

reports are to the effect that the movement is directed by a syndicate composed in part of eastern receivers in connection with some outside capitalists and a number of California shippers. The latter, it is reported, have become convinced that California raisins, like California prunes, have the markets virtually to themselves this year, and that there is no reason why the goods should be sacrificed. Later reports were firmer on sugar.

**HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.**—Business in these lines is now very quiet and things have settled down to the usual winter conditions. Advances from outside markets report glass very firm, with higher prices looked for. Oils are mostly firm. Castor oil  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ higher in the east. Coal oil is locally unchanged. Canadian refined petroleum is advertised at retail in the city at 25¢ per gallon, which appears to be a wonderfully close price.

**TIN,** lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 20 to 21¢.

**TIN PLATES.**—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box \$1.50 to \$1.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C. charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

**TERNE PLATES.**—I. C., 20 by 28, \$8.50 to 9.00.

**IRON AND STEEL.**—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.50 to \$2.65, band iron, per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to \$3.15; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.25 to 3.50; best cast tool steel, per lb, 12 to 13¢; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13¢.

**SHEET IRON.**—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50, CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.00 to \$3.10.

**GALVANIZED IRON.**—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 5¢; 26 gauge, per lb.,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; 28 gauge, per lb., 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

**IRON PIPE.**—50 to per 60 cent. off list.

**CHAIN.**—Best proof coil, 3-16 inch, per lb. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢;  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, per lb, 6 to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; 5-16 inch, per lb. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 6¢;  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, per lb., 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5¢,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, per lb., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5¢.

**SHEET ZINC.**—In casks, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ lb., broken lots, 6¢.

**LEAD.**—Pig, per lb., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

**SOLDER.**—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16¢.

**AMMUNITION.**—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 35 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 per cent.; rim fire military, American, 50 per cent. advance; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6¢.

**AXES.**—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

**WIRE.**—Galvanized barb wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.

**ROPE.**—Sisal, per lb., 8 to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ base; manilla, per lb., 11 to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ base; cotton,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch at 1 larger, 16¢ lb.

**NAILS.**—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.35 to \$3; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.50 per keg; 3 to 4 inch, \$3.80 keg; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, \$1.09 keg, 2 inch, \$1.38 keg.

**HORSE NAILS.**—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No. 7, \$5 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 50 to 50 and 10 per cent.

**HORSE SHOES.**—Per keg, \$1.50 to \$1.75; snow pattern horse shoes, \$1.75 to \$5.

**WHITE LEADS.**—Pure, ground in oil, association guarantee, 5.75 per 100-lb; white lead, assorted 1 to 5-lb. tins, per lb., 9¢.

**TEXTILE FABRICS.**—A very good business is reported in the dry goods branch. In the clothing trade business in sorting orders is not so brisk as it was, but is good for the season. Clothing houses have had a splendid trade, sales having largely exceeded the past two years. One house reports their November sales at \$14,000.00 in excess of November last year, and another house estimates their business at 83 per cent. greater than last season. Business has certainly been much better than since the fall of 1892. Stocks of clothing are reduced very low and there has been difficulty in keeping up with orders, particularly in overcoats. Ulster overcoats have had a tremendous sale.

**RAW FURS.**—No very large transactions are reported yet. Mink and lynx are the principal varieties coming in, with a few beaver and some early rats. Furs taken now would be prime, but the most of the furs received so far have been poor quality. A number of bear skins, which were almost worthless so far as the fur was concerned, have come in, and have brought from 50¢ to \$1.50 each. The outlook is anything but encouraging for furs. Very unfavorable advices have come from New York and other United States points in regard to the trade in manufactured furs, the weather having been unfavorable. It is said enormous stocks are carried at New York, and some failures in the trade are reported. These unfavorable features, together with the lower prices at the last London sales, will render it very necessary that country buyers should exercise unusual care, and not only buy lower, but select more closely than usual, in order to avoid loss. This will be especially necessary in regard to the early receipts of furs, which are poor quality at best, and often contain skins which are worthless. With business slow and prices easy, the poorer qualities will be very hard sale, hence unusual care will be advisable in buying all furs and particularly anything not prime. The following quotations give the range of prices here. The prices cover the range from small to large skins, size color and condition being considered though skins are sometimes offered which are not worth the minimum quotations, on account of being killed out of season.

Badger .....	\$0 15 to \$0 80
Bear, black or brown .....	5 00 to 25 00
Bear, grizzly .....	5 00 to 25 00
Beaver, large .....	5 50 to 7 75
" medium .....	3 00 to 5 00
" small .....	1 50 to 2 50
" castors, per lb .....	2 50 to 5 50
Fisher .....	3 00 to 9 00
Fox, cross .....	2 00 to 10 00
" kitt .....	10 to 40
" red .....	25 to 1 50
" silver .....	20 00 to 75 00
Lynx, large .....	1 00 to 2 50
" medium .....	1 00 to 1 75
" small .....	75 to 1 25
Marten .....	1 00 to 7 00
Mink .....	50 to 1 50
Musquash, fall .....	02 to 07
Otter .....	2 00 to 9 00
Skunk .....	25 to 70
Wolf, timber .....	1 00 to 2 25
" prairie .....	25 to 65
Wolverine .....	1 00 to 4 50

**MANUFACTURED FURS.**—The bulk of the sorting trade is probably now over, but there is still a large demand for the season for furs. There has been a great run on the cheaper lines of fur coats, and dealers have been unable to fill orders in some lines, as stocks were rapidly exhausted and could not be replenished fast enough, though orders were hurried in by express as fast as they could be made up at the factories east. The local houses are still getting in stocks. The largest sales have been in wombat coats, but one house reports that they could have sold 300 more of these coats, if they could have

got them made up in time. Manufacturers east have advanced the price of wombat coats in consequence of the heavy demand, as the skins became scarce. All lines of fur goods will be well sold down here this season.

#### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

**WHEAT.**—After Mondays firmness wheat ruled lower during the following two days of the week, in leading outside markets, but there was quite a strong upward move on Thursday and Friday. There was considerable war talk, which influenced wheat prices materially, with large Pacific coast exports reported on Thursday. The weak features were large receipts and favorable crop news. Exports from all countries last week were 6,800,000 bushels. Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States this week were 3,150,000 bushels, as compared with 2,460,000 bushels last week; 3,011,000 bushels in the week a year ago; 2,558,000 bushels in the week two years ago, and 4,410,000 three years ago.

The principal feature of interest in the local situation is the final closing of navigation at our lake ports. The last boat—the Centurian—cleared from Fort William with wheat for Buffalo on December 5. Last year the last boat cleared on December 2. Shipments from Fort William this week aggregate 590,000 bushels in round numbers, as compared with 70,000 bushels for the corresponding week last year. The season has been a favorable one for lake shipments and nearly a full week's shipments have been made later than last year. This will bring shipments by the lakes from Fort William for the season since September 1 up to about 8,875,000 bushels, as compared with shipments of 9,175,148 bushels up to the close of navigation last year. Shipments it will be seen are under last year, owing to the fact that the movement was nearly a month later in starting this year. Since the movement started it has been a brisk season and everything has gone smoothly. The railways have handled the wheat on the whole promptly, though the movement was heavier than last year during the latter part of the season. Allowing 1,500,000 bushels of Manitoba wheat shipped out by Duluth, and 2,000,000 bushels gone out as flour, total shipments out to date since September 1 will aggregate nearly 12,000,000 bushels, which is about the same as last year to the close of navigation. Prices have been firmer in Manitoba country markets, notwithstanding the close of navigation and the high winter rates which exports would now be subject to. Instead of prices declining, there has been an upward tendency, particularly for low grades. The 2¢ decline in low grades a week ago has been recovered, and prices are now on the old parity as to grades. There has also been a wider range of prices in different country markets, prices having advanced at several country points 1 to 3¢ beyond the general parity of similar freight rate points, owing to local causes. The firmness is due to light deliveries by farmers and the desire to fill up country elevators. So long as there is space in country elevators, there will be a tendency to buy wheat to fill up elevators, so as to earn storage. Wheat is so low that it is comparatively safe to buy to hold at present prices and earn storage at the same time. Prices in country markets here are much too high to ship for export via New York or other Atlantic ports. Some shipments of No. 3 hard principally are going all rail to St. John for export, but this is on contract made earlier and a figure which would allow of shipping could not be got now, on present basis of prices here. A few cars are going to North Bay for Ontario millers, but it is not expected that this trade will amount to much, as the larger Ontario millers are well stocked with Mani-