

show their former readiness to cut prices as a temptation to buyers. We hear of one large western sole leather tanner who refuses to book No. 2 at less than 19 cents, whatever be the size of the order. At the present market for dry hides tanners claim they are losing money at the sole leather values of to-day.

PROVISIONS.—Trade is only moderately active. The butter market is slow, and prices easy, with receipts fairly heavy, being distributed between tubs and pails. There is room for improvement in the packing of the butter; more care in grading ought to mean better results for the dairymen, shippers and consignees. Prices range from 11 to 12½c. per lb. Cheese continues easy, with new cheese jobbing at 7½c., while sales of fancy September cheese have been made during the week at 8c. per lb. The product market is slow, although dealers report an improved demand for smoked meats. Long clear is quoted 5½ to 5¾c.; breakfast bacon, 9 to 9½c., and lard, 7½ to 8c. per lb. Eggs remain dull, at 9½c. per doz. There is no activity in either dried or evaporated apples.

SEEDS.—Nothing that is new has happened to make the local market interesting. The season is now pretty well closed, and beyond a moderate enquiry for Hungarian millet and other late sowing varieties, trade is inactive. In English markets prices are low, while there is an abundant supply of choice samples. The current range of values offers considerable inducement to speculators, who are purchasing with the intention of carrying stock into the next season. The Board of Trade returns, for which we are indebted to

Messrs. John Shaw & Sons, London, Eng., give the imports of clover and grass seeds into the United Kingdom for the first four months of this year as 223,776 cwts., value £431,977, as against 213,355 cwts., value £501,670, for the corresponding period of 1895. Present reports as to the growing crop of red clover are very unfavorable. The red clover made a poor catch in the spring of 1895. The drouth of last summer in the west was another set back. Consequently it went into the winter in rather poor condition. There was considerable freezing out during the winter and spring, and the present reports are quite unfavorable. Some say that it is becoming more and more difficult to grow red clover, and others go even as far as to say that the day of red clover is past in Ontario. The worst reports are from the west. The reports from the St. Lawrence and Ottawa and from the East Midland counties are, on the whole, quite unfavorable.

WOOL.—The market remains in practically an unchanged position. Dealers continue to pay 18c. for the best fleece, 15c. for rejects and 11c. for unwashed wool. The receipts of wool have not yet been sufficient to lead to any considerable sales, and it is difficult to quote quotations upon sales for consumptive purposes. Although but little wool is expected until after the Queen's Birthday, there is reason to believe the present season will be backward. Growers look for a repetition of last year's experience, and unless pressed for money are inclined to hold their wool, while country buyers are almost unanimous in regarding prospects for the future as brighter than the present situation.

The country is comparatively clear of last year's clip, and, where held, dealers must suffer heavily. An Ontario merchant is said to be carrying 240,000 lbs. of last year's clip, which must mean a loss of about \$12,000. It would be rash to make any prediction as to the future of the market: but the statistical position abroad certainly warrants hope for the future. The quantity of wool sold in the first three series of the London wool sales this year, falls short of the amount sold in the same series last year by 166,000 bales. It is not likely that the available supplies for the fourth and fifth sales will show an increase; everything, on the contrary, points to a further falling off of about 50,000 bales. At the next series, which opens on June 30th, the quantity of gross arrivals is limited to 375,000 bales, or deducting the transit wools, but adding the old stock, the total available will probably amount to about 370,000 bales, as compared with 391,000 bales a year ago.

LIVERPOOL PRICES.

Liverpool, May 28, 12.30 p. m.

	s.	d.
Wheat, Spring	5	3
Red, Winter	5	6
No. 1 Cal	5	5
Corn	2	11
Peas	4	7
Lard	22	6
Pork	47	6
Bacon, heavy	33	0
Bacon, light	34	6
Tallow	17	3
Cheese, new white	44	6
Cheese, new colored	40	0

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