

# STANDARD MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.

Head Office, - MARKHAM, Ont.

Authorized Capital, - 500,000  
Subscribed Capital, - 125,000

WM. ARMSTRONG, H. B. REESOR  
President Man. Director  
F. K. REESOR, FRANK EDMAND,  
Inspector City Agent  
Confederation Life Bldg.

## The Metropolitan Fire Insurance Company

CASH-MUTUAL and STOCK  
HEAD OFFICE, - TORONTO  
Authorized Capital, \$500,000

D. HIBNER, Berlin, Pres. W. G. WRIGHT, Inspector.  
W. H. SHAPLEY, Toronto, F. CLEMENT BROWN,  
Vice President. Manager.

## THE COMMERCIAL

Reaches direct 90 per cent. of the retail, wholesale and manufacturing trades of Northwestern Ontario, Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia in advance of, and publishes more interesting commercial and financial news than any other similar newspaper in Canada.

Do you want to sell or increase the sale of your goods in these, THE BEST BUYING PROVINCES IN CANADA?

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THE HUGH C. MACLEAN CO., LIMITED,  
Publishers, Winnipeg.

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10,000 tons, which is barely two months' supplies.

**Dry Goods.**—The credit and financial man of a leading house in this line of merchandise, who has just returned from a trip down by the sea, reports that retailers in the Maritime Provinces, generally, had a no better winter trade than their conferees in the central and western provinces, and that a comparatively large quantity of goods will be carried over, causing a considerable degree of conservatism in the placing of new orders. At the moment, sorting letter orders for small lots are fairly numerous, but travelers' efforts are now mainly directed to the selling of fall goods. Money is coming in a little better, and May collections are expected to be materially ahead of April, which was a very poor month. The markets, domestic and foreign, present no special features. Japan silks are much in demand, and are very firm. Linens also incline to further stiffness, owing to the curtailment of flax-growing in Russia.

**Dairy Products.**—The export movements has begun; seven steamers took out last week 33,574 boxes of cheese, and 429 packages of butter. For the corresponding week of last year the figures were 42,064 boxes of cheese and 452 packages of butter. Cheese prices seem to be a little steadier, and 6½c. per lb. is about the figure paid this week on the wharf for Quebec cheese, while finest westerns are quoted at 7 to 7½c. Butter continues easy on the basis of about 15 to 15½c. per lb. for good to fine new creamery.

**Hides.**—Business is quieter. Beef hides are comparatively dull, and receipts of calfskins are beginning to slacken up.

Lambskins are advanced this week to 15c. each. Beef hides are unaltered in price at 9c. per lb. for No. 1, and calfskins at 13c. per lb. for No. 1.

**Metals and Hardware.**—Heavy metal men report a little better demand, and a fair aggregate of business is being done in general hardware, but the spring trade, as a whole, will fall short of that of last year. A fair number of non-union plumber shops are open, but the stone cutters' and soft stone workers' strike is still on, and building operations are still being seriously hampered. In values, there are no marked changes. Pig iron quotations, net terms, ex-wharf, are as follows: No. 1, Summerlee and Gartsherrie, \$19.40; Clyde, \$19.30; Eglington, \$18.15; No. 3, Middlesbro, \$16.80. Domestic brands are quoted at \$18.50 to \$19. Bars, boiler plates, iron piping, etc., all remain as before quoted, also Canada plates and sheets generally. Some fair lots of Terne plates are coming to hand and are quoted at \$6.35. Ingot tin is easy at 31 to 32c., and lead at \$4.30. Copper and antimony, as last quoted.

**Oils, Paints and Glass.**—Wholesale men appear to be fairly satisfied with the volume of business doing in these lines, but remittances are not wholly satisfactory. Linseed oil continues very easy at 45 to 46c. for raw, and 48 to 49c. for boiled. Turpentine is slightly easier at 85c. Ground lead nominally \$4.50 for chemically pure, but it is being sold in some cases at figures quite a way below that. Fish oils dull and little asked for. The production of glass in Belgium is said to be greatly curtailed owing to labor troubles, but no change in local prices is noted.

### TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, May 19th, 1904.

**Chemicals, Drugs, Etc.**—The firmness in quinine and in carbolic acid, owing to the war in the East, continues. Opium is still very dull and unsettled. New York market reports strong news from Japan about menthol, though so far prices remain unaffected. Codliver oil is a good deal easier, owing to lack of demand. Nitrate of silver has advanced ½c. in sympathy with the metal.

**Dry Goods.**—The cool weather militates against any great activity in seasonable lines. That the tone of the market is good was shown by the few days of summer weather we experienced a week or ten days ago. Stocks in many lines, however, are very light, and retail merchants manifest some anxiety to be forehanded in providing for their requirements. There is a brisk demand for men's domestic suitings. Tweeds and cheviots have been selling quite freely, and there has been an active sorting demand from tailors. Canadian dress goods are another line which have been favored by the backward season, as being often of a somewhat heavier character than those imported. Values in all goods are still very firmly maintained. Linen is almost prohibitive in price.

**Merchants FIRE INSURANCE CO.**  
CAPITAL AND ASSETS OVER  
HALF A MILLION  
~ HEAD OFFICE ~  
TORONTO.  
Agents Wanted in All Unrepresented Districts.

**Flour and Grain.**—Ninety per cent. patents are a trifle higher at \$2.65, while Manitoba is about at the same figure. Millfeed continues firm. No change has taken place in oatmeal. Ontario wheat has gone up a cent, and is firm at the advance. Oats are a cent higher. Rye is 1c. to 2c. lower. Little business is being done and practically no receipts are coming forward, the farmers being busy seeding.

**Fruits and Vegetables.**—The demand for all lines of seasonable fruits and vegetables cannot be complained of considering the weather. Pineapples are plentiful, but the demand keeps up. Strawberries have been scarcer this week, but prices are easy. Prices are quoted as follows: Apples, 75c. to \$2.50 per barrel, according to grade and quality; coconuts, \$3.50 to \$4 per sack; oranges, California navels, \$2.75 to \$3.50; Valencias, ordinary, \$5 to \$5.50; large, \$6 to \$6.50; lemons, Messina, 360's, \$2 to \$2.50; 300's, \$2.75 to \$3; bananas, 8's, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bunch; 1st, \$2 to \$2.50; dates, Sair, 3½c. per lb.; Hallowee, 4c.; figs, 8c. to 12c.; tap figs, 3½c.; pineapples, \$3 to \$3.25 per case; strawberries, 11c. to 17c. per quart box; Egyptian onions, \$3.50 per sack; tomatoes, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per case.

**Hardware.**—No changes have taken place in values, which remain firm. The demand for farm implements, building hardware, and other goods needed at this season of the year, is quite brisk. There is no feature worthy of special comment.

**Hides and Leather.**—A steady market exists for hides at old prices. The demand is fair. Sheepskins are scarce, but the demand is very light. Calfskins are a little higher. Tallow is dull. The demand for leather is not brisk just now, but is expected to improve.

**Provisions.**—The butter market continues weak under over-plentiful offerings. Cheese is still very dull. In eggs, the tone continues very good, with demand larger than supply. The hog product trade is about normal for this time of the year.

**Wool.**—No change has occurred since last report. Some lots of unwashed are coming forward, but they do not amount to much. For pulled wools the market is quiet.