

ket have been considerably diminished. Dealers, therefore, on discovering that the supply is likely to be exhausted before the opening of navigation, have further advanced prices; stove is now selling at \$8.25 to \$8.50, and egg and chestnut at \$7.75 to \$8, according to quality and views of the seller. There is every probability of another early advance to \$8.50 and \$9 for egg and nut, and stove, respectively, as dealers claim that it will cost within 25c. of these prices to import fresh stocks by rail. Values are already higher than for several years. Welsh Anthracite is quoted at \$6.50; Scotch Grate and Steam at \$6 to \$6.25; Lower Ports at \$5.75 to \$6, and Newcastle smiths' at \$6.50. Coke, per chaldron, \$3.50. There is a fair demand for firewood, at firm prices: Maple, \$7.50 to \$8.50; Birch, \$6.75 to \$8; Beech, \$6.50 to \$7.25; Tamarac, \$5 to \$6.50; Hemlock, \$4.50 to \$5.25.

Dry Goods.—Importations of spring goods continue to arrive, and wholesale houses are kept tolerably busy opening up the various lines and preparing samples. Quite an army of travellers is now on the march, and incoming orders are quite as numerous as expected, but one or two houses are holding back their forces, not so much on account of delay in receiving goods as from well-founded objections to forcing the seasons by an over-early hunt for custom. The pernicious dating-forward system is encouraged in some quarters as much as ever; some Montreal travellers are known to have carried Spring prints on their starting-up trip in November last, and the goods then sold were shipped about the 1st January to be dated from the 1st March next. The demand for staple cotton goods has continued good, and one or two agents for Canadian mills informs us that orders for colored goods are still taken at values at time of shipment. Bradstreet's agency reports that the cotton crop in the States last year reached nearly 6,000,000 bales, the largest ever known. Very few customers have been in the market, as both city and country retailers have commenced stock-taking; but remittances are uniformly reported good, and should the season continue as satisfactory as it has begun, the general trade will undoubtedly be cheerful over the results.

Drugs and Chemicals.—The market has been rather quiet during the week, with little enquiry for any description of goods. Prices are without change except for *Cream of Tartar Crystals* which are slightly higher with prospects of a still further advance. Latest reports from England announce that the demand for all leading lines is rather light, but inasmuch as manufacturers have the business pretty much in their own hands there is a much firmer feeling prevailing. *Potass. Iodide* has declined a little.

Dairy Produce.—The tone of the local butter market is steady and firm, more especially for fine grades; shippers have been endeavoring to take advantage of the improved state of the English market, and, failing to get sufficient supplies of the finest grades, are taking the next best article. Fine creamery is held higher here, as recent cable advices from Liverpool have been much more encouraging, and report healthy English markets. Morrisburgs, choice dairies, have changed hands within the week for shipment at our quotations, and among the sales reported is a lot of 100 tubs Brockville at 19c, 300 tubs stale Eastern Townships in the interior at equal to 20c here, small lots of Kamouraska (50 tubs each) at 16c. There is a fair demand from the Lower Ports for Kamouraska, under which prices have advanced 1c to 2c. Quite a number of butter consignments have recently been made from New York to Newfoundland; 1,600 packages were unloaded from a ship arriving at St. John's some days since. New York appears to be supplying the demand from the other side also, the exports from that port for last week being 8,735 packages, quite an increase over those of the week previous. At the moment New York market is firm for desirable

butter, with the demand of quite a general character, and the supply selling up closely. Shippers continue to exhaust the arrivals of fine to choice factory, chiefly at 20 to 22c, which latter is also about the top figure for State and Welch dairies. The Cheese markets here and abroad have also improved considerably, and close firm, with an upward turn in values, which for fancy September have already advanced here 1c on last week's quotations. There seems to be every probability of higher prices for both butter and cheese.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—The breadstuffs markets on both continents have ruled quiet during the week, without much change in values. English markets are reported by cable quiet but firm; in consequence of derangement of the telegraph lines, caused by a severe storm in England, Beerholm's market reports have been considerably interfered with this week, and the Western wheat markets have remained uninteresting, the principal feature being a decided drooping tendency in values. In Chicago prices steadily declined until yesterday, when there was a reaction, owing doubtless to more favorable foreign advices, and No. 2 Spring wheat advanced 1c per bushel, closing at 99c March. Corn was also a fraction stronger, quoted at 37c February, 41c May. In New York, No. 2 red winter wheat advanced yesterday 1c, to \$1.17½ cash at the close. The local grain market has come to be almost a nonentity, compared with the amount of business done during navigation. The arrivals of wheat and coarse grains here now are insufficient to establish a criterion for values. Prices, therefore, given on another page are merely nominal, although based on latest sales. The local flour market, also, has continued dull, with values favoring buyers; about the only kinds dealt in lately were the lower grades, and sales include only lots of 100 to 125 barrels each. We note a decline for the week of 10c per barrel for Spring Extra and Superfine, and 5c do for Ontario Bags. Middlings and Pollards firmer; other kinds quoted as last week.

FISH.—A steady, retail demand has been experienced, and prices for all kinds remain firm. Stocks of Labrador Herrings are pretty much in the hands of one firm, and selling at \$5.75 for No. 1; a lot of 70 barrels changed hands at this price. No. 2 worth \$4 to \$4.25. No movement reported in *Col* fish, and quotations rule nominal. There has been some enquiry from the States for No. 1 Salmon, and negotiations are pending. California Salmon quoted at \$15.50 for No. 2; North Shore do. worth \$18.50, \$17.50, and \$16.50 for Nos. 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Lake Trout selling in small lots at \$4.12½ to \$4.25 per half barrel.

GROCERIES.—*Sugars.*—There has been a recent advance of about 1c to 1½c for Yellows, while Granulated continues unchanged. Porto Rico Sugar has been sold to the extent of nearly 300 hogsheads, at about 7½c, mostly choice and held as such at an advance, say 7½c to 8½c. *Teas.*—The market is steady for good Teas. Prices not to be quoted changed here. New York market steady and rather higher. *Syrups* firm at advance; *Molasses* inactive; *Rice* dull. *Coffee.*—Little business to notice; prices unchanged here. *Spices.*—Pepper firm; sales in quantity made at about 11½c, now quoted 12c to 13½c. Other Spices steady. *Fruits.*—Valencia Raisins scarce, at 8c to 8½c. Malaga fruit dull. Currants rather higher.

HARDWARE AND IRON.—At the corresponding date last year, strength and activity was the order of the day, and prices were buoyant and steadily advancing; now trade is quite inactive, and prices, more especially for heavy goods, while remaining unchanged, are unsatisfactory, alike almost to buyer and seller. The contrast, however, of the two periods is attributable to a corresponding difference in the condition of

foreign markets, and it must not be inferred that the trade here is in an unhealthy state; on the contrary, dealers are of opinion that the time is not distant when the present lull will give place to an active demand, at more profitable prices. Some houses have not yet finished stock-taking and balancing books, but there has been a slightly better enquiry for shelf goods during the week, and letter orders of a sorting-up character are as numerous as can be expected at this period. Travellers are getting their samples ready, but none have started out on their Spring trip. In *Bar Iron* there have been considerable sales of Siemens during the week at within our quotations. There has been an improved demand for *Scrap Iron and Rails*; consumers are taking hold, since all such heavy goods could not now be imported for the prices current in this market. *Tin Plates* rule quiet and depressed; no important sales for the week, buyers and sellers apart. In *Pig Iron* there has been rather more movement than for the week previous, but indications are still uncertain; enquiries have not been wanting, both on local and Western account, but buyers and sellers have not yet compromised their differences. At the close of last week a lot of 500 tons Summerlee was sold by agents here for makers in Glasgow, at a price withheld, but admitted to be under our quotations; they received immediate instructions thereafter, however, by cable, not to sell more until advised, as the Glasgow market was strong with prices advancing. When it is known that at present prices here makers in Scotland lose \$8 to \$8 on every ton sold, the necessity for frequent instructions is quite apparent. There have been sales to western consumers within the week of smaller lots of Summerlee, of 40 to 60 tons each, at \$20, ex-ship, and a lot of 50 tons No. 3 Calder sold at \$19.50.

HIDES AND SKINS.—This market presents no new feature. There have not been many native hides offering the past week, yet the supply seems sufficient for the demand, and prices are uniformly unchanged. Stocks of western hides in the market have been considerably increased, but sales have not been at all numerous. Tanners still pay \$11, \$10 and \$9 respectively for Nos. 1, 2 and 3, inspected. Owing to a falling off in the demand for *sheepskins*, prices are easier, and sales have occurred at \$1; quoted at \$1 to \$1.25, as to size and quality. *Calfskins* still quoted at 12c per lb.

LUMBER.—Trade is quiet, but prices continue to advance, especially on good pine lumber which is scarce, dry stuff especially. Manufacturers are asking an advance for this season's cut on last year's figures, from \$1 to \$3 per M. foot according to quality. Owing to the favorable weather for log making, and quantity being produced, buyers are not particularly anxious to buy, hoping for lower figures, seeing that there will be no scarcity. Deal contracts have been made with several firms at \$1.10 to \$1.15 per standard, for 1sts, 2nds and 3rds in proportion, which is about the highest figures ever attained. Owing to the scarcity of men throughout the townships and Canada west (as all the spare help was drawn off to the Ottawa district and Michigan), there is not as much basswood and hardwood being cut as would otherwise be; the demand for such is particularly good. Altogether the prospects are bright for a brisk season.

LEATHER.—The market continues quiet, and in striking contrast with the active demand at the corresponding period last year, when good *Sole* leather could scarcely be kept in stock. Manufacturers are only buying moderate-sized lots, to meet present requirements, and seem to regard the future course of prices as likely to be in their favor. There have been steady sales in nearly all descriptions, but dealers report scarcely any movement in large parcels; a few rather heavy orders for black leathers have been received by a lending house from British Columbia. *Buff* is firmer, not notably higher, and prime stock is quite scarce. Other kinds are in