

## TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, May 3rd, 1888.

**DRY GOODS.**—The warm sunshine of Sunday has been succeeded by cold rain and raw wind, which does not help summer trade. There has, however, been a marked improvement in this line of wholesale trade during April. A number of houses consulted agree in this, and they also agree that payments of bills due in April were not satisfactory. A feature worth mentioning is the fact that domestic shirtings have been withdrawn from the cotton combination, and there is now apparently a "go-as-you-please" amongst the makers of them.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—Trade is fairly good, the houses are waiting for northern navigation to open. Quinine is easier. Cod liver oil will be lower when new crop comes in from Norway. Methylated spirits now quote about \$2 per gal.

**FISH.**—About the only description now in market is pike at 5c. per lb. The ciscoe season is over until September. In the north fishermen are patiently waiting for south winds to clear away the ice, until then the boats cannot get away. There are some British Columbia salmon in stock and bring 20c. per lb. whole sale. By the 10th inst. the new catch will be on the market. According to the N.Y. *Bulletin* of the 1st: "The lobster market appears to be working into a strong position. The fishermen on the Nova Scotia coast are exacting the advanced rate of \$1.25 per 100, when last year they were satisfied to accept 50 to 75c. This increased cost must necessarily be placed upon the stock in tins, and the value will be much higher to the packers than usual. The removal of the duty, it is therefore believed, will be more than off-set by the fishermen's action; hence it is doubtful if any advantage will be gained by the Government favor of permitting the fish to be admitted into our ports free."

**FLOUR AND MEAL.**—Prices for flour in some instances are a little higher this week. The improvement noted has at least not fallen off, if the enquiries do not yet result in much business. Bran is offering at \$15.50 to 16.00; there is not much selling, and it is to be expected that the demand will now begin to decline.

**GRAIN.**—Values of fall and spring wheat show an advance of about 2c. per bush. since our last review. There have been some very respectable transactions in spring for export, while the local mills take white. We quote:—No. 1 fall, 89 to 90c.; No. 2, 87 to 88c.; No. 3, 84 to 85c.; No. 1 spring, 84 to 85c.; No. 2, 82 to 82½c.; No. 3, 79 to 80c. The market closed firm at quotations. Barley unchanged from last week and purely nominal. Peas are firm, but none here to offer; we quote 68 to 70c. Oats are a little easier. There is a demand for rye, but none offers. Corn is nominal. According to the *Chicago Farmers' Review*, the condition of the winter wheat, which was expected to improve with the end of the spring thawing and freezing, has on the contrary declined throughout April in most sections of the central West. Many correspondents report the drought as already severe. Taking the reports of last week on the condition of winter wheat in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, they do not indicate a crop for those states in excess of 62 per cent. of an average one. A large acreage has been plowed up. Complaints of injury from drought and cold winds come from other winter wheat states.

**GROCERIES.**—This market presents few interesting features this week. In coffees, Rio is a little firmer, without any quotable change here. All good dry fruits are in demand and active with an upward tendency. Syrups are now more plentiful with quotations as before. In sugars the market is even and steady without any alteration in prices. We note an improved demand for the better grades of tea. The N.Y. *Bulletin* of the 1st says: "Teas of all kinds are ruinously low, and a recovery on value sooner or later must come; but it seems ill-advised to start an advance in the face of new crops, and the majority of the local trade express disapprobation of any move looking to that end."

A despatch from Yokohama says: "The tea market opened at \$40 per picul. The first steamer for San Francisco will leave May 11th with 3,150 packages for the American market. Freights, 4c."

**HARDWARE AND METALS.**—About the only important feature this week is the demoralized state of the pig tin market. This condition has been brought about by the syndicate having stopped buying. Stocks on hand, however, in the hands of jobbers and manufacturers both in Canada and the United States are comparatively small. The exceptionally high prices at which it was held brought about a hand-to-mouth policy, so that the present reaction does not fall heavily upon the legitimate trader. There were, however, a few tons bought for future delivery, for actual consumption, but in almost every case provision has been made to place this. Tin plates have not felt the effect of this, as the decline in ingots was discounted by makers and therefore prices are unchanged. All other metals are firm. Payments are not regarded with satisfaction, but a marked improvement is looked for before the middle of the month.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—The situation in hides is practically unchanged and trade continues quiet. Sheepskins are coming in slowly; for best fresh \$1.25 to 1.35 is the range. Calfskins are in ample supply, and for light the demand is fair, but heavy move slowly. Rendered tallow is scarce and in demand at 5½ to 6c., and rough 2½c.

**LUMBER.**—Stocks at this point are light, as a rule. There is not the degree of speculative building that existed last year, probably because loan companies and other lenders have stopped the supplies, and not too soon. The only feature deserving mention is that stock boards and bill stuff are scarce, and prices firm; clear and pickings are in light supply. We quote:—1-inch clear and pickings, \$25 to 28; 1½ inch, \$27 to 29; flooring and dressing, \$16.50 to 18.00; mill culls, \$7.50 to 9.00.

**PROVISIONS.**—Heavy receipts of butter have glutted this market, which is now weak at 17 to 18c. New cheese is offering and jobbing at 10½c. There is very little demand for old, which is nominal at 12c.; the new make is said to be of very good quality. The market for hog products is very firm; long clear, 9½c.; round lots have sold within the week for 9½c.; breakfast bacon, 11½ to 12c. Eggs remain steady, 12c. Dried apples are out of market; evaporated are very dull, buyers would make

concessions to effect sales. Lard firm, the trade being mostly supplied by Chicago makes.

**SEEDS AND HAY AND STRAW.**—Trade in seeds is still confined to jobbing, and at unchanged prices except for Hungarian grass, which is dearer and scarcer, say \$2.50 to 2.75. Receipts of hay and straw are somewhat limited, but may be expected to increase when farmers finish seeding.

**WOOL.**—Trade still continues very quiet and prices are without change. Sales are for small lots mostly and for low grade wools. There is nothing important to report as to European markets.

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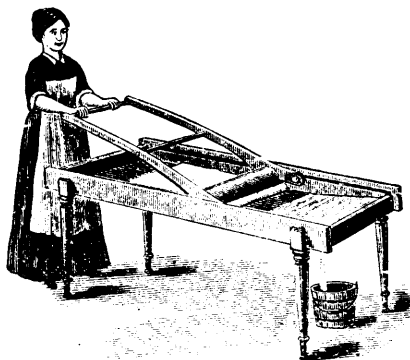
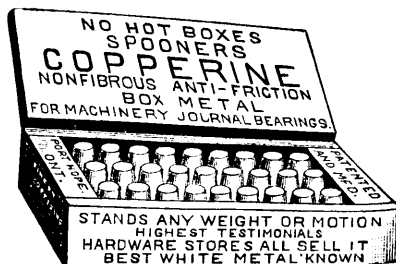
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