

**Hides and Wool.**

Hides have advanced 1c at Montreal to 6c for No. 1 and 5c for No. 2.

At Toronto a slight advance in hides is reported, but dealers say the condition of the leather trade does not warrant any advance in prices. The price for gron is now 5½c and for cured, 6c to 6½c. Lambskins, 30c and pelts 15c. Calfskins, 6c for No. 1 and 4c for No. 2. Dekins, 20c to 25c each. Horse hides, \$1.50 to \$2 each. Tallow, dealers are paying 3½c to 3¼c for primo rendered.

The Toronto Globe says of wool: The offerings of fleeco are fair and the receipts so far this season have probably been larger than for the same time last year. The buying is purely speculative, there being no inquiry for export. Prices are the same as last week, at 17 to 18c for farmers' lots of washed fleeco combing here, and a trifle more would be paid for choice lots of selected round lots in the country; rejected here is quoted at 14c to 15c, and unwashed at 10c to 11c. Pulled wools are slow owing to the fact that the manufacturers' are getting all they need in the country from the farmers. Prices are nominal at 18½c to 19½c for supers and 20c to 21c for extras.

**Financial Opinion of Manitoba.**

At the recent annual meeting of the Freehold Loan and Savings Co., at Toronto, the president referred at some length to Manitoba. Besides giving statistics as to the agricultural development of the province, he said:

We have a large and increasing interest in the Province of Manitoba. In reviewing the general condition of the province during the past year, we cannot but realize the substantial advance it has made—most strikingly in the quantity and value of the agricultural productions, but also very noticeably in every branch of industry, as well as in commercial circles. The figures compiled from the Government returns and other sources indicate a marked increase over any previous year in the history of the province.

The agricultural possibilities of the country were never before so clearly indicated. The condition of the farmers has materially improved, more particularly in the closely settled districts, and purchases of implements are more largely for cash than formerly, and consequently at lower prices.

The commercial condition of the province is, generally speaking, good. During the year Winnipeg has continued to advance. The population has increased about 5,000, being now estimated at least 40,000. There has been a fair amount of building, mostly of a better class than formerly, and property has maintained its value. The smaller towns and villages throughout the province have also held their own, and many of them made substantial advances. The elevator and storage capacity has been greatly enlarged, and there is now ample storage for any ordinary crop.

The immigration during the past year has been light, but there has been considerable demand for land, mostly by farm laborers, who have saved enough to enable them to start for themselves, or neighboring farmers making additions to their farms, or buying for their sons.

At the recent annual meeting of the Bank of Montreal, the chairman made the following reference to Manitoba: "No better proof of the consequent prosperity can be given than the records of the loan and insurance companies doing business in Manitoba. From a statement I hold in my hand it is shown that up to December 31st, 1885, the arrears of interest and of capital of the total loans in the Province of Manitoba were only 1.7 per cent at that date."

**Montreal Grocery Market.**

Since our last the raw sugar market has been fairly active, and prices have fluctuated according to the action of long holders daily. Cables, however, to-day were weak both for cane and beet, and reported business at lower prices. The decline since yesterday has been 1½d, June being quoted at 10s 7½d and July at 10s 9d. The market on spot for the refined article continues very quiet, and although no actual change in values has taken place the impression is that refiners would probably shade present figures for a good-sized lot, but buyers of this class are described as being scarce at present, and what trade is doing is of a jobbing character. We quote: Granulated at 4½c in 250-barrel lots and over; 1 1/2-ton in 100 barrel lots, and 1½c in smaller quantities. Yellows range from 3 7/16c to 3½c, as to quality, at the factory.

The market for syrup continues to rule very quiet and without any feature of note, prices being nominally unchanged at 1½c to 2½c per lb., as to quality, at the factory.

The demand for molasses during the past week has been slow, and the market in consequence is dull and without any new feature of note. At the Island prices have ruled steady at 10c, while on spot round lots of Barbadoes are offering at 27½c to 28c, car lots at 27c, and smaller quantities at 31c. Porto Rico is dull and unchanged at 30c.

The demand for rice for the season continues very fair, and a moderately active business is reported at steady prices. We quote:—Japan standard, \$1.25 to \$1.40; crystal Japan, \$1.75 to \$5.00; standard B., \$3.45; Patna, \$1.25 to \$5, and Carolina at \$5.50 to \$7.50.

Business in spices, as is usual at this season of the year, is very quiet, and as the general feeling is steady the market is without any new phase. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only:—Penang black pepper, 6c to 7½c; white pepper, 10 to 12½c; cloves, 7½ to 9c; cassia, 8½ to 9½c; nutmegs, 60c to 90c, and Jamaica ginger, 15½ to 18½c.

The market for coffee is dull, the demand being only for small lots to fill actual wants. We quote:—Maracibo at 17½c to 18c, Rio 16 to 17½c; Java, 23 to 25c, and Mocha, 23 to 26c.

The tea market has been very quiet, there being little demand for either new or old crop goods, and we do not hear of any sales being made. Advertisers to hand state that the shipments of new crop Japan have been 10,000 piculs less this season to date, as compared with the corresponding time last year.—Gazette, June 12.

**Electrical Improvements.**

The Electrical Review announces that Nicola Tesla has "perfected his vacuum tube system of electric lighting without wires, the possibilities of which he first brought to public notice five years ago in a lecture before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. This light is whiter, more brilliant and more intense than the arc light, and is produced with a much smaller amount of electrical energy. Tesla further states that his apparatus has been greatly simplified, and he will soon have it ready for practical use." Working on different lines, Thomas A. Edison, according to the Electrical Review, has succeeded in developing a new electric lamp or vacuum tube, "by means of which the Roentgen or X rays are turned into pure white light. Edison's new lamp is an ordinary Crookes tube, coated on the interior surface with crystal of a new fluorescent substance which he has discovered, similar to tungstate of calcium. The X rays, in passing through this coating of crystals, are changed to light. Very little heat is generated, and nearly the whole of the electrical energy expended is transformed into light.

Mr. Edison believes that there are great possibilities in his discovery."

Johann Wulffsohn has returned from England and reports that he has organized a company in London who have placed \$5,000,000 in the bank for the purpose of developing British Columbia mines.

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