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FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Last week there was a decided falling off in the marketing of hogs in Cincinnati and the West. Total for the week, 330,000, compared with 565,000 the preceding week, and 515,000 two weeks ago. For corresponding time last year the number was 340,000 and two years ago 395,000. The quality runs from fair to good. Prices are higher, prominent markets indicating at the close an average of about \$5.50 per 100 pounds, compared with \$5.30 a week ago, \$5.35 two weeks ago, \$7.40 a year ago, \$6.25 two years ago, \$5.60 three years ago, and \$4.85 four years ago. The speculative provision market was an unsettled affair, and at the close prices were lower than the previous week. The action of prices during the week indicated that the speculative element is still under the influence of the war news, and the action of the grain markets, but with the latter showing such heavy declines as they have in the past few days the provision market has been less active and easier in tone.

Advices from Greece indicate about an average normal demand for currants from practically all consuming countries, and recent cables seem to indicate a somewhat higher market. This, however, may possibly be caused by a slight fall in exchange. Letters to hand from England note a somewhat more active business in that quarter, which, should it continue, would undoubtedly eventually make its effect felt upon the Greek market.

New Orleans reports a firmer and somewhat higher market for low grade molasses. Grocery grades of molasses continue in fair demand.

Since the opening of the month there has been a better demand in Britain for Canadian cheese, but at present prices remain unaltered. The patience of holders of cheese, however, has been at last exhausted, and they have decided that there shall be an advance in values. It behooves buyers, therefore, to take care they are not caught asleep. The demand for colonial butter has fallen off somewhat.

The grain dealers' section of the Toronto Board of Trade have elected officers as follows: Chairman, Hedley Shaw; vice-chairman, D. Plewes, Jr.; executive committee, F. W. Hay, W. D. Matthews, C. B. Watts, John Carrick, C. W. Band, John Fisher, and A. V. Pearce; complaint committee, C. Good, D. O. Ellis, J. C. McKeggie, H. Shaw, C. W. Band; membership committee, D. O. Ellis, J. L. Fisher, W. Ross, M.P.; D. Plewes, Thomas Martin, F. W. Hay; collector, John Fisher.

TORONTO STOCK TRANSACTIONS

There has been a somewhat better tone to the stock market this week, but the volume of trading continues light.

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Transactions in detail are as follows:—Bank of Montreal, 4 at 247¾; Toronto, 36 at 226-8½; Commerce, 14 at 150¼-151; Dominion, 198 at 223; Hamilton, 21 at 207; Traders, 21 at 137; Consumers' Gas, 23 at 209; C.P.R., 2,500 at 110-111¾; Can. Gen. Elect., 5 at 138 (xd.); Com. Cable, 2 at 189½; Rich. & Ont. Nav., 50 at 80¼-80¾; Tor. Rail., 42 at 97-98 (xd.); Twin City, 85 at 89¾-90; Sao Paulo, 453 at 89¾-90½; Dom. Coal, 1,500 at 40-56½; N. S. Steel, 256 at 72½-75; bonds, \$3,000 at 103-106½; Dom. Steel bonds, \$5,000 at 53-57.

—The tobacco trade section of the London Chamber of Commerce, and other bodies interested in the tobacco trade in Great Britain, are agitating for a considerable reduction in the present rate of duty of 3s. per pound. It is pointed out that under the present regulations it is impossible for the manufacturers and retailers to obtain a living profit, and to sell at 3d. per ounce, which is the price at which two-thirds of the tobacco produced is sold in the United Kingdom; also that to charge a higher price would be an injustice to the working classes who are enormous consumers. They suggest a return to the duty of 2s. 8d. per pound, which prevailed until the year 1900, and which, it is alleged, worked highly satisfactorily for the revenue, the consumer, and the trade generally.