

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, June 16th, 1898.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Manufacturers and jobbers are busy completing their order lists for the autumn of 1898. Trade prospects are reported bright. The probability of an advance in leather on account of the continued strength of the hide market is not looked forward to with satisfaction.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The market is quiet and without special change. The recent rains have had a beneficial effect upon the pastures, and they are now in excellent condition. Together with the low price of cheese an abundance of grass has resulted in a considerable increase in the deliveries of dairy butter. Creamery remains as reported last week. Cheese is weaker, and quotations show a decline as against those of last week. Eggs are a fraction higher, at 10 to 10½c. per doz. The season's work with picklers is almost over, and with the exception of the few vats that each pickler has left unfilled in case of emergency, may be considered closed.

DRY GOODS.—There is no great activity on the part of the wholesale houses. Some woollen manufacturers are very busy, while others are inactive. In all lines of knitted goods business is brisk, and many of the mills are working overtime, but manufacturers of blankets are, we understand, none too well employed. For next spring trade prospects are considered good. Retailers the country over say that customers are asking for a better quality of fabrics, the importance of which, if true, can scarcely be exaggerated.

GRAIN.—The course of the wheat market the past week, as all the world knows on account of the publicity given the trade by the Leiter failure, is best described as a phenomenal slump. Several months ago, we were reporting advances of 10c. per bushel during a week, but now the tables are turned and downward fluctuations are as frequent and as marked as were the advances. Ontario winter and spring wheat is quoted 75 to 84c., and Manitoba hard, \$1 to 1.16 per bushel. Oats are dull at a decline of 1c. per bushel, being quoted at 29 to 30c. Peas are quiet and unchanged. Rye, corn and buckwheat remain nominal.

GROCERIES.—There is not a very active movement in the trade. Staple supplies are moving very slowly. Coffee shows no change in spite of the interference in some primary markets by the war. Sugars are dull and at a decline of ½c. per lb. and only a moderate movement. The canning season, so far as small fruits are concerned, is now on and the consumption is being increased in this way. It is reasonable to expect that retailers' stocks will soon need to be replenished. The tea market is very excited, and as a consequence of the threatened imposition of an increased duty on tea in the United States, large quantities of tea are going forward from this market to that country. We are told of one shipment of five cars made from Toronto to parties in Chicago. The market is being cleared up and will start the new season on a firmer basis. California fruits are scarce and in some instances quite out of the market.

HIDES AND SKINS.—There is no change in the hide trade. Values remain very firm, and for No. 1 Toronto inspected green hides butchers are obtaining 8½c. and 9c. for steers. Cured are in small supply, and the small stocks in the hands of dealers are firmly held. It is reported that a number of them are sold ahead for some time. Pelts in the local market are quoted at 20c., and lambskins 25 to 30c. each. From Chicago, June 14th, only a limited volume of business was transacted in the market for packer hides, as buyers generally were holding back. A sale was reported of 1,200 native steers, June take-off, at 12½c., closing at 12½ to 12¾c. for native steers, 11½ to 12¾c. for Texas, 10½ to 11c. for butt brands, 10 to 10½c. for Col-orados, 10½c. for branded cows, 11½ to 11¾c. for heavy native cows, and 11½ to 12c. for light ditto.

HOG PRODUCTS.—Values in all lines are firm, but in smoked meats there is special strength. Lard has advanced ½c. per lb. and is in good demand. In the United States supplies are large, as the stocks of cutmeats at the four

principal packing centres are reported at 311,000,000 pounds, against 270,000,000 the same time last year.

LEATHER.—Only a hand-to-mouth trade is being done. Orders are received in such a way as indicates that manufacturers are following a conservative policy and are disposed to buy no more than enough to satisfy present wants. With hide values at a basis of 9 to 9½c. per lb. ever tanner should attempt to secure an advance in the price of finished material. United effort to this end appears impossible and the trade interests remain in the hands of the few who are always looked to to lead in any movement.

WOOL.—Canadian fleece wool is coming into the market slowly, but in as large quantities as can be expected at the present range of prices. Merchants here are quoting 16c. per lb., and we have seen sales made at this figure. In certain country districts we are told of local competition leading to 17c., and even 18c. having been paid. Upon what the purchasers base their ideas for such prices as these we cannot say. It is possible the market may take a turn for the better, and these buyers may get their own out of the trade, but it is a chance. The arrivals for the fourth series of London wool sales, which closed 11th inst., are as follows:—New South Wales, 58,459; Queensland, 23,691; Victoria, 35,813; South Australia, 6,721; West Australia, 3,465; Tasmania, 8,944; New Zealand, 119,575; Cape of Good Hope and Natal, 51,420. Deducting 42,000 bales Australasian and 38,500 Cape of Good Hope and Natal, and adding 38,000 old stock leaves the available amount of wool for the fourth series 265,588 bales.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, June 15th, 1898.

ASHES.—The market is still characterized by an entire absence of English demand, and values are more or less nominal owing to the lack of transactions. Receipts are also very limited. We quote first quality of pots \$3.60 to \$3.65, seconds \$3.35 to \$3.40; pearls \$4.75 per hundred pounds.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—For cement there is a steady, good demand at firm prices. Receipts since last writing have been 8,226 barrels of Belgian, and 600 barrels of British; of firebricks, 66,000. We quote: British cement \$2.20 to \$2.30, Belgian \$1.80 to \$1.90, firebricks \$16 to \$22 per thousand, according to brand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Cheese exports do not as yet show much sign of catching up with last year's figures. Last week the shipments were 26,926 boxes, as against 59,126 boxes for the same week last year, and the shortage in the season thus far is 59,500 boxes. The cable quoted sixpence lower Monday, and sales of Quebec cheese this week have ranged about 6½c., Western quotes at 7¼ to 7¾c. The exports of butter continue to show a gratifying increase over last year's figures, last week's shipments being 2,118 pkgs., as compared with 841 pkgs. the same week of 1897, and the total increase for the season so far is some 9,000 pkgs. Prices still tend to easiness and 16 to 16½c. per lb. is the outside figure for fine creamery.

DRY GOODS.—The changeable weather somewhat affects retail trade, but city dealers report business a good deal ahead of last year, and say it is easier to sell goods now at a profit, which may be taken as a fair indication of the generally better feeling prevailing. Travelers are pretty well all out with full lines of autumn samples, and report satisfactory business. Fall goods are arriving in considerable quantity, but most of the wholesale houses are putting them into bond in the meantime, so as to be able to avail themselves of the reduced duties which come into effect July 1st. Payments continue to be favorably reported upon.

FURS.—At the moment of writing the only cable report received regarding the London sales, which began yesterday, was to the effect that red fox, coon and mink were selling the same as March, and

beaver same as January. Fuller advices will be available next week. We quote: Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1 to \$1.25; marten, \$1.75 to \$2.25; fisher, \$4.50 to \$7; lynx, \$1 to \$2; otter, \$1 to \$12 for dark; pale, \$5 to \$7; red fox, large, \$1.30 to \$1.50; small, \$1; cross fox, \$3 to \$6; bear, cubs, \$3 to \$7; medium, \$7 to \$10; large, \$12 to \$15; skunk, 15 to 70c., as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c.; rats, fall, 7 to 10c.; kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	June 4.	June 13.
	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat	424,333	290,475
Corn	151,720	202,243
Oats	1,047,426	1,091,448
Rye	85,671	11,827
Peas	282,685	291,372
Barley	31,296	31,921
Total grain.....	2,023,117	1,919,286
Oatmeal	227	268
Flour	18,837	19,552
Buckwheat	56,066	54,313

GROCERIES.—After our report of last week was written and it became known that the American duty on tea was operative on the 14th June instead of 1st July, the market grew excited and there was a rush to get goods across the line. On Saturday, 11th, and Monday 13th, probably a dozen cars were hurried "over the border." The market has been left bare by these transactions and holders are stiffer than ever in their views. The demand for sugar at the factory has not yet become very active, but it is held cannot be much longer delayed. Some invoices of Scotch refined sugar in bags have been brought into this market by a Boston firm, and to shut off further imports, the local companies have reduced prices a sixteenth of a cent, making granulated now 47-16c. at factory, and the inside figure in yellows 3½c. Two steamships now in port are unloading some 75,000 bags of raw beet sugars for the St. Lawrence company. Molasses is reported a little easier at the island, but local figures are firm, jobbers quoting 30 to 31c. per gal. for Barbadoes in small lots. Some orders for new pack of clover leaf salmon are reported as booked at \$3.50 on Coast. In other lines we learn of nothing new.

HIDES.—The strong advance of last week in beef hides is still held, the war between the local association and outside buyers

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