

prices somewhat above the views of shippers, especially for fancy Fall makes. Creamery has sold at 26c. for the finest, and yesterday two lots of the finest Morrisburg, about 500 packages in all, changed hands at 22½c. to 23c. Another lot of Morrisburg sold on Tuesday at 22c., and one car of Brockville at 21c. Sales of the finest Eastern Townships have been reported at 23c. In England only the very choicest Canadian butter is wanted, at good prices, and in New York the demand for all kinds is moderate; buyers are extremely nice in their tastes, and pay outside figures for only very choice fresh-flavored samples. The buyers for export there are not at all anxious, and the demand is disappointing; they want a better quality than they can reach at the prices bid, even with a disposition among holders to offer pretty easy terms. A Liverpool provision firm says: "We are somewhat disappointed with the character of the receipts of Canadian butter, it looks as if too keen a competition had produced a want of proper care and selection. The effect of this may be more serious than the shippers imagine, for many old buyers of Canadian are neglecting them and giving their orders to Chicago shippers, whose shipments this season have, as a rule, given good satisfaction. We hope the hint will not be thrown away." In *Cheese* the local market has been a shade weaker during the past couple of days, and sales are reported at a fractional decline in prices; one lot of 500 boxes of August and September make was bought yesterday at 12½c., and another nice lot of 200 boxes September make changed hands at 12½c.; a lot of fine August was under offer at 12½c. There has been some difficulty recently over contracts, farmers refusing to deliver their goods, on the ground that they are worth considerably more than the contract price. Law suits have been instituted with the intention of compelling farmers to carry out their contracts. They, in defence, plead that the property was not in existence when contracted for, and therefore the sale of such non-existing merchandise is illegal, and not binding. The city agent for the Kelso factories reports the sale of 1,600 boxes during the week of September, and balance of the season at 13c.

**Dry Goods.**—The first week in October is usually a slackening-off period, so to speak, in the local dry goods trade, and the comparative lull in business among wholesale dealers generally in this market since the first of the month has shown that the present period was no exception to the general rule. Trade has not by any means been dull during the week, but quiet as compared with the recent extraordinary activity. There have been a few Winnipeg buyers here purchasing regular fall parcels of fair size, and several provincial customers have been in the market sorting up. The travellers for the various houses are leaving this week on their sort-of-up trips both east and west, and it is estimated that by Saturday some 250 will be on their vicarious journey to their familiar haunts amidst the retail community. The Montreal Association numbers something over 1,200 commercial travellers. Heavy overcoatings and fine qualities of worsted goods are scarce and in good demand just now. There is also an active enquiry reported for Scotch tweeds; and low-priced knitted shirts and drawers are much wanted, but, owing largely to three or four factories having been burned down this autumn, sufficient stocks of these last-named goods cannot be had for some months yet. Grey flannels and low priced Canadian tweeds are also very scarce this season. The city retail trade is reported active; the ladies are so infatuated with the Jersey suit and Tam O'Shanter that the goods cannot be supplied rapidly enough to meet the demand. Notwithstanding recent advices of dull English markets prices abroad continue firm for both cottons and woollens, the former being quoted ½c. to a farthing per yard higher, and medium-priced woollens 2d. to 4d. higher. Notes maturing on the 4th inst., of which there are many every October in this branch of trade, were generally

met promptly, and, on the whole, better than usual. Payments are expected to be still better, though, next month. There can be no longer any doubt that this branch of trade is in a much more satisfactory condition than for years past; business has been active since the 1st July last, and some houses report that the aggregate of sales made since the opening of the Spring trade shows an increase of over one-third on the aggregate of sales for the like period of last year.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—Business has been quite lively since our last issue, with a steady demand for all leading lines of heavy chemicals. We have little change to note in prices, which are firmly maintained, except Cream of Tartar, which has fallen off somewhat, but it is not expected that previous low prices will be reached this year. In the English markets the demand for home consumption and for export has been lighter than was expected, and this has had the effect of weakening the tone of the market, which, in the case of Soda Ash and Caustic Soda, has declined slightly. In other goods there is no change. Borax is higher in New York.

**OILS.**—There has not been much movement in oils of any kind. Linseed Oil has been enquired for, mainly with a view to hold in prospect of an advance in price, as the English market is much firmer, and since August has advanced over 1s. per cwt. There are few sellers at present, however, beyond filling orders for actual consumption, which is being done at 74c. to 75c. for raw, and 78c. to 80c. for boiled. Cod-Oil is scarce and not much expected to come forward this fall, the high price prevailing in England and in the United States having the effect of drawing shipments to these markets. Very little can be bought here at less than 50c. per wine gallon, and in one or two barrel lots 52½c. to 54c. is asked. Other Oils are unchanged. **Naval Stores.**—Turpentine is excited in New York, and has advanced to 42c. there, equal to 53½c. per wine gallon laid down here. Holders here are not anxious to quote, preferring to wait for further developments in the New York market. Rosins and Tars are firmer in New York, and are quoted 10c. to 20c. per barrel higher here. **Paints** are in fair demand, prices remaining without alteration. **Petroleum.**—A great deal of dissatisfaction is felt throughout the country on account of the sudden and excessive rise in coal oil. This article is always more or less fluctuating and subject to the action of rings, yet it is felt that the high protection duties afford opportunities that should not be carelessly allowed manufacturers who have shown themselves more careful of their business reputation in the past. It does seem that some protection should be afforded *commensurate* in an article of such common necessity to all classes as coal oil.

**FRUITS.**—The green fruit trade has been quite active since our last issue, the demand for both local and export account being quite equal to the capacity of dealers to supply. Chief attention, however, has been directed to the export movement, as there are buyers from Liverpool and Aberdeen in the market, who, along with many others, are speculating in apples. The daily receipts have been heavy, chiefly fall fruit, though the arrival of winter apples, so far, are considerably larger than usual, and shipments since last Friday per six European steamers comprise 16,000 barrels. It is currently reported that all the vessel room available at Boston for the next month has been engaged for apples; so great is the demand for export this season. Tonnage at that port can only be obtained by applying six weeks ahead of the date of shipment. Prices here remain firm, at about last week's quotations. A car-load of fall apples was sold in this market yesterday at \$1.40, one car at \$1.45, and another at \$1.57½. Also reported sales of 134 barrels Baldwin at \$1.70, a lot of 157 barrels Greenings at \$1.50, and another lot of 160 barrels, inferior or so, at \$1.30. Choice winter apples, in round lot, bring \$1.50 to \$2, for export. Upper Canada snow apples are now coming forward freely, and selling at

from \$1.50 to \$1.60, in lots. *Pears* are still plentiful, but very dull of sale; there is no demand, and in some cases the fruit is spoiling in the hands of dealers. Choice qualities are worth \$16 per barrel, but *Duchess pears* can be bought at \$3 to \$4. The first shipments of Malaga Lemons have arrived, and are selling at from \$5 to \$6 per box. *Almeria grapes* still bring \$9 per barrel when there are any in the market. Reported sales by cable from Liverpool are 100 barrels of fall fruit at 12s average, and from Glasgow 100 barrels do at 11s average. Later cables, however, report sales as low as 8s per barrel.

**FREIGHTS.**—Have remained firm, with an upward tendency, throughout the week, and, in some instances, considerably advanced rates have been paid. The other day a vessel was chartered at 5s. 10d. for heavy grain direct to a continental port, and 5s. to 5s. 3d. has been paid for grain carried to the United Kingdom per regular liners. The brig "Tempest" is said to have been chartered at 6s. 3d. for orders. Steamship owners are commencing to hold off for 7s., but this high rate has not yet been paid; one ship owner, rather than accept the rates now current, has placed his steamer on berth for London. During the present season rates of freights at this port have been fully as high as those at New York, and in some instances higher. We already hear of some Portland chartering being done here in grain. There are no changes in previously quoted freights on flour, deals, or lumber. The through rate on grain from Chicago to Montreal is from 13c to 14c, and from Detroit to this port 10c.

**FURS.**—The trade continues very busy on orders for manufactured furs, and will probably advance their prices if the demand continues to be pressing, as the advance on Coonys and nearly all classes of goods, as well as the scarcity of labor, will likely render an advance in values here necessary. Country merchants have not responded to the usually high prices asked for buffalo robes, especially for low grade goods,—owing to the extreme scarcity of the article, as noted in our last report,—and wholesale dealers are carrying their stocks for want of buyers. No definite quotations can be given for raw furs until some time next month, when they commence to come forward. It is thought that *minks* and *muskats* will have to be bought at prices below those of last year, but that *skunk* will be required for local use, at about last year's rates. *Muskat* is quoted very low in Europe; *white beaver* is selling freely at high prices. Beyond the report of the recent sales at Nishni Novgorod, which appeared in our last issue, there are no further noteworthy advices from Europe.

**HARDWARE AND IRON.**—A good business has been done since the date of our last report. Travellers have been forwarding numerous fair-sized orders for all kinds of hardware and iron at our quotations, which, although rather low and not showing any tendency to the "boom" which characterized the market at the like period last year, seem to give satisfaction to dealers—mainly we think, because there is life and a growing activity in trade. As is always the case in an over-inflated, highly speculative market, purchases were made freely last autumn through fear of still higher prices, and the inevitable result was a decline in values just as steady as the advance which preceded it, and large holders of goods have had to suffer in consequence. Only a few days ago a round lot of tin was offered in this market by a local dealer at a price very much below cost, and we believe it has been sold within the week; after the duty and freight had been paid on the goods, which were still in bond, the seller must have felt pretty sick. This year there is a steady and reliable consumptive demand; buyers, under the impression that prices will remain steady throughout the season at present figures, are not going in for heavy purchases, and altogether the trade exhibits a decidedly healthy tone. *Bar iron* has been moving off freely along with other goods, at fair prices,—in lots of from 10 to 40 tons to consumers. A great many orders are