

to be that, in the state of strained feeling just now existing between many members of the trade, any arrangement of the kind indicated is scarcely probable at present.

HARDWARE, ETC.—Trade this week is much better. Orders are coming to hand in much larger quantities: stocks are mostly short, and prices are much firmer. Should the threatened strike occur in England to-morrow, the probabilities are that the price of iron will materially and at once advance. Anyhow the tendency is for an upward movement in prices all round in hardware and iron. Changes in price have occurred in ingot and sheet copper,

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HIDES AND SKINS.—Business quiet and unchanged, with cured hides selling at 5c. cents per pound, and constant complaint as to quality. No. 1 green are quoted at 4 1/2c.; No. 2 at 3 1/2c., and No. 3 at 2 1/2c. Sheepskins are firm at \$1.10 to 1.25. Calfskins are quoted at 5 to 7c., with green in larger supply, and cured not wanted.

LEATHER.—The demand for leather in Toronto is fair, but without any particular change, and while not advancing rapidly we have a steady and regular improvement. Orders are increasing in quantity, but as a rule are for small lots. Prices continue weak and low; too low indeed to allow of a reasonable margin of profit. A large quantity of sole leather is being shipped to England every week, and this ensures a certain activity here, independent of all local requirements. Reports of the trade in England show much better condition of business there. Here the outlook is good, and we expect to see an increase in business about lately now. Payments are fair.

LIVE STOCK.—Business at the Western cattle yards has been fairly active, but prices for cattle have ruled low for some time past, and but for the fortunate circumstance that receipts have lately been comparatively small, the market, as far as cattle are concerned, would have gone all to pieces. The general run of cattle has been of poor quality, and selling round about 3 and 3 1/2c. per pound. Good cattle has been and is wanted, and for choice picked lots 4 to 4 1/2c. has been paid. There has been some purchasing of export cattle for future delivery at from 4 1/2 to 4 3/4c. per pound, but with the certainty of a season of low prices and the fear of some possible legislation in England that may affect the exportation of live stock, intending shippers here are inclined to hold back. The local demand is checked by mild weather. Sheep are scarcely wanted, but for lambs a good steady demand exists at from 4 1/2 to 5 1/2c. per pound; much complaint is made as to quality, but all lambs are selling, and choice are selling well. Calves are in active demand, and all will sell. Springers are wanted of good quality at from 3 1/2 to 3 3/4c. per pound. All grades of hogs are in request, and good light, fat, fetch 5c.; stores range

from \$3.75 to 4.25 per cwt. It will be better for the trade next week if the supply of cattle is light as prospects are not encouraging.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—A steady improvement in business is going on, but there are no material changes. Turpentine is firm at the late advance and oil is steady at unchanged figures. Travellers are sending in satisfactory reports as to prospects and payments, accompanied by a liberal supply of orders. Payments are more satisfactory than has been the case for some time.

PROVISIONS.—Trade all round has been only moderately active. Tub butter has been in fair supply at from 17 to 18c. for best, and 12 to 15c. for medium; large rolls are 14 to 16c.; pound rolls, 20 and 22c.; for butter there has been scarcely any export demand. Prices have been, if anything, a shade easier. Eggs are in large supply at 14c. for case lots, and

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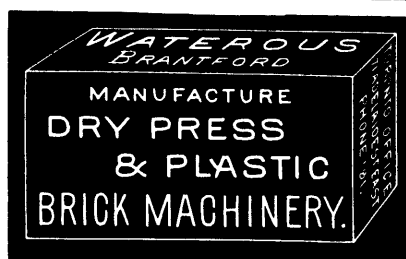
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