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fruits is large, and the quality good. There was an auction sale yesterday on Colborne street, at which large quanti-ties were put up. It is worth noting that the first shipment of citrus fruits to leave California this season was on Canadian account. We see in Chicago Canadian account. We see in Chicago papers accounts of the strong measures which are being taken by Nicaragua growers, aided by the Western jobbers, to upset the monopolistic plans of the Union Fruit Company, with regard to bananas. As a result of their efforts, some \$45,000 worth of this fruit, repre-senting Union capital, threatens to be-come a total loss. We quote: Oranges, California navels \$2 to per hox: Florida California navels, \$3.50 per box; Florida, \$3.75; Sonora, Mexican, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Jamaica, \$3; Valencia, \$4.75 to \$6 per Jamaica, \$3; Valencia, \$4.75 to \$6 per case; lemons, new crop, Messina, \$2.75 to \$3; choice Verdelli, \$1.50 to \$1.75; fancy California, \$3.75 to \$4; Almeria grapes, \$6 to \$7 per barrel of about 65 lbs.; cran-berries, Canadian, \$2.50 per box; long keepers, \$3.25; Italian chestnuts, 12½c. per pound; Canadian onions, 85c. per

per pound; Canadian onions, 85c. per bag; and apples, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per barrel. HARDWARE.—Our quotations of last week remain good for this. A good many visitors have been in town, no doubt to do their Christmas shopping, and hardware establishments have been controlied emograt the others. Sisters patronized amongst the others. Skates, sleigh bells, and similar articles are sell-ing with a fair degree of freedom. No great change has taken place in the position of heavy metals. The American manufacturers of iron piping would seem to have been making an attempt to oust lat-Canadian manufacturers out of the ter's own market, and quantities of that material came into this country, but without making any appreciable effect on prices here. The American piping, it now appears, was exported from this country to England, the 99 per cent. rebate having been collected from the customs authorities, thus leaving the Canadian market free to home producers. HIDES AND SKINS.—The drop in prices

in Chicago has had its effect on this market, and prices on hides have declined. Fairly large receipts of a good quality are still coming in. Tallow remains about the same.

-Prices have not changed LUMBER during the last two weeks or more, and a fair business is being done. The market in Liverpool has been adversely affected by the failure of a large lumber importing house in that city, which is supposed to have been due to a recent slump in spruce, consequent upon a mis-calculation as to the demand. PROVISIONS.—A fair amount of trade is

being carried on in cheese and butter. The demand for poultry has been very active, though some of the birds offered have been poorly finished. Perhaps, on account of the activity in this line, the demand for such produce as smoked hams, etc., has been slacker. Lard is a little easier, owing to orders having been pretty well filled already, and packers are anxious to keep stocks sold up at present figures. Some of them would sell ahead at these quotations, but buyers show no keenness to take hold, only buy-ing for inimediate use. There has been a specially good demand for both fresh

and pickled eggs. WOOL. — Slowness characterizes the situation in both fleece and pulled wools. The export demand is practically nil.

-"Did you say you would let me in -"Did you say you would let me in on the ground floor in this investment?" "That is my proposal," replied the pro-moter. "Well, you needn't mind. You allow the thing to run along until you can let me in somewhere near the third or fourth story. The man who is let in on the ground floor is the one who catches all the debris if the bottom hap-pens to drop out."—Washington Star.

