Dry Goods.—Naturally there has been some little falling off in the volume of trade carried through, as compared with the transactions of a week or two ago, when Toronto was full of visitors. No complaint is due, however, on this score, wholesalers are now engaged on the fall sorting trade, and everything points to a satisfactory season. Not all the travellers are out yet again, but those that are have already sent in some fair-sized orders. A few minor reductions have been made in the price of some staple goods, but as a rule they have only referred to special lines. Prices on the whole are very firmly maintained.

Flour and Meal.—A little firmer feeling is to be noted among holders of flour, though prices, $2.62 for 90 per cent. patents in buyers' bags, middle freights remain about the same. Millfeed continues steady and so does oatmeal.

Fruit, Etc.—Plenty of briskness is to be noted these days among the fruit stores, though the cooler weather may be expected to check the demand to some extent. Fruit of good quality, however, always commands a premium, while the poorer sorts will hang fire. Prices quoted are as follows: New lemons, majoric, $4.25 per box; fancy verdelle, $3.50 to $4. Oranges, late Valencia, $4; Jamaica, $4.25. Grapes, champion, 20c. basket; Moore's early and Niagara, 25c.; peaches, Crawford 50 to 75c.; common, 40 to 50c. Pears, 25 to 45c. Plums, 30 to 50c. Apples, 30 to 40c. per basket, $2.75 to $3.50 per bbl. Tomatoes, 10 to 15c. per basket. Bananas, fancy, $1.50 to $1.75. Canteloupes, 30 to 60c. per case. Cucumbers, 15c. per basket. Sweet potatoes, $4.

Grain.—Greater firmness has characterized the wheat market since the reports of rain and frost in Manitoba. Barley is steady to firm. Corn is steady. Rye and oats remain in about the same position as before. Peas are steady.

Groceries.—The heavy demand recently noted for sugars for preserving purposes has fallen off quite considerably this week, though a resumption of the heavy movement is looked for before the end of the month. Canned fruits and vegetables are quite firm, and some small fruits show an advancing tendency. Otherwise, the general grocery business presents no new features.

Hides and Skins.—Trade in this line has been brisker this week than it was before. Though the offerings are fairly numerous, there is no accumulation of stocks and prices are going up. Tallow is steady. In Chicago, the tone of the market for packer hides holds firm. It is stated that packers have turned down bids of 14¼c. for spreadies. The general demand for hides is reported as limited, buyers showing a disposition to hold off and await developments, prices being on too high a basis to prove attractive. Quotations are 13 to 13¼c. for native steers; 14c. for heavy Texas; 12c. for butt brands; 11¾c. for Colorados; 11 to 11¼c. for native cows, and 10 to 10½c. for branded do. Country hides are firm at 9¼ to 9½c. for No. 1 buffs.

Live Stock.—A fair business was done at the market this week. Choice stock sold well, but quality, as a whole, has hardly been tip-top. Choice cattle for export sold as high as $5 per cwt., but lower grades were dull. Butchers' cattle were easy, partly owing to poor quality.

Provisions.—Offerings of butter are fairly large, but the quality is not all that could be desired, and though choice is selling well, the bulk of the receipts is not meeting with any pressing demand. Best dairy, pound rolls, are in good request. The cheese market is dull and easier. All lines of hog products are held very firmly and the supply is light. There is a good demand for eggs, and prices are quite firm. The sale of poultry is becoming larger with the cooler weather.

Wool.—The market continues dull, though a slight improvement in its tone is visible. Very little movement can be seen as yet, and what transactions have taken place have been done at a loss or, at any rate, without any profit to speak of. Mr. E. T. Carter has received a private cablegram to the effect that at the London auction sales which started this week colonial wools had advanced —merinos 7½, and crossbreds 5 per cent. It is not probable that this will ameliorate the conditions here, except by serving to check the decline.

PAY YOUR SMALL BILLS.

A number of men were sitting in the office of a hotel the other day when a young man entered and presented a bill to the landlord, who looked it over with an unpleasant countenance, opened his money drawer with a bang, and slammed $2 down on the counter, remarking at the same time in a very "grouchy" manner, "You fellows act like you thought I was going to leave town. The clerk tells me you were here twice yesterday with that bill. I don't like so much 'monkey business' about a little bill."

When the collector had left one of the guests said to the landlord: "When did you contract that bill" "About a month ago," was the answer. "You had the $2 then to pay it, didn't you?" "You bet, I've always got it." "You didn't have anything in particular you wanted to do with that $2, did you?" "No." "You could just as well pay it to-day as next week, couldn't you?" "Yep." "Well, this man had to pay for the goods, he took the trouble to charge it on his books, make out the bill and send a clerk around for the money after a reasonable length of time. He has accommodated you and you have the money and can just as well pay it as not, yet you got mad and insult the man after he has extended you a courtesy and an accommodation, just because he asks for what rightly belongs to him. It strikes me your place is down on the farm." The landlord tried to turn it off as a joke but he looked uncomfortable.

AMERICAN WOOL MARKET.

Justice, Bateman & Co., Philadelphia, in their latest report say that wool values are very firmly maintained on the basis of prices of the past sixty days. The actual amount of business passing is quite large, and this acounts for the optimistic tone manifested by most holders. Quotations are unchanged, but quarter-bloods are somewhat firmer. The mills are better employed and are using fewer adulterants and more pure wool than for many months past. While the bulk of the stock in the market is held above quotations by confident owners, those wools which could be moved at current rates have been fairly active. Manufacturers seem to have had no trouble to secure needed supplies from lots bought early in the season, the owners of which (apparently satisfied with a very moderate profit) are meeting the market freely; and for the time being these transactions control prices. The failure to obtain promptly the higher prices which were so confidently expected is taxing the patience of some owners who see their customers supplying themselves elsewhere, for by shopping around, manufacturers have been able to pick up at current quotations, sufficient wool to enable them to stand off owners who are demanding advanced rates, and it is impossible to state how long this condition of affairs will continue. Manufacturers requirements, even for those who pursue the hand-to-mouth method of buying, are unusually large, and sufficient to keep prices steady and firm.

It seems probable that the future of domestic prices depends largely upon the course of the next series of London wool auctions, which open on the 17th inst. Opinions differ as to the probable course of prices at these sales.

—"Self-respect comes high, but I've got to have it. It's about the only thing that's worth what it costs—that and first-class linseed oil." So said the house-painter, in Thomas Bailey Aldrich's beautiful story in Harper's, "The case of Thomas Phipps."