

BRITISH COAL ABROAD.

The last British consular reports from Havre and the towns in that district show that on the whole the importation of British coal has not been injuriously affected by the new tariff on the northern and western railways of France, which was designed to increase the consumption of French coal. The American consul at Chemnitz reports that, in spite of freight reductions all over Germany and the other efforts to encourage the consumption of German coal, the trade in British coal is still very large. In 1895 it amounted to 4,000,000 tons, and it increased last year. Even in Berlin, while the consumption increased by 40 per cent., the increase in German coal consumed there was only 12 per cent., the rest being British. England's coal, the American consul adds, is cheaper and better than that of continental countries.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, April 8th, 1897.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The receipts of fresh dairy butter have been somewhat larger this week. All choice lots are readily taken. Dealers are expecting shipments of grass butter soon, as the season in Western Ontario is opening earlier than usual. The supply, however, is not likely to be in excess of the demand for some weeks yet. The inferior qualities of butter, of which, unfortunately, there are large quantities on hand, are very difficult to dispose of. Creamery butter continues plentiful, values remaining unchanged. There is very little trade done in cheese, the high price having apparently interfered with the consumption. The receipts of fodder cheese are somewhat larger, but prices are quoted unchanged at 9c. to 10c. per lb. There is little or no change in the movement of September and October goods. The quantity held here is small, and it is thought all will be needed before new grass cheese appears on the market. Supplies of new cheese should be available in the first week in May. It is said that owing to the early opening of spring weather in Western Ontario some of the factories will make grass cheese in the last week in April. Receipts of eggs have been fairly large. Prices are steady at 9c. per doz. Picklers have commenced operations in Western Ontario, where they are buying goods at 7c. and 8c. per doz.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.—As nearly all of the large winter packers of dressed hogs have concluded operations for the season, the trade is now chiefly confined to a butcher's business. As the requirements of the city butchers are limited, whenever large shipments have been received prices have declined. Quotations have ranged from \$6.25 to 6.50 per cwt. Provisions are firm and active. Trade conditions show little or no variation as compared with those of last week. Prices remain unchanged.

DRY GOODS.—Weather uncertainties have somewhat delayed the spring trade which was beginning last week to open out with every prospect of success. As the wholesale trade are now depending, so far as immediate movement is concerned, upon the assorting business, affairs are quiet in Toronto wholesale circles. There is little change in values to report. Everyone is awaiting the declaration of the Government in regard to the tariff before amending price lists. Thread prices have been uncertain as the result of the attempt by the Central Agency to stifle competition.

GRAIN.—There is little that is interesting or new to report of the grain markets this week. Trading in wheat has been confined within narrow limits. Values have been easy and quotations have declined about 2c. per bush. since our last report. Winter wheat is quoted at 68 to 74c.; spring wheat, 63 to 68c.; and Manitoba hard, 73 to 85c. per bush. Barley is dull and inactive, as is usual at this season of the year. Toronto grain buyers are making a determined effort to decrease the next crop of barley in Canada, as they believe, in view of the new tariff bill of the United States, a large harvest can be marketed only at a loss to the growers and without profit to the merchants. Trade in oats has remained steady; quotations are 19 to 20c. per bush. There has been little development in the demand for peas and prices remain steady. Corn remains quiet and unchanged. Trade in buckwheat remains nominal.

The trade is awaiting the opening of navigation, and until this event takes place little activity can be looked for.

The stocks in store at Port Arthur on March 27th were 2,900,522 bushels, and there were received 278,054 bushels, and shipped 10,569 bushels, leaving in store on April 3rd, 3,168,007 bushels.

GREEN FRUIT.—The trade is in a very satisfactory condition. The Easter business is giving some little life to the movement. Oranges are in good supply. Navels are quoted, 96's, \$3.25 to 3.50; Valencias, 420's, \$3.75 to 4.25; 714's, \$4.75 to 5.00 per case. Lemons are in fair demand, the low value having increased the consumption. Messinas are quoted at \$2.25 to 2.50 in single case lots. Extra fine bananas are worth \$1.50 to 2.00 per bunch, with seconds quoted \$1.25 to 1.50 per bunch. Strawberries are arriving daily, and fluctuate in price according to the size of shipments; at the moment dealers quote them 14 to 15c. per pint.

GROCERIES.—Business is quiet and very depressed. Orders for country grocers are limited to moderate demands for immediate consumption. The plea of poor roads is, as usual in spring season, advanced as the cause for tardy payments. Dried fruits have been in rather active request during the Lenten season. Sugar quotations have advanced since our last report; we elsewhere refer to the situation at greater length. There is a moderate demand for canned goods, and available statistics would indicate scarce supplies in some lines.

HIDES AND SKINS. Last week we noted that Canadian merchants had advanced prices of green hides ¼c. per lb. At this figure the values have remained steady during the week. Cured hides are quoted 8c. to 8½c. per lb. Canadian

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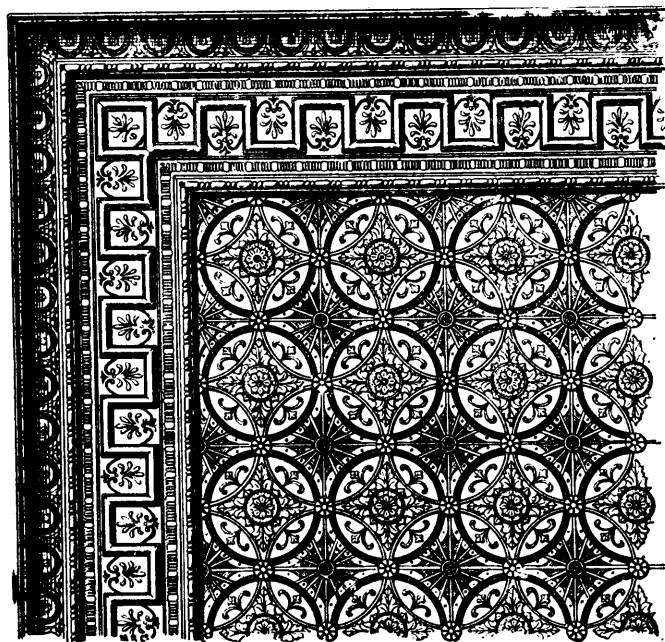
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