

plications for renewal favors are much more numerous than a year ago.

Furs.—Partial cable advices from London regarding the fur sales now in progress show declines in the various lines offered, due largely, it is presumed, to a falling off in the Russian buying, owing to the war. Red fox has sold 17½ per cent. lower than last March; otter, 15 to 20 per cent. lower; marten, 22½ per cent. lower; fisher, from 25 to 35 per cent. lower; lynx, 50 per cent. lower; silver fox, 40 per cent. lower; cross fox, 27½ per cent. lower. Locally, there is little doing in raw furs, as is usual at sale time, and receipts are very light. We repeat quotations for prime pelts as follows: Beaver, \$5 to \$6.50 for large; medium ditto, \$4 to \$4.75; No 1. choice bear, \$15 for large, \$10 for medium, and \$6 for small; badger, 30 to 50c.; fisher, No. 1, dark, \$5 to \$6; ditto, brown, \$4 to \$5; pale ditto, \$3 to \$4; red fox, \$2.25 to \$4; cross fox, \$5 to \$10 for No. 1, as to color; Wolverine, \$2.50 to \$5; lynx, \$4 to \$8 for No. 1; marten, \$2 to \$3 for Ontario and Quebec skins; fine B.C. and Northwest pelts bring higher prices; mink, \$2 to \$4 for No. 1; fall rats, 8 to 17c.; winter ditto, 15 to 20c.; otter, \$8 to \$12; fine Labradors and Northeastern would bring \$12 to \$20; coon, \$1.50 to \$2.50 for No. 1 black, and from \$1 to \$1.75 for No. 1, dark; prime skunk, \$1.50 for No. 1, all black; short stripe, \$1.10; long stripe, 60c.; and broad stripe, 20c.

Groceries.—Sugars keep moving upwards, and on Monday the local refiners established a further all-round advance of 5c. a cental, making the present factory price for standard granulated \$4.15 in barrels, with yellows ranging from \$3.55 upwards, and it is intimated that further advance is not improbable. The demand is good. The molasses market is weak, first cost at the island being cabled at 9c., equal to laid down cost of about 25 cents, and local jobbing figures are easier at from 30 to 32½c., as to size of package. Dried fruits are moving out slowly in odd boxes. Values in teas all show firmness, with a very fair demand reported. The general movement is reported as rather better than it has been of late, but collections are rather poor.

Hides.—The Association of Hide Dealers has adopted a new schedule of prices, and they now quote 9c. for No. 1 city beef hides, and from 8 to 8½c. for country hides. For city calfskins they quote 13c. for No. 1, and 11c. for No. 2, and for country calfskins 11 and 9c. for Nos. 1 and 2, respectively. Lambskins remain at 10c. and sheepskins at 75c. each.

Metals and Hardware.—Goods are now moving more freely, and the volume of business shows some increase. In values no very marked changes are noted. Pig iron quotations remain as given last week, and for bars the general quotation is now \$1.75, even for small lots. Canada plates are easy, and it is expected they will sell at \$2.15 to \$2.20 on opening of navigation; present quotation is

\$2.30. Black sheets, 26 gauge, are said to have been offered at under \$2. The assortment of large tinned sheets is badly broken up and there is said to be quite a brisk demand for these goods, which is hard to meet; 6¾d. for 24 gauge is the base price, but an advance may be asked, owing to the scarcity. Ingot copper is rather firmer at 13½ to 13¾c.; lead is stronger at \$3.25 to \$3.40 as to lot; spelter, \$5.75 to \$6; tin, 32 to 32½c.; antimony, 7½ to 7¾c.

Oils, Paints and Glass.—Preparations are in order for the general shipping of spring orders, when the summer freight rates come into effect on April 1st, but some houses are already making some

fair shipments. Travellers have not made up the lost time caused by the irregular railway service of the winter, and it is not calculated the volume of business this spring will be up to last year's figures. In prices there is nothing specially new. Turpentine continues to fluctuate, and though the quotation was recently 92c., it is again down to 90½c. by the single barrel. Linseed oil has not shown the recovery expected by some, and the market is still an easy one. Fish oils continue very dull. We quote: single barrels, raw linseed oil, 46 to 47c.; boiled, 49 to 50c., net 30 days, or 3 per cent. for four months' terms. Turpentine, 90½c., single barrels;



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" " " " '02..	3,098,450	" " " " 1902.....	84,676
INCREASE 38%	\$1,180,400	INCREASE 30%	\$25,752
Business in Force Dec. 31, '03..	\$18,023,639	Surplus to Policy-holders, 1903...	\$473,963
" " " " '02..	15,289,547	" " " " 1902....	226,508
INCREASE 18%	\$2,734,092	INCREASE 109%	\$247,455

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