

\$14.00; lard 9½c.; hams 11¼ to 12c.; bacon 10 to 11c.

**SALT.**—There is only the usual quiet business being done, and prices remain as quoted:—Elevens 55c.; twelves 52½c.; factory-filled \$1.15 to \$1.20; Ashton's and Eureka \$2.40; Turks Island 30c. per bushel; rock salt 50c. per cwt., special quotations for ton lots.

**WOOL.**—Matters are generally expected to be quiet in this line these holiday times, but all things considered the movement continues very fair, and mill men continue to be well employed. There is no accumulation of stocks in pulled wools or other domestics, and values continue steady. We quote:—Canadian A supers 27 to 28c.; B ditto 22 to 23c.; unassorted 21 to 22c.; black 20 to 21c.; Cape 16 to 18c.; fleece 22 to 23c.

### TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Dec. 24th, 1885.

Trade seems generally to have been rather inactive for this season, nor do merchants in some of the most important branches seem to have been inclined to push it. The general inclination shown has been in favor of having a quiet time and waiting to see how the wind is likely to blow before committing themselves to any new risks. It is not that any apprehension of trouble in the future has prevailed, but a feeling of uncertainty both as to the amount of business likely to be done, and the prices at which it may be done, in the near future and a determination to keep what has been made already if they can manage it.

Stocks have been very quiet all through the week. Bank shares have varied but little and the only one of them which has been moved at all freely is Commerce which has sold at 117½ to 117¾ xd. Imperial, Dominion, Standard and Hamilton have been wanted but scarcely any offered. British America took a jump upwards of ¾ to 4 points on the declaration of the dividend. Northwest and unsettled, and closed at a considerable decline. Loan and Saving stocks have been offered very sparingly and held firmly.

**DRY GOODS.**—There is a fair sorting business doing in this important department of trade. Quite a number of orders are also coming in for goods suitable for holiday demand. Many of the houses are busily engaged in making and otherwise preparing samples for the spring trade. Nearly all the travellers have returned to spend their Christmas vacation and will begin their regular spring trips as soon as possible after the opening of the year. Prices are for the most part unchanged. Payments are satisfactory and the amount of business being done is quite equal to, and in many cases better, than for the same time last year.

**DRUGS.**—The movement is very fair, quinine is lower at 85 to 95c. Opium firm and unchanged. Licorice root and extract, cubebs, camphor and golden seal are light. A good trade is being done in fancy goods suitable for Christmas presents.

**FLOUR.**—The chronic dullness and inactivity has remained unabated, and although holders have not been inclined to push sales, the tendency of prices seems to have been downwards, closing with sellers of superior at \$3.70, and of extra at \$3.60 with no demand heard for either. Bran, scarce, firm and wanted at \$11.50 to \$12.00 for cars on track. Oatmeal: inactive and easy; cars of average brands obtainable at \$3.75, but fine held higher; and small lots selling slowly at \$4.00 to \$4.25.

**GRAIN.**—The close of the barley season has left the market in a state of inactivity, anything else nobody has been inclined to buy and very few have been inclined to sell. Wheat: neglected, but values fairly steady; No. 2 fall has sold for May delivery at 90½c., and for cash 85c. f.o.c.; and No. 2 Spring, has brought 86c. f.o.c., on one or two occasions, and the same prices would probably have been repeated at the close when 84c. was bid for No. 2 fall. Oats: Values much as before with sales of cars on track at 33 to 34c. for mixed, and 35c. for milling oats, with 32½c. to 33c. paid for mixed to arrive. Barley: The higher grades

have continued in active demand, but offerings very small and held very firmly, with the lower grades offered freely and not wanted, No. 1 has sold at 92c. and 94c.; No. 2 at 80c. and 81c., and extra No. 3 at 70c. to 71c.; No. 3 has been offered all week at 58c. and continued inactive until the close when a couple of cars of a very choice sample sold at 58½c., but average still offered lower. Peas, easier, with sales of a few cars of No. 2 at 60c. which price would probably have been repeated. Rye: nominally unchanged at about 60c.

**GROCERIES.**—Trade this week has been very fair, a considerable amount of business having been done. A good many orders are coming by wire for small quantities to be sent by express. Teas continue active, particularly low grades; prices are firm. Sugars are quiet and unchanged; local stocks are light. Dried fruits have been moving somewhat more freely; for valencias there is a reasonable demand at 8½ to 9c. for the best, and 8½ to 8¾ for a second quality; Malaga fruits are in best demand; Taragona almonds are a shade firmer; currants are firm at previous quotations. Green fruits are also selling more freely, but the movement, owing to unfavourable weather, is not nearly as good as for the corresponding period last year. Cranberries are easier at \$1 per box. Whole pepper is higher at 18½ to 20c. Canned tomatoes are firmer at \$1.45 to \$1.60. Payments are more satisfactory.

**HARDWARE.**—The general demand has been quiet, but there has been an active demand for the best cutlery, plated ware and similar goods for the holiday trade. Metals are nominally unchanged; in England there is more strength shown in almost all lines, due no doubt to a sympathy with the American markets. Payments show some improvement.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—Green hides have been in fair supply and of fair quality; all taken at former prices; cured in good demand with sales of cars of cows at 9½c. and of small lots of steers at 10c. Calfskins.—Nothing of any consequence doing; prices nominal. Sheepskins.—Prices unchanged at last week's advance to \$1.00 for green and 75c. to 90c. for country lots; receipts considerable but all readily taken in consequence of the scarcity of wool.

**LIVE STOCK.**—This is the quietest week in the year in this line. The market just now is almost deserted. Local trade was well supplied by the more than ample offerings of last week. Trade is almost entirely in the hands of pedlars, who purchase common grades of stock and sell from house to house. A few butchers have been looking for small cattle to send out with the Christmas meat. There have only been three or four loads in all received this week at the western market, and these proved sufficient to supply the demand; good to fair 900 to 1,150 lb. cattle sold at prices ranging from 3 to 4c. per pound. Sheep and lambs are both nominal. Hogs are easier with mixed lots at 3½c. to 3¾c. per lb.; good light fat are wanted at 4c. per lb. and so also are stores at the same price; heavy fat are quiet and not much in demand at 3½ to 3¾c. per lb. Poultry nominal with turkeys at 9c. and geese firmer at 6½c. per lb.

**PETROLEUM.**—Is steady at the advance quoted last week. Business continues quite active. Car lots at Petrolia are quoted at 14 to 14½c. Here Canadian refined is selling at 18½c. for single barrels and for lots of 5 and upwards at 18c.

**PROVISIONS.**—Receipts of medium and inferior butter have been large, and as there has been no demand for shipment heard, stocks have been accumulating and deteriorating, much to the discomfort of dealers; really choice, that is to say selections, have however gone off as fast as offered at 15 to 16c. and occasionally 17c.; with box-lots of rolls at 12 to 14c. for fair to choice. Cheese, only small lots selling and these going at 9 to 9½c. for choice and 6½ to 8c. for poor to medium, the latter going very slowly. Eggs, receipts largely increased and supply fully sufficient; prices rather unsettled at about 19c. for fresh and 16c. for pickled in round lots. Pork, quiet but firmer at \$13.50 for small lots. Bacon, the demand has been very slack and the small supply equal to it; long-clear has sold very slowly at 7c. for small lots; Cumberland not offered; rolls 8½ to 9½c., and bellies 10½ to 11c. for small lots. Hams have continued in fair demand and steady at 11 to 11½c. for smoked. Lard, a steady demand has prevailed and

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