bbls. and \$1.75 in bags, and split peas \$3.50 to \$3.60.

Bran, etc.—There is a little more enquiry for bran, and sales of Ontario have been made at \$15.75 to \$16, quotations ranging from \$15.75 to \$16.25. Shorts are quoted at \$17.00 to \$19.00 and moullie at \$20.50 to \$22.00 as to grade.

Wheat.—The market remains steady, the chief feature being Manitoba, which is quoted at 75c to 76c for No. 1 hard Manitoba wheat, and 65c to 67c for No. 2 red winter. A lot of white and red winter wheat, which has been in store here for the past two years and a half, was sold a few days ago at 61½c for feed purposes.

Oats.—The few cars changing hands range from 36 to 36½c, although some dealers claim that that cannot obtain the inside rate. Some Manitoba oats have arrived, but no price has been placed on them as yet.

Barley.—We quote prices from 51 to 53c. Feed barley is quiet and steady at 4½ to 46c, the outside figure being bid.

Pork, Lard, etc.—We quote Canada short cut pork, per bbl, \$15.50 to \$16.00; Canada short cut thin, per bbl, \$14.00 to \$14.50; Extra plate beef, per bbl, \$10.50 to \$11.00; Hams, per lb, 9½c to 10½c; Lard, pure in pails per lb, 8½c to 9c; Lard, compound, in pails, per lb, 6½c to 7½c; Bacon, per lb, 10c to 11c; Shoulders, per lb, 8½ to 9c.

Dressed Hogs.—Receipts have fallen off during the week by about 9 or 10 carloads, and reports from the west speak of their being less plentiful than they were, causing an advance

of 20c to 25c per 100 lbs at points of shipment, sales having been made at points in Essex county \$5.20 to \$5.25 for choice heavy packers. Here sales have been made of choice bright hogs in car lots at \$5.60, while as high as \$5.70 is asked by some holders. Inferior lots have sold at \$5.35 to \$5.40. There is evidently a firmer feeling owing to the supply falling off at western points.

Butter.—The demand is exclusively local and chiefly for the finest lard made creamery, which sells at 21½ to 22c in a jobbing way, sales of winter made having transpired at 22 to 22½c in single tubs. Regarding early cold storage creamery, dealers say they are offered all they want at 16 to 17c. In dairy butter there is very little doing as the chief run is upon creamery. A lot of Western was sold at 14½c, but the quality was not finest, by any means, and Western dairy ranges from 14½ to 16c in a jobbing way.

Eggs.—Sales of limed stock are reported at 12 to 18c, choice 14c, while held fresh are quoted at 12 to 14c, culls selling at 9 to 10c. Now laid eggs are very scarce and 22c upwards can be had for such stock.

Hides.—The market for hides is still firm; but owing to the holidays, scarcely any business is being done, although by the end of the week some business is looked for. Tanners have paid 5½c and we understand that 5½c is asked by one dealer. Dealers are paying 4½c to 5c. Heavy steers are steady at 5½ to 6½c, and the supply limited. In other lines there is no change. We quote prices here as follows: Light hides, 4½c for No. 1, 3½c for No. 2, and 2½c for No. 3; to tanners 5½c for No. 1. Heavy hides are quoted at 5½ to 6½c; calfskins 5 to 6c; lambskins, 65c.—Trade Bulletin, Dec. 28.

Grocery Trade for 1894

The grocery trade has not altogether escaped the changes that have been evolving in the commercial world. The article whose position is probably the most unique on the grocery market is sugar. Never before has the price of granulated touched the figure it is ruling at to-day. Just imagine, granulated sugar of home production being sold wholesale at a fraction under 4c per lb, a price not even dreamed of a year ago. The present condition of the sugar market in Canada is born of more than one cause. In the first place, the prolonged period of depression in the United States kept both the consumptive demand and prices below the anticipated mark. Then, in the midst of this condition of affairs, Demerara raw sugars, which had been practically driven out of the market for some years by the tariff, again made its appearance in Canada as a result of the modifications in the new tariff. Following upon these came the German granulated beet sugar, which, after paying a duty of 64-100c per lb., could be sold lower than the price obtaining for the domestic article. This German article promises to be hereafter an element in regulating the price of granulated sugar on the Canadian market. Compared with the domestic product, it is much inferior in quality, and lacks uniformity. Yet it sells lower, and therefore, although it may not always be on the market, it can always be depended upon to put in an appearance when prices appreciate to any extent in this country. The German government allows a bounty of about 2½c per 100 lbs. on refined sugars when exported, so that about one-third of the amount the German refiner contributes to the Canadian customs comes from the treasury of the Fatherland.

While sugar has been about the weakest commodity in the grocery trade, tea has been the strongest. The war between China and Japan, has, of course, been the chief cause of this. And not only upon the season's trade, but that of next as well, is the influence likely to be felt. China will certainly be

compelled to pay Japan a war indemnity, and practically the only way she can raise the necessary money in order to do so is by levying a duty on exports, the internal revenues being already heavier than the people can bear. The fact that the crop of British grown tea has not been as large as anticipated has also materially added to the strength of the tea market.

Foreign dried fruits have on the whole been strong, although the presence of large quantities of damaged fruit, in Valencia raisins particularly, has prevented prices from approaching to the extent they otherwise would have done.

Canned goods have ruled steadier in price than for some years, and to the agreement between the packers must this be largely attributed. To the smallness of the pack and the largeness of the export is due the strong position of the market for salmon. A feature to be noted in connection with canned goods is the cautious buying that has characterized the trade in the matter of canned vegetables and fruits. During the last few years the wholesalers carried over from season to season considerable quantities of these goods, steadily losing money thereby. This season they bought new goods just when they wanted them, instead of buying futures, as was largely the custom of the past, and sold off at special prices the goods they had carried over from the year before. They were thus enabled to make a little money this year from canned goods.

A little money was also made in sugar by those who refrained from speculation. Profit, too, has been obtained from foreign dried fruit. But in none of the lines appertaining to the trade have the profits been as good as they might have been.

The whole season through, careful buying has been characteristic of the retailer, and in the competition there was for the orders he chose to give, prices were cut unmercifully in some instances.

On the other hand, as a counteraction to the practice of cutting prices, it is to be noted that there has been a closer scrutinizing of accounts, while there has been a general tendency all round to cut expenses down—to lop off the mouldering branches without causing impairment.

But the saving entailed in these particulars, seems hardly, from what can be gathered from a canvas of the trade, to have made up for losses in other respects, and consequently the grocery trade of 1894 must be put down as not being altogether satisfactory.

There is one thing, however, that is better than it was a year ago at this time: The prospects are better. A year ago the pall of depression was gathering in consequence of the commercial crisis the world over, and in the United States, particularly, naturally weakening confidence among the people of this country, in spite of the fact that the Dominion had no crisis to contend with. Now the depression is lifting the world over, while in our own Dominion the signs of returning commercial activity are met with on every hand. Our merchants and manufacturers are following more closely well defined business lines; they are doing away with fifth wheels; and capitalists are turning their attention more to the development of those natural industries for which Canada is famous.

There is, indeed, hope for the consummation of the wish that 1895 will be a happy and prosperous year for the people of this, the country which Providence has blessed more than any other on the globe.—Canadian Grocer.

The cordage combine in the United States appears to be in trouble again. The stock of the Company is seriously depreciated. It is asserted, however, that nothing is wrong, except heavy stocks and slow business.