

to 8c.; Rat, Winter, 8c. to 10c.; Rat, Spring, 10c. to 12c.; Fox, 90c. to \$1.10; Marten in no demand; Skunk, Blk, 25c. to 40c.; Mink, Western Canada, good colors, \$1.00 to \$1.50; Mink, Eastern Canada, Dark, prime small, \$1.00 to \$1.50; large, \$1.50 to \$2.00; Fisher, \$4.00 to \$6.00; Lynx, \$1.50 to \$2.00; Beaver, Fall, clean pelt, per lb., \$1.25 to \$1.50; Winter do., \$1.50 to \$1.75; Bear, large prime, \$6.00 to \$10.00; Cub do., \$2.00 to \$5.00.

HANDWARE.—Trade in this line continues dull, but dealers look forward hopefully to an improvement during the next two or three months. Most of the houses have completed stock-taking. Prices continue unchanged.

LEATHER.—The dullness of last week still continues, and an unsettled feeling still prevails. Very little leather coming in, dealers not feeling like accumulating stock. Our quotations remain unchanged.

LIVE STOCK.—The arrivals of live stock at Point St. Charles last week were twenty-six carloads of cattle, six of sheep, ten mixed loads of cattle and sheep, and ninety-eight live hogs. On Monday five carloads more of cattle arrived. Prices continue about the same, being from 25c to 50c per 100 lbs. less than the previous week. Sales were slow, the range of prices being from 3c to 5c per lb., none but good first-class cattle bring the latter price. Bulls continue plentiful, some of them being very fine animals, they sell at from \$2.75 to \$4.30 per 100 lbs. A number of sales are reported at the above prices. At Viger Market business has been much more dull than at St. Gabriel's, the market being crowded and but few sales made. Fat cattle sold at from \$18 to \$31.50 each, heifers at \$15, and bulls and oxen at prices up to \$50; Milch cows brought from \$36 to \$52, the latter figure being paid for a fine Ayrshire cow. One lot of 58 sheep and lambs were sold at \$3 each and some good sheep at \$4.50. There are a few live hogs on the market, but there is very little demand for them. One lot of 14 sold at \$4.75 per 100 lbs. A lot of 600 sheep were shipped to England on the SS. *Dominion* from Portland on Saturday.

LUMBER.—We take the following from Carbray & Routh's report of the Canada lumber trade of 1877:—Our report for 1877 might almost be a repetition of that for 1876, so little signs of revival have shown themselves; still, notwithstanding all the complaints, the total amount of business done sums up to more than the previous twelve months, but we fear a large portion of the shipments to the United States are not *bona fide*, being, like in 1876, consignments. The season opened quiet, the sales to United Kingdom during the winter being up to an average (though at reduced prices), but these rates were not increased later to any material extent, as stocks were heavy in all the large centres and continued so until the close of navigation, being kept up by the consignments going forward, which also further depressed prices. The United States bought very sparingly in the spring, though low freights and anxious sellers in every way encouraged purchasers, but little was done till the fall, when several large lines were moved, but chiefly in the lower grades. The shipments were greater than in 1876, but we have reason to believe all the upper grades went on consignment, being an entire change of the business of a few years past, when the chief demand was for our uppers. There is now every appearance of a revival of the trade in the United States sufficient to consume the lumber manufactured by themselves. We hear very little now of deals from Michigan for the English markets; indeed they seem to have found out what we pointed out last year, that boards pay best even at prices now current. Some of the Michigan deal contracts made last winter with Quebec houses were, under various pretences, not filled, or only partially so, manufacturers preferring to cater for their own markets. Very few contracts that we can hear of have yet been made by the Quebec houses for next season's delivery, notwithstanding that the bulk of the wintering stock is still in the first hands, a most unusual occurrence, but which will materially help to diminish the new cut; the exceptions are good qualities of white oak,

and good white pine timber. In all other lines there is a complete inactivity. Common white pine timber is entirely neglected. Everything and everybody would benefit by a very small new crop of logs this winter. Notwithstanding this, as the old crop was used up, the preparations were on a large scale, but the elements have refused to respond. No snow up to the time of writing this, and no frost till Christmas, has effectually shut down all successful attempts at lumbering, and as by the usual rule the bulk of the felling must be finished in the course of January, our readers will understand the importance of the aspect of affairs.

OILS.—Very little doing and no change in prices, although we note Lined Oil slightly lower in England. *Naval Stores and Paints.*—Very little doing, and prices without change.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter.*—Since our last, English advices are rather of a more encouraging nature, and we hear of some of the shippers looking around, but so far we have heard of no actual transactions. In the country a good deal has been sold the last week, both in the townships and in the Morrisburg and Brockville sections. Americans have been buying mostly for the Boston market, and we are in a position to state that all good parcels in sight have been sold at prices from 19c. to 21c. American buyers express their surprise in going through the country to find so small a quantity of desirable parcels, as they were led to believe that the stocks were very large. We do not alter our quotations for market here.

CHEESE.—Nothing doing.

SALT.—Very dull. Prices unchanged. Coarse salt, 72c to 75c; Factory-filled, \$1.15 to \$1.25.

TOBACCO.—There is no change to note. Trade in all lines continues dull. Prices remain steady at last week's quotations. Reports from leaf districts state that offerings of all grades are light. New crop for medium and low grades are quoted low, but in the finer lines prices are well maintained. *Cigars.*—The demand continues light, domestics are quoted: Clear Seed, \$13.00 to \$25.00; Seed and Havana, \$22.00 to \$45.00; Clear Havana, \$35.00 to \$60.00; imported Havanas are in fair demand for medium grade goods.

WHOLESALE GROCERY MARKET.—Winter roads now happily pretty good in this province, which, with freezing of rivers, will likely beneficially influence trade. On the whole, notwithstanding drawbacks and disasters still existing, and weaknesses in style of business, a turn in the way of improvement is to be noted, but more care in sales, and imports reduced to real wants of the country, with diminished expenditures and more hard work, are amongst essentials of permanent prosperity. *Sugars.*—The week has shown advanced prices in United States and Britain as well as here. To-day the advices from England show again an easier turn in the market. Granulated is here 9½c to 9½c. Yellows, 7½c to 8½c. *Teas.*—Demand has been good for ordinary to fair qualities Japan, and considerable sales have been made, including Nagasaki Teas at higher prices, a large sale of ordinary about 24c. Good Nagasaks are held at 27c to 30c, and ordinary to fair Japans, 25c to 30c; fine to choice, 37c to 50c. Green and Black Teas, steady. *Molasses and Syrups.*—Stock is not large of choice. Barbados Molasses, 44c to 47c. *Coffees, Rice and Chemicals.*—Quiet markets. *Fruits* are generally steady. Good Valentias held about 5c; inferior down to 4½c and under in quantity. Currents of good quality not in large supply. *Oils.*—Steam Seal, 62c to 65c; Cod, 53c to 58c.

WINES AND SPIRITS.—The Canada Brewers and Maltsters Association are demanding a reduction of the duty on malt. Considering that beer is largely becoming the national drink, there may be some reason in the request, and the deficit might be made up from an increase in the whiskey tax, which would doubtless conciliate those who are in favor of the Dunkin Act. The trade in imported goods is quiet, but stocks are low in the country, and the opening of the Spring trade should have a stimulating effect in this department also.

WOOL.—The dull market still continues here

We hear of better demand in the United States for wool, and although no higher prices have been obtained, still a more healthy tone has been felt in the demand. Stocks small, with the probability of scarcity of some grades before the new clip comes to hand. European advices speak of moderate demand at unchanged prices.

OIL REPORT.

[From our own Correspondent.]

Petrolia, Jan. 16th, 1878.—Business dull and shipments falling off. The Crude Oil Combination continues to hold out well, although several of its members have tried to sell outside. The delivery of the oil has in most cases been stopped, and Crude may still be quoted as worth \$1.08 per barrel. The refiners have been steadily flooding the home market for some months, and, although the present price is unremunerative to the refiners, stocks of oil have changed hands in Toronto below London quotations. The present aspect of the American market is not encouraging, although an immediate decline in prices there is not generally considered likely, and a considerable decline would be necessary to affect prices here. Developing is fairly brisk, but there have been no strikes of importance for some time past. The shipments for last week were as follows: Crude, 802 Barrels; Distillate, nil; Refined oil, 125 barrels. Prices: Crude, \$1.08; Refined oil, 13½ to 14 cts. (per wine gallon). F. O. B. London; New York 13½ (wine gallon.)

RAILWAY RETURNS.

MIDLAND RAILWAY OF CANADA.—Port Hope, January 7th, 1878. Statement of traffic receipts for week, from 21st to 31st December, 1877, in comparison with same period last year:—Passengers, \$2,358.57; Freight, \$1,628.93; Mails and Express, \$291.09; Total, \$4,278.59. Same week last year, \$4,231.42. Increase, \$47.17. Total traffic to date, \$263,646.42; do., year previous, \$272,954.96. Decrease, \$9,308.54.

NORTHERN RAILWAY OF CANADA.—Traffic receipts for week ending 8th January, 1878:—Passengers, \$3,991.43; Freight, \$3,998.37; Mails and Sundries, \$277.03. Total Receipts for current week 1878, \$8,266.83. Corresponding week 1877, \$11,734.09. Decrease, \$3,467.09.

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