

Commercial

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Dec. 21st, 1899.

We have had a larger retail business in the city this week than has been the case for many years. Some lines have been unfavorably affected by mild weather, but altogether the result has been most satisfactory, while the outlook after the holidays is still more so. Complaint comes from several quarters of delay in remittances caused by bad roads, but payments, both in town and country, compare favorably with the corresponding period of last year. The noticeably increased demand for all lines of fancy and holiday goods attest in the plainest manner possible the increased purchasing power of the whole people.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Eggs are in short supply and wanted. New laid, in case lots, will bring from 22 to 24c., and probably 25c. per dozen. Fresh eggs sell, No. 1, 18 to 20c.; No. 2, at 15c.; and limed at 16c. Roll butter sells at from 19 to 20c.; tub butter is scarce, and worth 18c. Large rolls sell at 17½ to 18½c. Cheese is steady, with not very much doing.

DRUGS.—Though business is reported dull in the country owing to bad roads, prices are, as a rule, advancing. Carbolic acid, strychnine and quinine are higher. Salicylic acid, salicylate of soda, and synthetical oil of wintergreen, are dearer. Acetic acid, and all the acetates, sulphate of copper, and white arsenic are all advancing, and as a result, Paris green will be dearer. Mercury, calomel, corrosive sublimate, and camphor are sure to advance in price. Opium is firmer, and so is morphine. Cuttlefish is cheaper. Canada balsam in short supply. Naphthalene ten per cent. higher. Peru tolu and copaiba plentiful, and easy. Camomiles, arnicas, insect flowers, are high. In gums, arables are steady, and the advance in tragacanth continues. Roots—Orris in moderate demand. Ipecac lower in London. Golden seal scarce and dear. Mexican sarsaparilla advancing. Payments are well maintained.

DRY GOODS.—This has been a busier week than was expected with the wholesale houses, especially in the fancy departments, and the various lines of goods suitable for Christmas presents. Last week retailers were supposed to be stocked up pretty well, but many of them underestimated the public requirements, and have had to replenish their stock. The slightly colder weather has stimulated trade; heavy underclothing and mufflers are selling well, also warm gloves. Fancy handkerchiefs are in active demand, and scarce. Tea cloths, table covers, and all fancy linens are active. Silk and satin ribbons, and many descriptions of laces, are popular just now. Velvetens of all prices and colors are good lines. Satins, silks, and fancy silks are selling well for dress and millinery use. Prices of all woolen and linen goods are steadily advancing, both in Canada and Europe, and in many lines orders cannot be booked at current prices. Spring orders are liberal, and the trade outlook for next year is most encouraging.

FRUIT.—An unusually good movement is going on in fruit, especially oranges, lemons, cranberries, and all Christmas fruits. Nuts, figs, and dates are in good demand. Some St. Hubert grenoble walnuts are on the market, and are selling at from 10½ to 11c. per pound.

HAY AND STRAW.—Hay is worth from \$11 to \$12.50 per ton; mixed hay, \$8 to \$9; sheaf straw is worth from \$8 to \$9 per ton; and loose straw from \$4 to \$5 per ton.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Hides are in good demand, with small stocks and small offerings. Prices are firm, as follows: Green, 9½c. per lb. for cows, and 10c. for steers; cured, 10½c. for cows, and 11c. for steers. Sheepskins are wanted, and are in fair supply; they are firm at \$1. For calfskins, 10c. per lb. is paid for No. 1, and 9c. for No. 2. The tallow market is firm; the local pure is 5c. and 5½c.

HOPS.—Dull and unchanged at 16 to 17c. for Canadas, with 18c. asked.

LEATHER.—Business is quiet, dealers being mostly well supplied. Mild weather and the approaching holidays also have a depressing effect; still we have a fairly seasonable movement. Prices are unchanged, but very firm.

LIVE STOCK.—The Christmas trade in beef has been good, but mild weather and a large supply of poultry has interfered with it somewhat. Choice select Christmas beeves have sold at the Western Cattle Yards, in Toronto, for 5 and 5½c., live weight, and the supply was ample. This week the market has been overstocked, and prices for anything but prime cattle are weak. Export cattle is worth from 4¼ to 5c. per pound; medium to choice butcher cattle from 3½ to 4½c. Export bulls, 4 to 4½c.; stockers dull, at 2¾ to 3¼c.; export sheep are wanted at 3 to 3¼c.; lambs are worth from 3½ to 4c. per pound. Good veal calves are wanted. Choice hogs are firm at 4½c.; light, at 4¼c.; thick, fat, at 4c. Butchers are well supplied, there is cattle lying unsold at the market, and farmers in their own interest had better send nothing in until the new year.

PROVISIONS.—Dressed hogs are in good supply and prices easier; cars of dressed hogs are quoted here at \$5.50 per cwt. A steady demand exists for smoked meats, and prices are firm. Canada mess pork sells at \$14; short cut, \$15.50 to \$16; clear mess, \$12 to \$12.50. In smoked and dry salted meats, long clear bacon in car lots is worth 7 to 7½c.; breakfast bacon, 11c.; hams, 10 to 11c. For lard in tierces, 6¾c. is paid; in tubs, 7c.; and in pails, 7¼c.

SEEDS.—A little choice red clover is selling, and prices are steady, but there is no demand for poor stuff. Neither timothy nor alsike are wanted at present. Quotations are: Red clover, \$4.50 to \$5.25 per bushel; alsike, \$5 to \$7; and timothy, from \$1 to \$1.30; white clover, \$7 to \$8.

WOOL.—There is little doing; the demand and supply are both light. Pulled wool is firm. Locally fleece is selling in lots of from 100 to 500 lbs. at 20c.; no enquiry for export. Locally, pulled wool is quoted at 20 to 21c., and 21 to 23c. for extras. Foreign wools are all looking upward.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Dec. 20th, 1899.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—Some little demand exists for firebricks for the usual winter repairs in foundries and factories, but there is little doing in cements. Prices, however, continue firm at \$2.10 to \$2.20 for Belgian cements; English, \$2.45 to \$2.60; German, \$2.60 to \$2.80; firebricks, \$17 to \$26.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There were exports of cheese last week to Bristol and Liverpool amounting to 18,015 boxes, and the cable quotation from the latter city continues unchanged at 57s. to 59s. Locally there is not much trading going on, but quotations are steady at about 11½c. for fine Novembers, and 11¾ to 12¾c. for fine October and September goods. Firm values prevail in the butter market, 21 to 22c. being quoted for creamery;

good roll butter sells at 18 to 19c. Exports last week were 1,622 packages.

DRY GOODS.—Travellers are nearly all home, having samples revised, and wholesale trade is quiet. Retail trade fluctuates with the weather, fine bright days bringing a rushing business, and the rainy, slushy days having a depressing influence. Some houses report finding remittances affected by the unfavorable weather conditions, but, as a whole, there is little apparent disposition to complain. Notwithstanding all the recent advances in cottons, it is a matter of report that manufacturers are considering further, a revision of price lists.

FURS.—No receipts of any consequence yet reported. We quote prices as revised for this season: Bear, \$7.50 to \$15; cubs and yearlings, \$2 to \$7; fisher, \$5 to \$7.50; red fox, \$1.50 to \$3; cross fox, \$5 to \$12, as to color; lynx, \$3 to \$4; marten, \$2 to \$4; mink, \$2 to \$3; rats, 10 to 13c. for winter; 8 to 10c. for fall; otter, \$10 to \$15 for large; coon, 90c. to \$1.25 for large; higher figures for black, according to size and color; skunk, 40c. to \$1.40, according to color and stripe.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Bushels. Dec. 11.	Bushels. Dec. 18.
Wheat	44,621	36,400
Corn	32,381	30,553
Oats	223,165	210,046
Rye	13,164	13,164
Peas	46,464	46,464
Barley	35,673	40,666
Total grain	395,468	377,303
Oatmeal	216	213
Flour	16,474	14,572
Buckwheat	26,356	26,356

GROCERIES.—The changeable weather conditions, which have prevailed, with country roads affording neither sleighing nor even fair wheeling, have, as some houses report, affected business and collections somewhat, but still, taking things as a whole, a good average December business is reported. As regards values, few changes are to be noted. Sugars remain exactly as they were, with factory quotations \$4.40 for standard granulated, and from \$3.60 upwards for yellows. Molasses rules very stiff at 43c. for Barbadoes by the puncheon; Antigua, 40c.; New Orleans, 25 to 45c., as to quality. But a light business is reported in teas. Canned goods keep very high, corn being jobbed at \$1.10, and tomatoes at \$1, for anything in the way of desirable brands; clover leaf salmon, and equal, \$6 for talls, and \$6.75 for flats; sockeye, \$5.50, and pink salmon, \$4.40. Some considerable importations of Valencia raisins are reported from New York, aggregating 5,000 to 6,000 boxes. They are principally layers of American standard, said not to be much ahead of Canadian standard, for fine off-stalk, and cost about 7c., laid down. Tapioca continues very scarce, and is quoted at 5½c. in a jobbing way.

HIDES.—There has been no recent variation in the local price of hides, and dealers continue buying on the 10½c. per lb. basis for No. 1. Receipts are rather more liberal, owing to increased killing for Christmas butcher trade, but stocks are not showing any accumulation, though there has been very little American buying the past few weeks. Lambskins continue to be quoted at 85c. each.

LEATHER.—Trade remains dull. Most of the large shoe houses ordered pretty liberally before the recent change in terms, and most of the deliveries now being made are on old orders. There is no apparent disposition to concede on quotations. We quote: Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 26c.; No. 2, B.A., 24½ to 25½c.; No. 3, B.A., 23 to 24c.; No. 1, ordinary Spanish, 24 to 25c.; No. 2, 22½ to 23c.; No. 1 slaughter, 27 to 28c.; No. 2, do., 24 to