

markets had as usual a retarding effect upon deliveries. Barley is steady and the lower grades meet with good export demand. Peas are firm and the export enquiry is very brisk; the supply is scarcely equal to the demand, dealers offering 42 to 43c. per bush. outside for car lots. Rye is firm and in good demand at 36 to 37c. outside.

GROCERIES.—Business is quiet, but a better movement is taking place than usually characterizes the January markets. There is no change in dried fruits. Trade in sugars is limited; in New York and London the tone and tendency of sugar markets is slightly better. Yellows were advanced ½c. in New York last Saturday. Canadian retailers are not interested in sugars, and are placing only small orders to satisfy immediate requirements. Teas are quiet and unchanged. The volume of business being done in canned goods is small, but prices maintained. No salmon is offering at less than \$1.15 per dozen. California fruits are meeting with better demand. We quote: Prunes, 30's to 40's, 12½c., 40's to 50's, 10½c., 70's to 80's, 7½c., 80's to 90's, 6½c., 90's to 100, 6c.; silver prunes, boxes 25 lbs., 15c.; egg plums, 10½c.; choice peaches, 11½c.; apricots, 15c. per lb.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—Only a quiet trade is being done. January is not usually an active month in metals and hardware. Travellers have been in the city during the holiday weeks. A number have already taken up their circuits, and others are leaving this week; their efforts will no doubt soon bring activity to business. The demand during the past few weeks has been confined to cutlery, skates and plated ware. Most of the retailers are stock-taking, and will not finish until the 15th inst. A combination has been formed on barrel churns, and quote discounts of 60 and 7½ from stock, and 65 from factory. A reduction has been made in horse shoes equal to 25 cents a keg, and dealers now quote horse shoes \$3.35 per keg f.o.b. Hamilton and Toronto, and \$3.40 London. A change has also been made by Canadian makers of spades and shovels. Discounts now vary according to kinds and qualities, while last year the whole catalogue was subject to a uniform discount. In clothes wringers a combination has been formed, and prices advanced; the Royal Canadian is now quoted \$29.50 per doz. It is expected that a large proportion of the trade of the next few weeks will consist in booking forward orders for summer supplies, such as screen doors, poultry netting and windows, harvest tools, and the like. Ingot copper has advanced, the price now being 12½c. per lb. in ton lots, and smaller quantities 12½c. Solder is lower, and merchants quote 10½ to 11½c. per lb. Cut nails have been made subject to a reduction of 45c. per keg, and the wholesale trade quote them at a \$2.30 basis.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The situation, as reported in our last issue, remains unchanged. Merchants are paying 6½c. for green cowhides and 7c. for heavy steers. The last sales of cured of which we learn were made at 7½c., but since these transactions were reported there has been a better feeling in the trade, and merchants quote 7½c. per lb. The quality of offerings is showing considerable deterioration, and the value of hides for tanning purposes is about ½c. per lb. less than it was six weeks ago. Stocks of hides in Toronto are not accumulating, and notwithstanding the complaints of tanners, merchants report that deliveries are well sold up.

PAINTS AND OILS.—The actual trade being done in paints and oils is very limited. Manufacturers and merchants are making preparations for the coming season's business. The outlook for the spring trade is good, although it is too early to predict with certainty. Prices are unsettled, as is usual at the commencement of a new season. Price lists are now being prepared and will be announced in a few days. Travellers will leave for the spring campaign next week; at present they are all in the city. Window glass has been advanced, but the prices are not yet announced; some breaks remain unchanged, but others have been advanced, and the whole list will show advances of probably 10 per cent. Linseed oil is easy and prices are lower. The price of white lead was fixed at \$5.15 per 100 lbs. at the close of 1896; grinders claim that this price will be well maintained. The turpentine market of the South is advancing, but local values are as yet unaltered. Trade in paints is slow in the absence of consumptive demand.

WOOL.—Canadian fleece wool is very quiet and prices are almost 2c. per lb. lower than

they were six weeks ago. The demand from the United States is almost nil at present. There is little prospect of the repeal of the Wilson Tariff Law during the present session of Congress, and the postponement of new tariff legislation has had a depressing effect upon values. The Canadian mills are making but small enquiry for wool and are apparently not actively engaged. Pulled wools remain unchanged.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 6th Jan., 1896.

ASHES.—Business is of a quiet character; since last writing there have been shipments of only 20 brls. of pearls, and 9 of pots. Prices are easy at \$3.35 to 3.40 for first pots; \$3.05 for second pots, and \$4.45 for pearls. Receipts are rather freer than usual at the season. For the year just closed the receipts of pots were 1,964 brls., pearls, 295 brls.; deliveries, same period, pots, 1,938 brls.; pearls, 283 brls. In store January 1st, 1897, 186 brls. pots; 65 pearls. For the year '95 the receipts were, pots, 1,904 brls.; pearls, 415 brls., making a total of 2,319 brls., as against 2,259 brls. last year, showing the usual yearly gradual falling off.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—A one thousand-barrel transaction in about ten days will likely be the last sale of any size till the spring; a few small sales are, however, still reported. Quotations are for British \$2 to 2.10, Belgian \$1.85 to 1.95. For firebricks there is moderate request at \$17 to 22.00, as to brand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The cable quotation for cheese has remained steady at 51 shillings for some weeks past, for both white and colored, and in local quotations there is no change, fine September makes quoting at 10½ to 10¾c., with but a moderate movement. For finest creamery butter there is a steady jobbing demand at about 19c. per pound, though shippers do not bid beyond 18 to 18½c. Fresh boiling eggs bring 20 to 22c., candled and limed stock 13½ to 14½c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—Fourth of January payments in this line, being for domestics sold three months 1st of October last, were none too well met; not so well, as a rule, as last January, it is stated, and general collections and remittances are slow. Business is as yet quiet, but travellers are getting "on the warpath" again. Retail trade in the city is quiet, and clearing sales are now *en regle*, preparatory to the annual stock-taking, which generally brings a crop of failures, more or less numerous in February and March. As regards values of textiles, we hear of nothing new.

FISH.—Fresh fish, owing to the mild weather that has prevailed, is easier in price; salt fish, though dull, is fairly steady. We quote No. 1 large herring, \$4.25 to 4.50; lower grades, \$3 to 4; green cod, \$4.50 for No. 1, and \$4.75 to 5 for No. 1 large; dry cod, \$3.75 to 4.25; North Shore salmon, \$12 to 13; sea trout, \$7 to 7.50; fresh herring, \$1.00 to 1.10 per hundred for large, 50 to 60c. for small; haddock and cod, 3 to 3½c. per lb.; finnan haddies, 6½c.; tommy cods, \$1.50 to 1.75 per brl.

FURS.—Receipts of raw furs during the holiday days have been comparatively moderate, and shippers are but indifferent buyers, preferring to await the results of the regular London January sales, which begin on the 18th inst., and which will afford some pretty clear indication of the foreign markets. The following quotations we give, it should be understood, are for prime skins: Black bear, choice only, \$15 to 20; cubs and yearlings, \$1 to 5; fisher, \$5 to 7.50 as to color; red fox, \$1.20 to 1.50; cross do., \$4 to 10, depending on size and beauty; silver do., \$20 to 50; lynx, \$1.50 to \$2; marten, \$1.50 to 2.25; mink, \$1 to 1.50; muskrat, winter, 10 to 13c.; fall, 6 to 9c.; coon, 60c. to \$1; black, do., \$1.75 to 2.25; skunk, black, 75 to 90c.; short stripe, 50 to 60c.; long stripe, 20 to 30c.; white, 05 to 15c.

GROCERIES.—The holiday quiet has hardly yet worn off. Travellers are getting on to their routes again, but business in the country is not reported as satisfactory. The roads are reported even worse than before the holidays, as the heavy thaw and rain brought the frost out of the ground, and mud has again been the rule in a good many sections. Naturally, this affects both trade and collections seriously. With reference to prices, we hear of very little that is new. Canned goods show a very firm

front, and peas following the lead of tomatoes, are now held at 75c. in a jobbing way; in salmon, best brands are quoted \$5.50 to 5.60 per case, and there is nothing desirable in red salmon under \$4.75; lobsters are scarce and very dear. The demand for dried fruits is now of a light sorting character; but under limited stocks and strong outside markets there is firmness all along the line. Teas are temporarily quiet, but there is no weakening in the views of holders, and Japans of medium grade are scarce, there being little stock available at or under 14c. Sugars are dull and factory quotations unchanged at 3½ to 4c. per lb. for granulated, and 3½ to 3¾c. for yellows.

HIDES.—Values are unchanged in this line, and a dull market rules, tanners not being disposed to buy at all liberally, and 7½c. per lb. is about the limit that can be obtained for No. 1 inspected; the Chicago market is reported steady at about 8c. Local dealers continue to pay butchers 7c. per lb. for No. 1 green hides, and in calf and sheepskins there is no change.

HOPS.—Hops are very quiet at the moment, most of the brewers having their present wants filled. For good quality new crop 9 to 11c. is about the quotation, while a very choice lot might sell at 12 to 13c. per pound. Yearlings and old olds are hard to move.

LEATHER.—There is still an absence of demand, but some improvement is looked for next week, when the shoe factories are all expected to be fairly at work again. There is an absence of advices from England, doubtless due to the holidays. Local values are steady, and there is no disposition to concede on quotations. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 22 to 23c.; do. No. 2, 21c. to 22c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 25c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; common, 17 to 18c.; waxed upper light and medium, 26 to 29c.; do. heavy, 24 to 27c.; grained, 25 to 30c.; Scotch grained, 25 to 30c.; western splits, 20 to 25c.; Quebec do., 15 to 17c.; juniors, 13 to 15c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 22c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 14c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 11 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 11 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—In the market for iron and heavy metals there is as yet no revival of demand, and the month of January is expected to rule a dull one. The iron and nail men are having their regular convention in Toronto this week, so that there may be some changes to be noted in our next issue. An understanding has been arrived at between the manufacturers of shovels, both American and Canadian, and prices have been subjected to further marked advance; as an example, a line formerly sold at \$5.10 a dozen, is now quoted at \$6.25, with 7½ per cent. added, bringing the price up to \$6.72½, and other lines are advanced in proportion. In general prices there is no present change. We quote:—Summerlee pig iron, \$20 to 20.50, ex-store; Carron, \$19.50; Ayrshire \$18.50; Shotts, \$18.25 to 18.50; Cranbroe, \$18.50 to 19.00, ex-store; Siemens pig No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Ferrona, No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Hamilton No. 1, \$18.50; No. 2, ditto, \$18.00; machinery scrap, \$15.00; common do., \$12.00 to 13.00; bar iron, Canadian, \$1.40 to 1.45; British, \$2.00 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.40; Low Moor, \$5.00; Canada plates—Pontypool, or equal, \$2.40, 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets \$2.50; 75 sheets \$2.60; all polished Canadas, \$2.60; Terne roofing plate, 20x28, \$5.75 to 6.00; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.25 to 2.30; No. 26, \$2.15 to 2.20; No. 24, \$2.05 to 2.10; Nos. 17 to 20, \$2; No. 16 and heavier, \$2.30; tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$5.50 to 5.70; charcoal, I. C., Alloway, \$3.15 to 3.25; do. I.X., \$3.80 to 3.90; P. D. Crown, I. C., \$3.60 to 3.75; do. I.X., \$4.50; Coke I. C., \$2.80 to \$3.00; coke, wasters, \$2.70; galvanized sheets, No. 28, ordinary brands, \$4.25; No. 26, \$4.00; No. 24, \$3.75 in case lots; Morewood, \$5.00 to 5.10; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 5½c.; No. 26, 6c.; the usual extra for large sizes. Canadian bands, per 100 lbs., \$1.75; English ditto, \$2; hoops, \$2.15. Steel, boiler plate, ½ inch and upwards, \$1.85 to 1.90 for Dalzell, and equal; ditto three-sixteenths inch, \$2.50; tank iron, ½ inch, \$1.50; three-sixteenths do., \$2.00; tank steel, \$1.75; heads, seven-sixteenths