

manufacturers and others at prices varying from \$3.30 to \$3.60.

DAIRY PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.—For butter there has been a very fair jobbing demand. A good local enquiry was experienced for the new make, which has been coming in slowly. The poorer grades show less value than a week ago. Cheese has gone into consumption in a moderate way at last week's prices. Some factories in the west are preparing to start, but the season will be a late one. Eggs are slightly down from Easter prices, but the demand keeps moderately brisk and the bad roads have tended to check supplies. We note sales at 18½c to 19c. **Provisions.**—The news of the outbreak of hostilities in Afghanistan, just received, may cause a sudden reaction, but up to time of writing the market was flat. Canada short cut mess pork was dull at \$16, and Canada lard was easy at 9½c. Western mess pork could be bought at \$15 75. Cheese advanced 1s. 6d. in Liverpool to-day to 59s. 6d.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business on spot is much reduced, as is usual at this season of the year, buyers awaiting the opening of navigation. In the meantime the market in England is reported firm, owing to the restriction of output in nearly all lines; bleaching powder and soda ash are shortly expected to reach higher prices. Drugs are quiet and nominally unchanged. Late advices report another drop in quinine. Opium is flat. Gum Arabic is firm and may go higher within a brief period. Remittances do not show much change; renewals were not numerous. Bleaching Powder \$2 to \$2.25; soda bi-carb \$2.30 to \$2.50; sal soda \$1.12½ to \$1.20. See prices current. In dyestuffs there has been a quiet and steady trade at last week's values.

DRY GOODS.—Good Friday, with the accompanying fearful snow-storm, and Easter Monday following in the wake of a bleak and cheerless Saturday, tended to give a holiday character to a great part of the week under review. As if this was not sufficient to put a stopper on trade the city and country roads were in a frightful condition. So far this year there has been a marked absence of genial and what may be called "seasonable" weather, and in this department, as in boots and shoes, there has been no Spring trade, and retailers have done next to nothing. Country shop-keepers write about as follows:—"Weather very bad; roads blocked up and impassable; nothing doing either in getting country produce or selling goods: crops unsold and no money circulating: cannot pay." The wholesale people, under such circumstances, effect very little and the daily shipments are moderate in volume. Travellers are in many instances still at home. The dreaded Fourth has passed without any apparent distress and the out-look for the near future is certainly brighter. A number of early European buyers have left town, and in the event of an Anglo-Russian war, higher prices may rule. So soon as the roads begin to dry up and country store-keepers break into their spring stocks, salesmen will again be despatched on a sorting trip.

FLOUR, GRAIN, ETC.—Flour was dull during the week but generally firmer. There was considerable excitement to-day over the outbreak of war between the Afghans and Russia and the market advanced 25c per bbl over this news, and the repetition of former reports of short crops in Kansas and the West. Owing to the rain and cold weather American crops are expected to suffer severely. Buyers are said to have offered 20c per bbl. advance on our prices, as quoted elsewhere, without result. Holders demand a rise of 25c, and would probably refuse to part with a large amount at that. Our quotations must be considered nominal and subject to to-day's advance, which is not very definite or clear in the absence of transactions. **Grain.**—Speculators aided

by the war excitement, advanced the price of wheat in Chicago to-day, 5c per bushel. May wheat sold up to 88½c, afterwards declining to 87 7-8c. June wheat reached 90½c, and fell back to 90c. The local grain market closes firm with a better feeling and more inclination to do business. Holders are not offering wheat, and prices are nominal. Buyers and sellers are apart, as the latter want much better figures than quoted, and have until lately prevailed. Very few sales of grain have been made as yet for Spring shipment. There was some stir on the report that peas had advanced 5c per bushel. A large lot for May delivery, about, sold at 89c per bushel of 66 lbs., and bids have been made at 79c. Oats have sold at 37c per 32 lbs., deliverable here about in May. Other quotations nominal.

FREIGHTS.—Grain freights *via* Portland have been engaged to the end of the season, now terminating. Through rates of freight on grain from points west of Toronto to Liverpool *via* Portland are 27c to 31c. Freight on Montreal *via* Portland are quoted as follows:—Grain 6s per quarter. Flour 3s 6d per bbl, or 30s per ton in sacks. Ashes 30s for pots, and 37s 6d for pearls. Butter and cheese 35s. Hops 2d. Cattle 30s to 35s per head. Apples 3s 6d.

FURS.—Buyers are extremely wary and business in raw furs is consequently unsatisfactory. A private despatch from London yesterday said:—It is no use buying at any price, you will lose money. The following are city quotations, for prime skins:—Beaver per lb., fall \$2, winter \$2.50, spring \$3; bear, per skin, \$7 to \$10; bear cub, per skin, \$5 to \$7.50; fisher per skin, \$2 to \$5; fox, red, per skin, 80c to \$1; fox, cross, per skin, \$2 to \$3.50; lynx, per skin, \$1.75 to \$2.75; marten, per skin, 60c to 80c; mink, per skin, large dark, 50c; small 25c; muskrat, per skin, fall 5c, winter, 8c, spring, 12c; otter, per skin, \$6 to \$8; raccoon, 25c, 40c and 70c; skunk, per skin, 15c, 25c and 50c. Skins not prime 25 to 30 per cent. less.

GREEN FRUITS, MAPLE PRODUCTS, ETC.—There was a fairly active market. Valencia oranges are steadily held at \$7 per case. Lemons were reported firm by holders at \$3.50 to \$4 per box; 2,300 boxes Messina and Palermo came in to-day. Apples \$2 to \$3 per bbl. Some extra fine Blenheim figs were held for 10c; poorer quality could be got at 8c. Dates 5½c to 6c. Evaporated apples in boxes 8c; dried, 5c. Receipts of maple syrup and sugar were more liberal; new syrup in small-sized tins 80c to 90c, old 70c; new sugar 9c to 11c, old 7c to 8½c.

GROCERIES.—Business is quiet, and no material change has occurred in any line. Teas keep firm, and there is a heavy demand for low grades which cannot be got readily. Anything under 22c is scarce and wanted. There is a certain quantity of poor stuff here, but it is hardly quotable. Good values are said to be offered at 25c to 28c. Low-grade Young Hysons are very scarce, and the English market is clear of them. Purchases were made for New York and Philadelphia to mix with Japan. Japan basket-fired have been bought for mixing with Oolong, and this has created some scarcity for them too. A leading merchant said he did not look for a tea famine, even if Formosa was more effectually blockaded than it has yet been by the French. A certain proportion would, almost to certainty, find an outlet, and to make up the deficiency in the supply of the favorite China Oologs, the American people would have to draw more freely upon Japan. Fresh credits having been asked for, the chances are thought by parties in the trade to be favorable to a continuance of the war between France and China. A scarcity is reported in Toronto, and several consignments have been made from this city; 200 boxes were sold to go there yesterday. Sales are principally confined to Japan. Since Monday over

2,000 pkgs of teas have been sold in this market. Sugars are an eighth off this week. Local refiners have turned over quite a lot of stuff, and considerable was sold for the West. A leading refinery is reported to have placed 3,000 bbls. *Syrups and Molasses* are very dull; quote Barb - does molasses at 31c to 32c, and Trinidad at 27c. *Fruits* quiet, with only a hand-to-mouth distribution. *Spices.*—Pepper is higher, here and in England. Prices are 17½c to 18½c for black and 26c to 27½c for white. *Rice* is firm and advancing in England. The mills here are out of A and B, and will not have any before the Spring arrivals. In other lines the demand is even more limited than in most of the above. The wholesale firms have nothing very encouraging to say about canned goods and the packers will be allowed to have their "fill" of them in future. It is to be feared that a truce cannot be patched up. Almonds are in poor demand at 10c to 14c; filberts move slowly at 6½c to 7½c; and Brazils, new, at 7½c to 8½c. Sago is quoted at 4½c to 5c; and Tapioca, pearl and flake at 5c to 6c.

HAY AND STRAW.—The bad roads caused receipts to be light, and prices advanced. Choice timothy has sold at \$12.50, \$12, and \$11.50 per 100 bundles. Good to choice may be quoted at \$11 to \$12 and medium to fair at \$9 to \$10. Straw is firmer at \$5 to \$6 per 100 bundles. Pressed hay in wholesale lots is quoted at \$13. for No. 1, and \$12 for No. 2, per ton. Straw about \$7. Good business and prices firm.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—The market for hides was active during Easter week at firm prices. During the past few days there was next to nothing done. Our quoted local prices are those paid to butchers by dealers for green hides: tanners are charged \$1 per 100 lbs. more for cured and inspected. A few sales of tallow are reported at 6½c to 7½c for rendered, and 3½ to 4½c for rough.

HORS.—A dull and inactive market is reported, and buyers claim to be quite indifferent. Some medium parcels are said to have been placed at 8c to 8½c, and quotations range from 6c to 11c. In New York new are quoted at 14c to 15c for best, and old at 8c to 13c. English advices state that although prices are low considerable business has transpired, and the out-look has improved. Prices on the continent are firmer all round.

IRON AND HARDWARE.—A few small lots of pig have sold at current prices, and considerable business has transpired in tin plates for future delivery. Sales of charcoal tin were put through here at \$4.40, and some offers at \$1.30 were refused. Bar iron is quiet and unchanged. Swedes \$4 to \$4.25. Steel tire is quoted at \$2.95 to \$3, and sheet zinc at \$4.50 to \$4.75. There are complaints among the hardware trade that although stocks are pretty well broken, some firms appear anxious to do business with no margin of profit whatever. It is stated as a positive fact that bar iron sold yesterday at cost prices. In the interests of the trade paying prices should be adhered to, and standard lists strictly maintained. Since last week horse-shoes have declined in price and now can be bought at \$3.10 per keg of 100 lbs. To buyers of 100 kegs and over an allowance of 10c per keg was made. As rates of freight quoted by the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific will be reduced on the 13th inst. a good many shipments of goods already booked will be made, and local manufacturers are expecting their orders will come in more freely at the new rates. Nails are in fair demand, and manufacturers report that they are shipping freely for this time of year. A leading English metal firm writes:—We are inclined to think prices have touched bottom, as we know of several instances where makers refused good offers made below quotations, preferring to close their works before working at a loss.