

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, March 9th, 1898.

GRAIN.—The bad roads are preventing deliveries, and offerings are limited. But the demand is slack and values are weak. Buckwheat and rye are firm. There is little movement in oats. Peas continue steady and unchanged.

GROCERIES.—Business is fairly good on the street, and the movement in general staples is satisfactory. Teas attract some considerable attention at present. "Foreign and colonial markets (not including the United Kingdom), absorbed 62,000,000 lbs. of India and Ceylon tea during the year 1898—an increase over the previous year of 11,000,000 lbs. Ceylon teas under 8d. rose in value during the week ending February 24th, $\frac{1}{2}$ d., i.e., 1 cent (14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.), for the same week in 1898. And should the consumption still further expand, as seems probable, even better average prices may be looked for. The official estimate of the Ceylon crop for 1889 is given as 125,000,000 lbs., against 119,769,071 lbs. last year. There is little or no change in the sugar trade, and the general takings of the trade are limited. In canned goods and Lenten supplies, trade is fairly good. Cable advices from European markets, as to rice, while quoting no lower price in Java grades and Patna, showed, if anything, a slightly easier tone. Advices from the East, however, continued firm.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—Values are very firm, and during the past fortnight in several lines stiff advances in price have been made. We are in receipt of a circular announcing an advance in wood screws, and the discounts off list are now as follows: Flat head, bright, 85 per cent.; round head, bright, 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; flat head, brass, 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; round head, brass, 70 per cent.; flat head, bronze, 70 per cent.; round head, bronze, 65 per cent. Barbed wire is dearer, dealers quoting \$2.50 to \$2.75 per 100 lbs., f.o.b., Toronto. All wire goods are firmer in feeling. In spring specialties, such as spades and shovels, screen doors, screen windows, poultry netting, sap buckets, and the like, there is a good movement, and the spring business promises most satisfactory results. In metals the feeling generally is firm. London cables, re pig tin, reflected a speculative, better tone to the surface of the market. There was, however, nothing of unusual nature in the business recorded. New York says of copper: "Consumers, who may be in immediate need of copper, are still required to pay stiff prices for store stock, say the basis of 18c. for Lake Superior, since the spot supply is moderate, but there are very few such buyers at present. When it comes to operations involving deliveries that consumers will be in a position to make readily in the immediate future, matters are somewhat different." Pig lead is firmer in primary markets.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Little or no change has taken place in market conditions. Values remain as last quoted. City butchers are obtaining 80c. to \$1 for sheepskins, with fair delivery. Calfskins are offering more freely with the advancing season without change in price. Tallow is in somewhat improved condition, with rendered quoted 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. per lb.

PAINTS AND OILS.—Last month's business was in excess of expectations, while so far in March the turnover in general supplies has been very satisfactory. Values are generally firm, but without special change. Advices from the South, in regard to turpentine, indicate that the situation there is, if anything, stronger, and values show an upward tendency. Early telegrams from Savannah reported 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

paid and bid, and asserted that the agents for the tank steamer "Iris," had bought some spirits and were seeking more. The receipts were very light, and holders were disposed to advance their views.

SEEDS.—There is an improvement in the local enquiry for supplies, dealers quote red clover \$3 to \$3.50, and alsike \$2.50 to \$4. These quotations are f.o.b., at country points.

WOOL.—The local market is quiet and with little or no change in its features. On the 7th inst., the second series of London wool auctions for the year were commenced. The offerings number 11,134 bales, largely crossbreds, none of which were suitable for America, and very little fit for continental uses. Consequently the home trade secured the bulk. Competition was good, except for low crossbreds. Medium low grades were a farthing to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. below the January average. Scoured merinos were scarce and there was eager competition for all offered at rates equal to the last series. Queensland and South Australia greasy merinos brought full prices, and

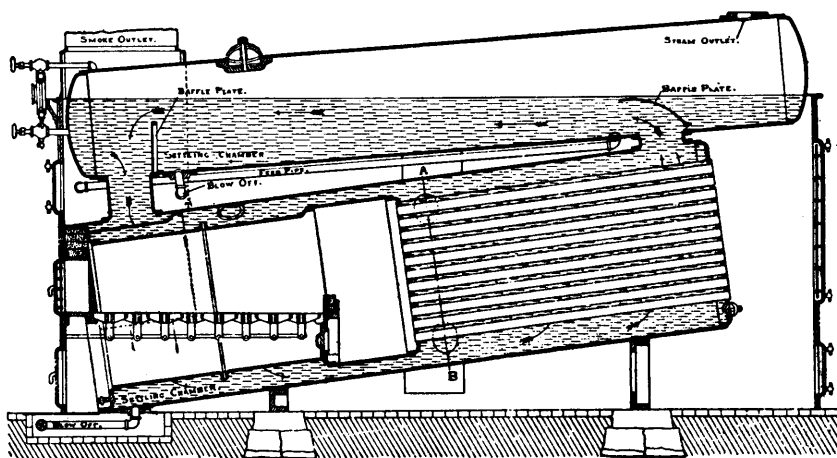
Swan River and South Africans went quickly at full prices. On the second day, the offerings consisted of 9,737 bales, and were a better selection. The supply of scoured merinos was small and was eagerly bid for by the German and Yorkshire buyers at hardening rates. Victoria greasy merinos were well represented and sold readily to France and Germany. Fine goods crossbreds were in good demand, and were taken by the home and French buyers. Medium low stock ruled irregular. Shabby stock showed a drooping tendency, and sold 10 per cent. lower. Lambs were well represented, and were strongly competed for.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, March 8th, 1899.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—More activity is to be noted in cheese, and the shipments last week reached quite a respectable figure, reaching to 43,953 boxes in all, of which 39,000 boxes went to London. Since the close of navigation the total

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