

LEATHER.—Business has been very quiet the past week and we have no important transactions to chronicle. The shoe houses are not yet actively engaged and we do not anticipate any active movement in leathers for some little time to come, in the meantime stocks are light and prices are likely to remain steady. We repeat our quotations of last week. We quote *Hemlock Spanish Sole*, No. 1, B. A., 28 t; 29c; ditto No. 2, B. A., 26 to 27c; No. 1, *Ordinary*, 27 to 28c; No. 2, ditto, 25 to 26c; *Zanzibar*, ditto No. 1, 23 to 24c; ditto No. 2, 20 to 21c; *Buffalo Sole*, No. 1, 24 to 25c; ditto No. 2, 22 to 23c; *Hemlock slaughter*, No. 1, 28 to 31c; *Waxed Upper*, light and medium, 40 to 43c; ditto, heavy, 38 to 40c; *Grained*, 40 to 42c; *Splits*, large, 28 to 36c; ditto, small, 25 to 30c; *Calf skins*, (27 to 36 lbs.) 60 to 70c per lb., ditto (18 to 26 lbs.) 50 to 65c per lb; *Sheepskin linings*, 25 to 35c; *Harness*, 27 to 32c; *Buffed cow*, 14 to 17c; *Enamelled cow*, 15 to 17c; *Patent cow* 15 to 17c; *Pebbled cow* 14 to 17c; *Rough* 26 to 30c.

CILS.—*Linseed* is firm and in fair demand and prices well maintained, raw, 72½ to 75c; boiled, 75 to 80c. In fish oils there are no transactions of moment since our last and prices are nominally unchanged. *Cod Oil*.—Nfd. 50 55c; ditto Halifax 47 to 50c; *Seal* pale 50c; ditto straw 37½ to 40c; ditto steam refined 57½ to 60c. *Petroleum*.—The demand for the past week has been small. Prices are steady and firm at our present figures. Car lots 16½c; broken lots 17c; and single brls. 17 to 18c.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter*.—The total receipts for the year 1879 were 280,479 kegs against 193,202 kegs in 1878, showing an increase of 87,277 kegs. Total shipments in 1879 were 259,901 kegs 186,812 kegs in 1878, being an increase of 73,089 kegs. The English market is easier but holders here are very firm, Eastern Townships 20 to 22c; Morrisburg 19 to 21c; Brockville 18 to 19c; Western and Kamouraska butter is in good demand at 16 to 18c; *Cheese*.—Total receipts for the year 1879 were 558,903 boxes, against 484,395 boxes in 1878, being an increase of 74,508 boxes. Shipments for 1879, 571,704 boxes, against 501,943 boxes in 1878, being an increase of 69,761 boxes, market firm and rather bare, the local demand is good just now. At 13½ to 14c. *Pork* is quieter but very firm, mess is now quoted at \$17.50 to 18.00. *Lard* of Canadian make is worth 10½ to 11½c; Chicago sells about 1c. dearer but there is very little in the market. *Smoked hams* 11½ to 12½c. *Bacon* 8½ to 9c.

WOOL.—Business has not begun to revive yet. Wool is a little more plentiful, and as soon as the mills commence again to work a good demand is looked for. In the absence of reported sales prices are unchanged. Unassorted pulled 28 to 30c.; Greasy Cape 21 to 22c.

HALIFAX TRADE.

The following are the imports of sugar and molasses at the port of Halifax for the year 1879:—

PLACE.	MOLASSES.			SUGAR.		
	Puns	Tres	Brls.	H'ds.	Tres.	Brls.
Cuba	388	410	318	2737	87	367
Demerara	2817	27	53	803	25	1340
Porto Rico	401	7	.....	8463	6	1463
Barbadoes	1032	52	42	525	27	175
Jamaica	.....	.....	.....	966	157	905
Trinidad	1291	95	106	.....	.....	.....
St. Kitts	136	.....	12	.....	.....	.....
Total	9265	591	528	13514	392	4250

Exports of fish from Halifax to the West India Islands for the year ending December 31st, 1879, including shipments by steamers via New York to Cuba:—

PLACE.	DRY FISH Quintals.	PICKLED FISH. Barrels.
Porto Rico	127477	35000
Jamaica	79392	45662
Cuba	76826	50
Demerara	29529	5353
Barbadoes	18713	3669
French Islands	3200	260
St. Domingo	1158	524
Total	336295	90458

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, 8th Jan., 1880.

What with holidaying, stock-taking, and balancing of books to ascertain the result of last year's business, merchants have had their time very fully occupied this week. At the same time, the sales made have been limited, no line of business boasting of activity just now. We believe the general experience to be that the year just closed has yielded better profit and more satisfaction to merchants than any of the three or four that have preceded it. Values are well maintained: iron and tin show another advance, leather is very firm here, being scarce and looking still upwards in the States. Prices of grain and flour have somewhat weakened, but holders appear to have some faith in the future. Provisions are steady; groceries maintain their prices as a rule. Efforts are being made by not a few houses to get their customers up to the mark, and to keep them up to the mark of more prompt payments and more cash discounts henceforward; and we wish thorough success and general adoption to the movement.

DRY GOODS.—The closing months of the past year have established that Toronto is doing an increased business as a distributing centre for Ontario. Already many orders have been taken for Canadian fabrics; among these tweeds, cottons, shirtings, and ducks are noteworthy. Some lines of British staples have also been placed, from advanced samples. In a very short time travellers will be equipped for the spring and summer campaign. All are looking forward with good cheer for the realization of well-grounded hopes which recent experiences have established. Short dates, small parcels, quick sales, and prompt remittances are the *desiderata*.

FLOUR.—Stocks in store 14,675 bbls. against 13,050 bbls. last week and 12,040 bbls. on like date last year. The market during the week has been dull and slightly depressed, owing to unfavorable English and other advices. There are no sales making, the market being unsettled. Our quotations are, therefore, mostly nominal.

GRAIN.—*Wheat*.—Fall—Stocks in store 172,750 bush. against 172,009 last week and 48,240 bush. on like date last year. This grain is dull and slightly lower. We have no transactions of moment to note, but car lots of fall and spring changed hands, No. 2 fall brought \$1.33 in car lots, and spring \$1.30 but there are no buyers to day at within 2c of these prices. The English market is 6d. to 1/- lower on wheat, the west fell off 2 to 3c on Tuesday and is dull at the decline. *Wheat*.—Spring—Stocks in store 167,506 bush. against 142,811 bush. last week, and 95,900 bush. on like date last year. Early in the week No. 2 changed hands at \$1.30, but offers to-day at \$1.28 with no takers. *Oats*.—Stocks in store 3,650 bush. against 2,950 bush. last week and 12,630 bushels on like date last year. Market quiet and steady with a moderate demand for local use; cars on track have brought 36 to 36½c. *Barley*.—Stocks in store 181,010 bush. against

176,148 bush. last week and 144,349 bush. on like date last year. Barley is nearly unchanged in price, sales have been freely made during the week at our quotations, the bulk of them being to local maltsters. The market is steadier than at last advices. *Peas*.—Stocks in store 43,770 bush. against 40,273 bush. last week and 19,203 bush. on like date last year. This grain is dull and weaker, with few or no transactions.

GROCERIES. Business was quiet last week, and a little improvement is visible since we last wrote. The principal demand is for sugars and teas, which sell in small to moderate parcels. In *Fruit* new currants are quite firm, and 7c is lowest price in round lots; inside of a fortnight they have advanced in New York from 4½ to 5½c in bond, and the supply is limited. *Sugars*, which last week were somewhat weaker, have recovered. Redpath declines to repeat orders at last week's prices. We quote Canadian refined yellows, from low to extra bright, at 8 to 10c; English refined are steady at 8 to 9½c and Porto Rico 8½ to 8¾c. *Teas*, there is a fair demand from the country, those who have held back, appear now to give in to the necessity of paying an advanced price; cheap Japans are most in request, with occasional enquiry for blacks, and greens.

HIDES AND SKINS.—This trade has been quiet all week, 10½ and 9½c; are again paid for green, and 10½ to 10¾c. got for cured *hides* No. 1. The prices for sheepskins are rather weaker.

HARDWARE.—Trade has very perceptibly slackened since Christmas week, orders are mostly by letter and of small compass. But few travellers are out if any from this city, and houses are not anxious to press heavy goods, being unable to replace them to sell at present prices. Another advance is announced in *tin plates*, bringing 1 C. charcoal up to \$8½ to 9. Even, this price, it is worth remembering, is not above the average of recent years, and the United States demand for both iron and other metals is so great and so legitimate that prices will not easily be lowered. At the same time, careful observers in the States are feeling uneasy over a possible drop. Says the *American Manufacturer*, "instead of the English market controlling ours, the reverse is the case, we control the English." We advance prices of tinned sheets about 75c all round. There is a fractional change in *lead*, we quote pig firm, and galvanized iron up this week in England. Band same, \$2.75 to 3.00. Prices of cut nails 10d to 60d \$3.50 and so on upwards as per list in prices current, and higher prices expected. *Window Glass*.—We have raised our quotations.

LEATHER.—January is not an active month in the leather trade usually, and not much business can be reported thus far this year. December is reported to have been a good month as to payments from country dealers, as well as for sales. Travellers were started on Monday, and have not done much as yet. *Sole* continues firm, and is in few hands. *Upper* is in request, and choice commands high figures; good *splits* are in demand, and the best qualities of *pebble* and of *buff* need no forcing whatever. High prices still prevail for *French calf*, and there is no sign of weakening any where in the list.

PROVISIONS.—Prices continue in the main unchanged from last week, except that mess pork is rather higher. But little has been doing in the last few days, people seeming disinclined to operate. There is no export demand for *butter*, and 18c is an outside figure for lots of choice. Of *cheese*, the stock in this market is not large; cheap brands are pretty well cleared out, and some choice brands bring as high as 13½. Liverpool as well as New York stocks are less than last year.

WOOL.—Prices are maintained, but transactions have been small. *Fleece* is as last quoted, higher prices asked for *pulled* super which are however not readily got. *Extra* is quiet.