

—The St. Paul Pioneer Press talks right out: "The series of unblushing falsehoods and broken promises where-by Count Muraviev tricked Lord Salisbury in the Port Arthur and Tallenwan negotiations raises some suspicion as to the worth of Russia's promises to give equal trading privileges in Manchuria to all nations. If Russia desires to secure for England a firm and powerful ally she can do so in no way more effectively than to shut off a portion of our growing trade with China. Lying may be 'diplomacy' in Europe, but it is not the American kind, and the American people are not likely to submit quietly to being stripped of their rights by such methods." There is a strong, healthy tone to that.

—A by-law to regulate the hours of licensed hotels and liquor stores in Sherbrooke has been adopted. Its provisions are: 1. Hotel bars shall be closed from 11 p.m. Saturday night to 5 a.m. Monday morning. 2. Windows of bar rooms shall not be obscured during closed hours. 3. Liquor shops shall be closed during same hours as hotels. 4. Billiard and pool rooms, etc., shall be closed on Sunday. 5. Hotel and liquor shop keepers shall be fined \$20 for violation of these conditions.

—A Tallahassee, Fla., paper computed that whereas, at the price of cotton prevailing thereabouts for the past several years, two acres of land planted to cotton yields only \$20, the same space planted to cabbage would, at the present price of cabbages there, bring from \$120 to \$140. "Yet, more than 1,000 acres are planted to cotton to one planted to cabbage," it says. A ten-pound, home-grown head of cabbage sells here for ten cents.

—Great Britain has a longer seacoast line than any other nation in Europe. It measures 2,755 miles with Italy second, 2,472 miles. Russia ranks third and France fourth.

—"What made your daughter weep after her wedding over those ten beautiful piano lamps?"

"She hasn't any piano."—Chicago Record.

—The homely sunflower is rapidly coming to the front as a useful article. Its seed makes excellent food for cattle, its oil is equal to the best linseed oil, its stalks are a better heat-producing product than coal, and the sticky substance which exudes from it has been made into a covering for bicycle tires.

—"Did you find the wideawake salesman you advertised for?"

"Yes, but we couldn't keep him; the only business qualification he had was insomnia."—Chicago Record.

## TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, May 26th, 1898.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—Dealers are advising shippers to discontinue making roll butter, and as a consequence there has been an increase in the receipts of tubs. The weather has been too warm for the shipment of rolls, and a number of them have arrived in bad condition, and in sale showed considerable loss. The demand for butter is almost entirely local, and it is difficult to place quantities at prices which will yield satisfactory profits to forwarders. There is a small export demand, which is confined entirely to creamery, and this at a very low price. The quality of dairy butter shows marked improvement as a result of the advancing season, and the fact that the cattle in all districts are now in pasture. We quote dairy at 12 to 12½c. per pound, and creamery, boxes, 15½ to 16c. per pound. The cheese market is very dull and Old Country centres are, by latest advices, "panicky." It appears that there was little upon which to

base the recent advance in values, and the bottom now appears to have fallen out of the position of speculative interests, and in the reaction there has been a decline in prices. The situation is elsewhere reviewed. Egg supplies continue liberal, and dealers are anxious to get prices down to a profitable pickling basis. Values in Ontario are so low that they do not allow merchants to operate at all freely in competition with American traders. Local prices are 10 cents per dozen, and country prices, 8 to 8½ cents.

**FLOUR AND MEAL.**—Grade is quieter and orders for immediate shipment, which some days ago were urgent, are not to be had. Values in sympathy with wheat are lower and the general tone of the market is lacking in strength.

**GRAIN.**—The wheat market is dull and uninteresting. Crop prospects have been generally more favorable, and they have encouraged the bear speculative sentiment still latent in the trade on part of those so lately and severely punished for their disbelief in the world's shortage of the old crop. In Ontario prospects at this time of the year were never brighter for a large yield of wheat, and the growing plant is reported in all sections of the country to be in the best condition. The latest mail advices, regarding the condition of the growing crops abroad, speak of brilliant prospects in France. From Russia the reports are in the main favorable, particularly on winter crops. The Roumanian reports are favorable. Hungarian quite favorable. Italy satisfactory, Spain favorable, Holland and Belgium favorable and Germany most promising. Peas are dull and rather weak. Oats show a decline of 2c. per bushel. Rye is nominal. Corn remains unchanged.

**GREEN FRUITS.**—In wholesale circles the usual reaction after a holiday is being felt, although to a less degree than might have been expected. The Wednesday sales were moderately well attended, and prices fairly firm. Messina oranges are rather slow of sale, and Californians are in all quarters given the first call. We quote: Catania, 80s, \$1.75 to \$2 half box; Blood, 80s, and 100s, \$2.75 to \$3 half box; Mediterranean Sweets, fancy, 126s, 150s, 176s, 200s, 216s, \$3 to \$3.25 per box; Mediterranean Sweets, fancy, 250s, 300s, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per box; California Seedlings, 126s, 150s, 176s, 200s, 216s, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per box; California Seedlings, 250s, 288s, 300s, 360s, \$2 to \$2.25 per box. A fair market exists for lemons, but it is understood that the trade is keeping back all the best keeping stock. We quote: New Messina, fancy, 300s, 360s, November cuts, \$3 to \$3.50; New Messina, choice, 300s, 360s, \$2.50 to \$2.75; New Messina, 420s, November cuts, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Extra fancy Sorrento, large boxes, 300s, \$4 to \$4.50. Bananas are selling well and extra fancy fruit brings \$1.50 to \$2 per bunch. The trade say that business in this class of fruits with the country is showing very satisfactory increase. Pineapples are scarce and dear. In some way, it is thought, the supply available for export from Florida has been limited by the war. There is a good demand for strawberries and but very poor stock with which to satisfy it. The market is now being supplied with Maryland and North Carolina fruit, which is not of the best description.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—The market is much firmer and local prices have advanced ½c. per lb., dealers now paying butchers 8½c. per lb. for green cow hides, No. 1 Toronto inspected, and 9c. per lb. for steers. Cured cow hides are quoted at 9c. per lb. Calfskins are also higher, green being quoted at 10c. to butchers. For pelts 15c. is the market price and supplies are not very free. Sheepskins are nominal, while lambskins bring 20c. From Chicago, May 25th, we note the following: Offerings of hides were only limited, as packers continued sold up fairly close on late take-off hides. The demand was moderately active, and prices were firmly

maintained. Business reported was 1,200 bulls at 9¾c. and 600 native steers at 12½c., closing at 12¼ to 12½c. for native steers, 12 to 12½c. for Texas, 10¾ to 11c. for butt brands, 9¾ to 10c. for Colorados, 10¼ to 10½c. for branded cows, 11½c. for heavy native cows and 12c. for light do.

**PORK PRODUCTS.**—All lines of hog products are in brisk demand. There has been, since the opening of the season, an increasing sale of smoked meats. Prices remain firm at the recent advances noted in previous issues. If the present activity in heavy meats continues, and there is every prospect of its doing so, stocks of this description will be exhausted long before the new pack will be available for consumption.

**WOOL.**—There is nothing of importance taking place in the market. Supplies of washed fleece wool limited, but the 24th of May, which is the date at which many farmers first begin preparations for the washing operation, having passed, it is likely the movement will soon be freer. No one is looking for a brisk opening of the market this year and all are content to let the market take its course and allow values to find their normal basis. The London wool sales were brought to a close on the 19th inst., with prices ruling firm, with the same strong competition that marked this sale from the opening. Carpet wools were generally dull, with prices ruling steady, but little in the way of demand coming forward. The American markets show no change.

## MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 25th May, 1898.

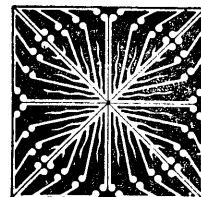
**ASHES.**—The market is a shade stronger, though the demand is not materially improved; the improvement is probably due to the very light receipts. We quote \$3.60 to \$3.65 for first quality of pots, seconds, \$3.25 to \$3.30; pearls about \$4.75 per cental.

**CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.**—Receipts of cements for the week are nil, and of firebricks 30,000. For cements there is a steady seasonable enquiry at steady prices, though no specially large sales are reported since last writing. We quote \$1.80 to \$1.90 for Belgian, and \$2.20 to \$2.30 for English. Firebricks \$16 to \$22 per thou. and.

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