

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

Stocks have, as a rule, maintained a steady feeling during the past week, and the changes in quotations have been of the most trivial nature and chiefly the results of scalping operations. The volume of business done has been light, and an absence of any circumstances which would cause activity has been apparent. Quotations with rare exceptions have varied only in fractions from those of the previous week, and fluctuations have been within a very limited range. Closing bids of February 25th and March 4th indicate how void of interest the markets have been. They are as follows:

	Feb. 25.	Mar. 4.
Montreal	189½	190
Ontario	107½	—
Molson's	—	114
Toronto	178½	178½
Merchants'	110	110½
Commerce	118½	118½
Imperial	123	123
Federal	46½	46½
Dominion	187	188
Standard	112	111
Hamilton	118½	118½
Northwest Land	37	35

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The movement of wheat during the past week was very light, and the business done equally so. The long tug between holders and buyers has at last culminated in concessions being made on the part of the former; and the lower figures reached have had the effect of checking the demand, thus showing how weak and hollow was the power by which the figures of February were maintained. Only immediate wants were supplied by buyers, and this it is expected will be the extent of purchases until navigation opens. In rough grain matters have been different. A good demand for oats has been experienced, and at prices quite as high as reported in our last, while the business done has been limited only by the quality offered. Barley has also been in good demand, especially the higher grades, which have sold readily; and even inferior lots have changed hands with reasonable freedom. Provisions showed an improved tone, although the butter market is still in a demoralized and glutted state as far as the lower grades are concerned. Prime lots, however, gave evidence of returning firmness. A better feeling prevailed in meats, and in a few lines some heavy sales were made during the week. Altogether the provision markets had a slightly firmer tone than that reported in our last.

WHEAT.

Owing to the break which occurred in this market last week there has been but little demand, and as holders were unwilling to accept these prices, there was consequently very little business done all week. Quotations are as follows: No. 1 spring, 81c; No. 2 spring, 78c; No. 2 fall, 81c; No. 3 fall, 78c.

OATS.

Have continued in good demand at firm prices, though receipts have been light. Cars on track have brought as high as 36½c, while street prices have ranged from 35½ to 36c.

BARLEY.

Though sales in this market have been small, a fairly good demand has existed at firm prices, owing to small offerings which were held at firm prices and are as follows: No. 1, f.o.b., 74c; No. 2, f.o.b., 69½c; and No. 3, 58c with but little demand for.

RYE.

Has been very scarce both on street and in car lots, and this consequently caused a firmness as to price on the part of holders, being now quoted at from 59 to 60c.

PEAS.

Are unchanged as to price at from 50 to 60c. Offerings have been small, and the general movement proportionately so.

POTATOES.

Street receipts have been large and freely offered at from 40 to 45c, with but little demand. Cars inactive with fewer offerings at 40c and more taken.

EGGS.

Prices very unsettled in this market owing to the largely increased receipts of lined, and have been selling in round lots at from 12½c to 15c; fresh laid have been in good demand with all offerings freely taken at from 20 to 21c, and on street as high as from 22 to 25c have been paid for these.

CHEESE.

Stocks are getting lower and are being held at firmer prices. The demand for small lots still continues good, and have been selling at 11½c for medium, and for from good to choice at from 12 to 12½c.

BUTTER.

The situation in this market is nominally unchanged, and sales of inferior qualities have been made at a heavy sacrifice. Really choice butter, however, still continues firm, with all offered wanted for immediate local consumption, for which as high as 18c has been paid. Really good box-lots of rolls have been in good demand at from 14 to 16c.

PORK.

This is nominally unchanged, with sales of small round-lots reported at from \$15.50 to 16.

BACON.

More activity has been shown in this market. Cans of long-clear were selling at 8c; Cumberland inactive, but firm, at 7½c; rolls, unchanged, at 10c for short and 10½c for long.

HAMS.

Hams are nominally unchanged. The demand was slow, and all sales of a very light character, at the following prices: Smoked, 11½c; pickled, 10c.

LARD.

This market was active, and lard in good demand at steady figures. Lots of 25lb and 50lb cinnets found a ready sale at 9½c, and small lots of these and pails, 10 to 10½c.

POULTRY.

Receipts in this market still continue small, and prices generally have been firm. Quotations are as follows: Hen turkeys, \$1 to 1.25; gobblers, \$1.50 to 2; geese, 80c to \$1.10; fowls, 25 to 60c per pair; ducks, 80c to \$1.

APPLES.

Good winter fruit has been in good demand at from \$1.62 to 1.72; offerings however, have been very limited. Street receipts have also been small and prices few at \$1.50 for common and \$1.75 to 2.25 good to choice.

Commercial Summary.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* yesterday from leading commercial centres convey as a whole more encouragement as to the outlook for the distribution of general merchandise in the early future than has been reported of late. The advices do not permit the formation of a basis for a belief in the near approach of a genuine trade revival, whether that desirable end be at hand or not. But they do mark the practical end of the blockade of railway traffic, thus permitting the free and speedy shipment of goods, as well as several well-defined evidences of need for and a beginning of spring purchases

by interior jobbers and others. At New York there is a small gain in sales of dry goods, but a still larger increase in hopefulness by agents and others, owing to the presence of more interior merchants and their representatives than before this year. But sales, while exceeding those of the preceding week, are still behind those of the like week in 1884. There is little improvement, if any, in hardware, none in iron and the grocery trade is plainly unsatisfactory. The Boston cotton cloth trade is disappointing, being smaller, and there is an outlook for the stoppage of some eastern mills this spring. Some lines of prints and sheetings have been cut in price some. There is a gain in the southern movement thence for boots and shoes and the advance of ½ to 1½c for upper leather well sustained. Woollen mills are less depressed than cotton, but the demand is small. Philadelphia sales for near-by wants continue attributed to the slow opening of spring trade elsewhere. At Chicago the milder weather has not improved trade, and the decline in wool further depresses the outlook there. St. Louis reports that improved transportation and the stocks held in the interior promise sales, as merchants feel moderately hopeful. At Cincinnati, buying by country merchants has increased slightly, and funds are accumulating there from better collections. There has been some gain in general jobbing lines at Cleveland and a feeling of confidence in commercial affairs is noted. From St. Paul and Minneapolis the brightest trade reports, the actual volume of business there being on the increase, notwithstanding fair, and country storekeepers having small stocks. Indianapolis and Detroit trade have experienced a feeling of greater confidence in the outlook, though no increase in sales reported. At other points covered by our graphic service there are no features marked for a change. The leading commercial markets have, with the exception of that for wheat flour, shown some increased activity. Cotton stuffs are dull and lower. No. 2 red wool closed at 89c, against 90½c the week before, and No. 2 mixed corn, 51c, against 53½c. Flax is shaded and weaker. Provisions are generally cheap, and the movement of grocery staples again been unsatisfactory. Sugar closed weak and coffee lower. Dairy produce continues drag, with cheese lower. Iron is quiet, with large customers taking steadily for immediate wants. At Cincinnati heavier sales than usual are reported. Cleveland and St. Louis announce signs of larger consumption also. Coal cheaper, and the demand is unchanged. Petroleum, after a spurt to 85c, reacted to 80½c; 82½c at the opening. The week resulted in further reduced movement of cotton from quotations, and the price has again advanced. Trade estimates of the crop are generally lower. The wool trade ruled very quiet, but there was no noteworthy change in values. There were 270 failures in the United States during the past week reported by *Bradstreet's*, as compared with 254 in the preceding week, and with 237, 260, and 132 respectively in the corresponding weeks of 1883, and 1882. About 85 per cent. worth of small traders, whose capital was less than \$5000. Canada had 46, a increase of 13.