

A REVOLUTION IN THE GREEN FRUIT TRADE.

There has been in the past year a marked falling off in American and Canadian imports of European green fruit. The trade year in the foreign green fruit business is generally considered to end on August 31st, though old crop fruit continues to arrive during September, and new crop fruit does not make its appearance until October. Receipts during September are, however, light, and especially so this year, so that the conditions prevailing during the trade year just ended also fairly apply to the crop. The imports during the past several seasons at the six great fruit ports of North America were:

(Boxes and Cases).

Year Sept. 1 to Aug. 31 inclusive.

	1897-98.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1894-95.
New York.....	1,662,135	1,922,395	2,051,001	1,535,020
Boston.....	84,000	121,300	227,500	177,850
Philadelphia.....		65,650	67,700	68,800
Baltimore.....	20,200			
New Orleans.....		54,850	93,000	22,600
Montreal.....	28,500	279,400	319,500	244,500
	86,500	106,850	124,100	64,500

Total all ports. 1,881,335 2,552,445 2,882,801 2,113,270

It will be seen from the above table that the imports at Montreal shared fully in the general decline of trade. At the time of the spring sales, when small imports were predicted buyers were of the opinion that the predictions were made only to bear the market, but time has confirmed them. The smallness of the orange imports is even more noticeable than that of lemons.

TOTAL RECEIPTS OF ORANGES, ALL PORTS.

(Boxes and Cases).

Year Sept. 1 to Aug. 31, inclusive.

	1897-98.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1894-95.
New York.....	46,575	595,725	634,257	647,070
Boston.....	7,300	97,200	92,850	170,700
Philadelphia.....		58,250	31,100	52,150
Baltimore.....	2,800			
New Orleans.....		11,200	14,650	18,000
Montreal.....		18,905	30,850	38,750
	19,400	25,280	26,700	34,300
	76,075	806,560	830,407	960,970

This revolution in trade has been accomplished largely as a result of the increased output of California fruit. For some years the fruit dealers of this State were opposed to anything that was not a straight sale f.o.b., and imported fruit sold by auction had the preference in Eastern markets. Within the year California fruit has been placed before the trade by auction. In both Montreal and Toronto auction companies, at the back of which stand the most responsible merchants, have been organized, and by this method the sale of fruit is conducted in a much more economical way. The season, it is understood, has been very satisfactory and the supply of both lemons and oranges has been kept well within the demand.

WASHING WINDOWS.

Poorly washed shop windows may do much to injure a merchant's trade. They not only destroy the effect of well arranged display and prevent it from attracting custom, but stand out conspicuously as a warning to the stranger who otherwise might have entered the store. W. L. Scoville in The American Druggist describes a method of window washing which the merchant might well submit to the janitor or junior clerk, whose work it is to keep the store windows clean. He says:

"I would recommend the following procedure: First, wash the glass in the usual manner with water containing about half an ounce of concentrated ammonia water to a pailful of water—not more, for fear of removing the paint or varnish from the woodwork.

"Then while the glass is wet, and without rinsing, go over the entire surface with a weak solution of hydrochloric acid, prepared by adding to a pailful of fresh water two or three

ounces of strong muriatic acid. This neutralizes the ammonia and the alkali in the glass, and forms some soluble chlorides which aid in the polishing. Finally dry and polish with a clean cloth. The acid will have no ill effects upon paint or varnish upon the window frames, nor even upon unpainted woodwork. If metal window frames hold the glass the acid is liable to attack these, and should be avoided or used cautiously. A weaker acid would be advisable in this case.

INSURANCE ITEMS.

The Sherbrooke Examiner in its news from Coaticook, Que., reports a curious but not unprecedented, cause of a local fire. Mr. D. Moyles was doing some plumbing for Mr. Fox of the Trihey Place. Several bright tins were left in such a way that the sun was reflected from them on a portion of a barn, which was in this way set on fire.

Our readers know that the purchase by the municipal council of Berlin of the waterworks plant in that place from its proprietors has been on the tapis. It has now been decided by the ratepayers of the town to buy the works on the expiry of its franchise on Oct. 18th next. The figure the committee and its experts estimated the works to be worth was \$100,000, and this is the amount offered the company after the adoption of the by-law. The company asked \$110,000. The committee felt that \$100,000 was the outside figure it could offer and it appeared as though the town would have a long and costly arbitration suit on its hands. As a final resort the negotiations were placed in the hands of the Mayor, Mr. Rumpel and Mr. Karl Mueller, chairman of the Fire and Water Committee. The Record approves the efforts of these gentlemen and congratulates the town on the transaction.

THE EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.

To the patient industry of German scientists and investigators we owe much that we have learned of lightning phenomena. An editorial in *Elektrotechnische Zeitschrift* recently reviewed a most interesting report by Kassner giving the results of twelve years observations of the effects of lightning. He has clearly demonstrated that the presence of forests has no apparent effect on the number of bolts. The number of bolts per square mile varied greatly in the different districts from 1.2 to 10.4 (this apparently refers to the whole period of eleven years). Buildings on flat land are struck more frequently than those in the city, and ignition is also more liable to occur on the flat lands. Of 1,633 "cold" bolts on flat lands 458 caused ignition; in the cities the numbers were 464 and 60, which gives in the former case 28 per cent. and 12.9 per cent. in the latter. The maximum number of bolts in one day was 99, while on another 96 were observed. The worst month of the period was May, 1890, when there were 25 days in which lightning occurred. The number of bolts per day on which there was lightning varies from 1 in December to 5.8 in June, the mean for the whole year being 4.3, according to these observations.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Sept. 8th, 1898, compared with those of the previous week

CLEARINGS.	Sept. 8th, 1898.	Sept. 1st, 1898.
Montreal.....	\$14,000,711	\$11,375,001
Toronto	7,192,680	6,953,458
Winnipeg		1,865,998
Halifax	1,093,856	1,094,972
Hamilton	518,910	517,051
St. John	509,545	589,717
	\$	\$21,896,197

Aggregate balances this week, \$.....; last week, \$8,573,440

—A Montreal despatch notes the transfer of Mr. W. H. Burns, long accountant in Montreal of the Bank of Nova Scotia, to the charge of the branch of that bank in Fredericton, N.B., and to a dinner given him by his friends.