

## TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, 18th Dec., 1879.

Colder weather, and a good fall of snow, which promises to last, are having their effect in producing more activity in the country this week. The near approach of Christmas brings a number of small orders for fruits and fancy groceries, as well as for fancy dry goods and toys. City retail trade is likewise feeling the stimulus of the weather and the season. May our readers enjoy A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

The visible supply of grain, comprising the stocks in granary at the principal points of accumulation at lake and seaboard ports, and in transit by rail was as follows:—

	1879. Dec. 6. bush.	1879. Nov. 29. bush.	1878. Dec. 7. bush.
Wheat....	27,850,685	28,217,800	*17,045,020
Corn .....	10,337,366	10,296,951	*8,124,150
Oats .....	2,798,930	3,026,417	2,423,417
Barley ....	4,678,970	4,979,792	5,205,152
Rye .....	1,194,683	1,234,487	1,200,820

Total, bu.. 46,850,634 47,755,447 33,998,559

The flour and grain market was active and decidedly unsettled towards the close of last week, prices advanced and some round lots of wheat changed hands, but the advance has been partly lost this week. The figures we quote above show how large the American grain accumulation is this year; the exports, however, show a decline in the week. European present supplies are also large.

But little is doing in shares; bank stocks and debentures are steady, loan shares inactive, the present is the season when many of them are announcing dividend. Other stocks are quiet.

**CATTLE.**—A good deal of stir and of actual business is to be seen at the market in preparation for the Christmas season. *Beeves* have been coming in well, and were sold quickly, some export animals, of fine appearance, brought \$5.00 and 5.50, we even hear of \$6.00 being paid. For the local market \$4.75 to 5.00 was paid for firsts, seconds were more in request for Montreal than home, and \$3 75 to 4.00 was average price. Not many *sheep* offered, \$5.00 to 5.50 continues to be the price for firsts, seconds selling languidly at \$4.25 to 4.75. *Lambs* active and wanted at firm prices, first class bring \$3.70 to 4.00, and choice, over fifty pounds as much as \$4 50. *Calves* are in moderate request. *Poultry* abundant, and selling more freely since the hard weather. Turkeys 70c. to \$1.25; geese 45 to 55c; ducks 50 to 60c; fowls 30 to 40c. Box lots of fowls bring 5c. per pound, and of turkeys and ducks 7 to 8c.

**DRY GOODS.**—The most remarkable feature of the past week's business is the pronounced advance in the prices of Canadian goods. The new price lists bristling into authority, on the heels of similar missive sheets from American agents, removed all doubts as to the *bona fide* increase of values generally. In the minds of the majority of merchants, there are no fears of a relapse to former prices. On the other hand, further advances are expected, and contracts are being made where practicable, in anticipation of still higher rulings. A fair amount of business has been done in staples at advanced prices, notwithstanding the shorter datings which which have been adopted by some leading houses. Fancies are moving satisfactorily. House sales have been good. Some first-class buyers have been in the market, obtaining information and gleaning chance lots. Travellers report having done well as a rule, we believe. Remittances were very good from some localities, meagre from others. The general tone of

feeling, however, is one of settled hopefulness. That rigid economy of the past which has withheld more than was meet, must now give place to an economy commensurate with a rapidly improving condition of general prosperity.

**FLOUR.**—Stocks in store 11,301 brls against 11,650 brls last week and 5,500 brls on like date last year. The improvement in British markets at the close of last week sent holders' ideas up, and \$6 was asked for Superior Extra, tho' we know of no sales at that figure. Not much has sold since we last wrote, unless on p. t., for it was held out of market. Since, however, both Liverpool and the West have fallen, holders are less likely to be stiff. We quote to-day \$5.85 to 5.90 for Superior down to \$5.80 to 5.85 for strong bakers, \$4.80 to 4.85 for fine. Market steady; demand fair. *Oatmeal* is quiet and unchanged. *Cornmeal* steady as quoted. *Bran* scarce and higher, \$9.50 to 10.00.

**GRAIN.**—*Wheat*, Fall.—Stocks in store 145,659 bush against 134,092 bush last week and 32,096 bush on like date last year. Quite a little excitement characterized the market last week in consequence of a rise in Liverpool. Fall wheat sold largely, a lot of 100,000 bushels assorted 2 and 3 fall, was sold, \$1.34 and 1.31 being paid, No. 1 was not moved, it being scarce. On Tuesday and Wednesday the English market declined 1 to 2d each day, and Chicago 2 to 3c, closing yesterday steadier. The market here is quiet and easier, we quote \$1.33 to 1.34 for No. 1.

*Barley.*—Stocks in store 153,920 bush. against 138,467 bush. last week, and 120,536 bush. on like date last year. Prices are slightly better than our last. Stocks here are not heavy, and there is but little improvement, market quiet and steady. *Peas.*—Stocks in store 27,871 bush against 26,390 bush. last week and 27,232 bush. on like date last year. This grain is firm and in request, a good export demand prevailed during the week, both here and outside at quotations. We have no large transactions to note however, the stock on hand is an average one.

*Wheat.*—Spring.—Stocks in store 106,986 bush. against 92,912 bush. last week and 56,076 on like date last year. Considerable sales were made during the excitement at close of last week. No. 1 brought \$1.32 and No. 2 \$1.30 in shipping lots; the market is 1 to 2c. lower to-day. *Oats.*—Stocks in store 1,760 bushels against 212 bush, last week and 12,150 bush. on like date last year. The market declined under liberal arrivals and is dull at 35 to 36c; for No. 1 and say 34 to 35c; for No. 2.

**GROCERIES.**—The more wintry weather and the close approach of Christmas, are occasioning more assorting orders and holiday parcels, remittances are fairly good. *Fruit* is in the usual Christmas demand, small parcels moving, prices are somewhat easier. New Valentines we quote lower, at 7½ to 8c. *Coffees* are steady, finest Java is now quoted at 34c. *Fish.*—Scarce and in request, prices well maintained. The sugar market is a trifle easier, ½c. decline is noted in some lines, such as Porto Rico, 8½ to 9½; Standard granulated is also lower, say 10½ to 11c. Redpath's yellows range from 9 to 10c. The decline in New York is greater than ½c; but Canadian prices never went so high relatively as the American, and they have need of less reduction to reach the same level. There is no special feature in *teas*. The rise in price of *Tobaccos* has become definite in some lines, we advance quotations of darks.

**HARDWARE.**—Business has kept up fairly for the past week or two, but further activity may be looked for as a consequence of the snowfall and the approach of the new year. The firmness in values has not relaxed. *Cut nails* are looking upward, Montreal manufacturers will not book orders at under \$3.00, and there is a feeling that present price here must be \$3.10 to \$3.25. *Glass* maintains its firmness, both in England and Belgium. *Iron bars* are unchanged

here, but makers in Britain are very stiff in their views. *Lead* and shot are steady and strong.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—A moderate business doing, with higher prices for sheepskins and easier figures for hides. The demand for green *Hides* has been steady, but the price has fallen ½c. being now 9½c. Sales of cured are reported 10½c., then 10c. and lastly 10c., with prices rather in buyers' favor. *Sheepskins.*—For best, as high as \$1.65 has been paid ranging downwards to \$1.15.

**LEATHER.**—The market is firm all over the list, with a steady country demand, but few large sales. *Sole* is meantime steady, holders very confident. Upper is considered good value and choice commands outside quotations. *Harness* is in request and held rather higher. Measured leathers unchanged; foreign goods looking higher. French *Calf* having advanced as we stated last week. *Oils* are stiff at our quotations.

**PROVISIONS.**—Trade has been quiet all week. The favourable change in the weather, frost and snow combined, will assist packing operations. Prices for *Dressed Hogs* are firm and improving, \$5.75 was paid this week, and for heavy *Packing Hogs*, uniform average, more money could possibly be got. There is no change to be noted in the prices of hog products, stocks are light at this season. The feeling is that markets will go higher, and packers are indisposed to name prices for future delivery. *Dried Apples* are being enquired for and buyers are not willing to advance to sellers' views; country lots offer more freely than last week, we quote 6½ to 7c. *Butter* is in good demand from the city trade and for really choice good, 20 to 22c is obtainable. Shipping enquiry is rather weaker, as English reports state that choice is plentiful and easier. *Cheese* meets with fair jobbing demand at quotations, cable is 1/- off this week.

**WOOL.**—Continued activity is found in this market, and prices are firm and looking upward. Sales are being steadily made, though it is not easy to get quotation. American demand continues. 31c has been paid by our dealers for fleece, and pulled is worth last week's quotation and probably a little more.

## ENGLISH MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.—Flour, 10s 6d to 13d; Spring wheat, 10s 3d to 11s 1d; red winter, 11s 3d to 11s 8d; white, 10s 9d to 11s 8d; club, 11s 7d to 11s 11d; corn, 5s 10d to 5s 10½d; barley, 5s 3d; oats, 6s 5d; peas, 7s; pork, 60s; bacon, 37s 6d to 40s; beef, 82s 6d; lard, 38s 6d; tallow, 38s 6d; cheese, 6s.

LONDON, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.—Consols, 96 15-16 for money; 97 1-16 for account; bonds, new 4½'s, 109½; new 5's, 106½; Erie, 43½; do. pfd., 71; Illinois Central, 101½.

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