

suffered a decline of 15%; mink declined 25% on the larger and coarser skins, smaller and finer furred pelts sold rather better. The March sales, the most important of the year, and generally extending over a period of three weeks, begin on the 11th proximo, when a further decline is anticipated. We quote for prime skins:—Beaver, \$3.50; bear, \$10.00 to \$12.00; cub do., \$4.00 to \$5.00; fisher, \$5; red fox, \$1.00; cross do., \$2 to \$5; lynx, \$2.00 to \$2.50; marten, 65 to 80c.; mink, 50c.; fall muskrat 8c., winter muskrat, 12c.; raccoon, 25c., 50c., and 75c.; skunk, 25c., 50c., 75c.; otter \$8.00 to \$10.00.

GROCERIES.—The movement is a moderate one, and with the bettering of the country roads an improvement is looked for, collections fair only. There is no change in sugars since a week ago, the position being exactly the same, raws in New York are a shade firmer. Molasses firmly held, and bulk of the supply in the hands of one operator, we quote 40c. for Barbadoes, Porto Rico and Antigua 33 to 34c. Teas are in rather better demand, and fine Japans are more firmly held; advices from New York show that the statistical situation favors holders, the imports being several million pounds short of 1886, and that as it gets on to summer the situation will strongly favor holders. Coffees are lower abroad and here, we quote Rio 16 to 18c., Java 20 to 22c. Mocha 22 to 24c. In spices and tobaccos there is nothing notably new. Dried fruits move only slowly, some Valencia raisins have sold at 5c., and some old stock at about 4c., but good fruit is held at 5½ to 6c., currants very firm at 6½c., lowest for sound fruit, dates firmer at 5 to 6c., filberts also higher at 8 to 9½c. The mill will likely commence rice quotations for this season in course of a few days; they will certainly be higher. Washboards are advanced in price.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Business still rules very quiet in these lines. Pig iron moves in very small lots to supply passing needs only, and very little has yet been done in the placing of orders for spring delivery as freight rates are yet unsettled. Prices as before noted with warrants a little firmer at 39/4d. Tin, copper and lead remain firm. We quote:—Cott. \$23.75; Calder, Gartsherrie and Summerlee \$23.00; Eglinton and Dalmellington \$21 to \$22; Siemens \$22.00 to \$23.00 for No. 1. No Carnbroe or Shotts here; cast scrap, railway chairs, &c., \$19.00 machinery scrap \$17 to \$19, common ditto \$16. We quote:—Bar Iron, \$2.10 to \$2.15; Best refined \$2.35 to \$2.40; Siemens, \$2.10 to \$2.15; Canada Plates—Blaina, \$2.75; Tin Plates, Bradley Charcoal, \$6.00 to \$6.50; Charcoal I.C., \$4.75; do. I.X., \$5.50 to \$6; Coke I.C., \$4 to \$4.25 as to lot; galvanized sheets, No. 28, 5c. to 7c., according to brand; Tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6½c.; No. 26, 7c., the usual extra for large sizes. Hoops and bands, per 100lbs., \$2.35 to \$2.50. Staffordshire boiler plate, \$2.75; Common Sheet Iron, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Steel Boiler Plate, \$2.75; heads, \$4.00; Russian Sheet Iron, 11c.; Lead, per 100 lbs.—Pig, \$4.25 to \$4.50; Sheet, \$4.75 to \$5.00; Shot, \$6.00 to \$6.50; best cast steel, 11 to 13c.; Spring, \$2.70 to \$3.00. Tire, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Sleigh shoe, \$2.40 to \$2.50; Round Machinery Steel, \$3.00 to 0.00; Ingot tin 38 to 40c.; Bar Tin, 40c.; Ingot Copper, 18 to 20c.; Sheet Zinc, \$5.00; Spelter, \$5.00; Bright Iron Wire, Nos. 0 to 8, \$2.25 per 100 lbs.. Annealed do. \$2.30.

OILS, PAINTS AND GLASS.—Orders are coming in well, and prospects for spring trade are reported good; money is rather hard to get in. Linseed oil remains at 60c. for raw, 63c. for boiled; turpentine, which receded 1½c. in the South, is again firm at former figures. We quote 65c. for single brls., 63 to 64c. for larger lots; castor oil 8 to 8½c.; olive 95c. to \$1.00; shellacs keep very firm; fish oils not very active, steam refined seal rather firmer at 48 to 50c., Nfld. cod 34 to 35c., Nova Scotia ditto 31c. There must be a rise in leads ere long as they are being sold at less than cost, dry lead has advanced again £1 per ton, and is now £19 in England; glass steady. We quote:—Leads (chemically pure and first-class brands only) \$5.50 to \$6.00; No. 1, \$5.25; No. 2, \$4.50; No. 3, \$4.25. Dry white lead, 5½c., red do. 4½c.; London washed whiting, 50 to 55c. Paris white, \$1.00 to \$1.15; Cookson's Venetian Red, \$1.75; other brands Venetian Red, \$1.50 to \$1.60; Yellow ochre, \$1.50; Spruce ochre, \$2.00 to \$3.00. Glass, \$1.50 per 50 feet for first break; \$1.60 for second break.

## TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, Feb. 23, 1888.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Manufacturers say that there is not much doing. The demand is principally for spring goods, immediate orders being very light. Country buyers are asking for cheaper goods and the roughly made article from the East, finds, for the time being, a ready sale. It is beginning to be found, however, that they give but poor satisfaction, and it is thought that a reaction in favor of the more durable boot made here will soon take place. Wholesalers are not making much effort to effect sales except to good customers. Payments are very unsatisfactory.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The only changes this week are camphor, which has advanced about 20%, and carbolic acid about 10%. Quinine is unchanged and opium ditto. Trade is very good, travellers now out are securing a fair amount of orders.

DRY GOODS.—The present is rather a quiet time in this line; orders for spring are not large and not easily obtained. Houses are scanning credits, besides, with more care, and with caution thus shown on both sides, the result should be salutary. Values of goods are well maintained; linens show an advance in Britain and some cotton dress fabrics are higher. Domestic cottons are steady in price; Canadian woollens unsettled. Remittances are irregular but not generally satisfactory.

FISH.—This market is completely bare of salt white fish and trout, and all supplies to arrive are already placed. Dressed fresh white fish quotes at 8c. in boxes, and in quantities, ton lots, 7½c. Undressed ½c. lb. less. Supplies are very light. Frozen trout commands 7½c., and British Columbia salmon is very low in price, say 10c., due to an overstocked market. Blue pickerel are worth 5c. per lb., and yellow ditto, 5½c. The market is also clear of salt herrings. Freshiscos and smoked ditto. are now beginning to arrive. Small smoked bring \$1.25 and large \$2.00. Fresh \$3.00 for large, and \$1.50 for small. Old Labrador quote at \$4.00 per brl. and new at \$5. Stocks of these descriptions are ample. Mr. Jno. Leckie reports large orders for fishing nets from Frazer River, B. C.

FLOUR.—The same state of things exists now as during the last few weeks and there is no indication of any improvement from the marked dullness. Stocks in the mills are increasing and prices, in the absence of transactions, almost nominal.

GRAIN.—Local trading in wheat is dull, the mills buying principally of fall and only for immediate wants. About 50,000 bushels of spring went forward, via Midland Railway to Portland, for export, at prices ranging from 77 to 78c. This is the first export shipment of any consequence this season and spring is a little easier; we quote: 81c. for No. 1., No. 2, 79c., No. 3, 77c. There is a lower tendency in barley and the market somewhat easier, maltsters being pretty well stocked up. Oats are firm and in demand at 44 to 45c. Peas are scarce and wanted for local use at 65 to 67c. Rye is wanted but very scarce. Corn nominal.

GROCERIES.—Trade keeps very quiet. In the present condition of matters the careful and conservative houses are not pushing business but prefer waiting until things in general show signs of improvement. In sugars the feeling is still firm and last weeks prices yet rule. Teas meet with very fair enquiry considering the volume of trade done. Both syrups and molasses are hard to get and high. Currants are in comparatively small compass and firm. There is nothing to be had in Provincials under 6½c in barrels. Aracan rice is rather scarce and the latest quotation is 3½c. by carload at mill in Montreal. Our figures are 3½ to 3¾c. Tobaccos are firm at unchanged prices. The demand for canned goods is beginning to revive and the enquiry now is for tomatoes at \$1.20 to 1.25; peas, \$1.40 to 1.55; corn, \$1.25 to 1.55, and apples for 3's 90 to 95c., gallons \$2.25 to 2.60 according to quality.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Sales of car lots of hides, present take off, are reported at 6½c. What few old hides are on the market are held at 7c. Calfskins will soon be more plentiful but the feeling continues as dull as ever without any prospect of improvement. Prices are unchanged. There are not many sheepskins being marketed but those coming in find ready

sale at \$1.10 to 1.20. Tallow is scarce and brings little better prices.

SEEDS.—We make no change in prices under this heading and there is nothing of very special interest to chronicle. In the absence of an export enquiry and only a limited local demand prices of alsike clover are nominal and the feeling dull. The market for red clover remains quiet. There is a fair jobbing trade with the bulk of supplies coming from Western States. There is very little Canadian red clover seed offering; owing to short crops holders appear unwilling to sell at present figures and Americans are apparently making the most of the situation by pushing their seed on the market. There appears to be no immediate prospect of better prices. Timothy continues firm at last reported quotations.

LEATHER.—February has turned out an unusually dull month. There is no movement of any kind and we hear of an accumulation in most descriptions of stock with a decided inclination to shade below our quotations. Payments on the whole have been fairly well met. Still there has been, and it is thought will be, a good deal of renewing. Failures in this branch of trade have not been of serious moment, and the outlook in this respect is fairly bright. Tanners are again cautioned to exercise great prudence. The low price of hides and tanning materials may and likely will be a temptation to stock up. But it is not considered wise to take such a course in the face of things as at present. Much wiser to curtail than branch out.

LUMBER.—Business is commencing to open up with the prospects bright for a good trade in the near future. Enquiries for good lumber for factory purposes and for dimension stuff for construction uses, are coming in. Bill stuff has advanced in price fully fifty cents, and is scarce. In the demand for lumber for speculative building a very large decrease is noticeable, and credit is given very cautiously. Some little renewing is asked for, but on the whole payments are being met very satisfactorily.

PETROLEUM.—There is quite a good deal of oil selling for this season of the year. Prices show some weakness. We quote 5 to 10 barrel lots of Canadian, f.o.b. Toronto, at 12½ to 13c.; single barrels 13c. Other qualities of Canadian and American as previously quoted.

PROVISIONS.—Butter is in fair demand with increasing supplies, there being considerable coming in from the east. Cheese is dull and steady at unchanged prices. There is a fair jobbing enquiry for hog products. Long clear quotes at 9 to 9½c.; hams 11½ to 12c., and lard 10 to 10½c. Fresh eggs are in good demand, and lower prices are looked for. We quote 20c. Fresh, almost unsalable. Dried apples wanted at 5½ to 6c.; evaporated, dull. Beans selling in small lots at \$1.20 to \$1.30 for fine, and second quality about \$1 to \$1.10. We hear of nothing in hops.

WOOL.—We have no new features to report in this department. Quietness continues in all descriptions of wool. The demand is very light, and in small lots. Factory men still seem inclined to hold off. Prices as previously quoted.

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