Hides and Skins.—In the hide market there are no changes to note in prices. The demand continues good and supply light, tendency in values being upwards. Calfskins are nominal, season over. Sheepskins are scarce, $1 to $1.25 being paid for best fresh coarse wool skins. Tallow is also coming to hand in small quantities, and sells readily as fast as received. Prices are unchanged.

Leather.—The business doing is of fairly good volume, the market having opened out very well for the commencement of the year. Prospects are considered extremely favorable, numerous enquiries being received from points east, west, and north. There are no changes in quotations to note, and prices are very steady at present figures. All kinds of sole leather in demand. Harness leather is still inclined to drag, which is caused by overproduction. Splits and uppers of all kinds are firm.

Metals and Hardware.—Advices from the Old Country up to Christmas eve say that the pig iron market was very dull. This dulness was also felt by other metals. The financial position, indeed, is improved, but doubt is still felt as to what the early future may bring forth, and with the near approach of the Christmas holidays there is a disposition to await the course of events. Copper is quiet, and consumers of manufactured copper particularly are only buying from hand to mouth. Tin is quiet, at same value. Pig lead is dull, having fallen about 10s. per ton. Spelter stationary, with lower prices probable in the near future. In the local market pig iron is quiet; steel not brisk, though for some sorts of heavy goods there is a desultory demand. Manufacturers of screws in Canada have altered their list prices, and also rate of discount, the effect being an advance equal to probably 20 per cent.

Provisions.—Trade in provisions has been very quiet; the sharp advance in price of dressed hogs is the only special feature. We quote dressed hogs at $6.00 to 6.25 per hundred lbs.; hog products are feeling firmer; long clear bacon is selling at 7¾ to 8c. per lb.; breakfast bacon, 10½ to 11c.; hams, 11 to 11½c.; rolls, 9 to 9½c.; lard, 8¾ to 9¼c. The dairy trade is very flat; there are some transactions in straight yellow butter at 10c. per lb.; selections, choice, suitable for local use, bring 13 to 15c.; rolls, 12 to 14c. per lb., with common stock down as low as 10c. Eggs are steady at 24 to 25c. per dozen for fresh, no trade lots offering; pickled eggs are almost out of the market. Dried and evaporated apples still maintain their high price; there is not much doing in them, stocks very limited.

Wool.—In this market the report is still "nothing doing," and enquiries are neither urgent nor numerous. The mills are now busy overhauling and repairing their machinery. Prices are purely nominal.

BRITISH MARKETS.

The report upon chemicals and metals by Messrs. S. W. Royse & Co., Manchester, dated 20th December, has the following:—

Chemicals.—This is generally a comparatively quiet month, nevertheless a fair volume of trade is passing at present. There is a steady demand for all articles controlled by the "Union," and very little offering under Union prices, nearly all second-hand parcels being cleared; soda ash especially is scarce, and bicarbonate of soda also is difficult to obtain. More business is doing in acetates of lime for delivery ahead. Acetate of soda is very scarce on spot. Acetates of lead and nitrate of lead are steady, as to values, but quiet. Sulphate of copper, after advancing sharply early in the month, has given way again and is at presnt weak; only a moderate advance is now asked for delivery January to June, but there is little business, the position abroad being so uncertain. Green copperas continues in strong demand for prompt delivery. Sulphate of ammonia has improved somewhat, and no large quantities offering. Crystal carbolic is depressed, and stocks of crude are heavy; liquid carbolic is however firmer, probable curtailment of production accounting for this. Large sales of recovered sulphur have been made for next year's delivery, and prices have advanced strongly. Borax is firmer; bichromates of soda and potash very quiet, and orders keenly competed for. Chlorate of potash is firm and chlorate of soda scarce.