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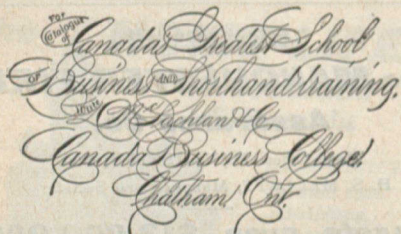
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has once more established its right to the above claim. It stands to-day

At the Head Of All

life companies doing business in Canada in the NET AMOUNT IN FORCE GAINED OVER all its competitors during the past five years, as shown by the Government Reports.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, December 10th, 1903.

Chemicals, Drugs, etc.—Trade conditions here continue much as they have been during the whole fall, that is, fairly active, without any very special feature worth noting. Prices for the most part remain firm. A Baltimore report says that the market there for ammoniates is without change. The demand is good for fertilizer materials, but the extreme prices asked by producers have been a serious handicap to business.

Dry Goods.—The seasonably cold weather and the approach of Christmas have together given a great impetus to trade, which was not particularly inactive before. Prices remain very firm, and, as mentioned before, those for staple cotton goods have made further substantial advances. Retailers looking for job lots have been disappointed; such are very few and far between, owing to the rush with which the domestic mills have only been barely able to keep with their orders. Domestic prints are now coming forward, and create a very good impression. For dress goods the demand lately has been particularly active. Prices are very firm, and for imported goods those wishing repeats are frequently called upon for higher prices. General prospects for good trade for the balance of the season are very bright. Payments have been good.

Flour and Grain.—Wheat is dull, and from 1 to 2c. lower. Barley has dropped 2c. Oats is 1c. lower, and is dull at the decline. Peas are unchanged, and corn nominally the same. Buckwheat is steady and in good demand. Rye is firm at an advance of 1c. Receipts are good, but are being interfered with to some extent by the scarcity of cars. For flour, the market continues steady at \$3.05 for ninety per cent. patents, Manitoba is steady. Bran and shorts are fairly firm. Oatmeal is nominally the same.

Groceries.—The movement in sugars at the recent decline, continues about normal for this season of the year. General trade is in a similar condition. Coffee is creating some little interest, owing to rumored increase of speculation in futures. Prices of Rios have already gone up a fraction. A good trade is going on in Spanish dried fruits, but the Californian articles will not be much in evidence on the market for a month or more. Canned vegetables are fairly active.

Hardware.—Considerable activity is still to be noted in the demand for all lines of seasonable goods. Prices remain practically the same in all lines. The demand for metals continues normal, without special feature.

Live Stock.—For high-grade stock, of which there was a somewhat larger percentage than usual, the demand was keen, both as regards export and butchers' cattle. Prices were well-maintained at the market this week. The run of



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GRIFFIN & WOODLAND MANAGERS. 3

sheep and lambs was light, and everything sold rapidly.

Provisions.—For hay products the demand at the present moment is a little slow. Butter is practically unchanged, though really good quality finds willing purchasers. Cheese is in moderately good request. Poultry are warranted. Eggs continue scarce.

Fruits and Vegetables.—The Christmas trade may be said to have begun. It promises well. Prices may be quoted as follows: Apples, \$1 to \$2.50 per barrel, according to grade and quality; cocoanuts, \$4 per sack; oranges, Floridas, \$3.50 to \$4 per case, \$2.75 to \$3.25 per box; Jamaica, \$5 per case for 200's, \$3 to \$3.50 for 360's; California, \$5 to \$6; Floridas, \$4 to \$5; bananas, 8's, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bunch; 1st, \$2 to \$2.50; sweet potatoes, \$3 to \$3.50 per barrel; celery, 20c. to 40c. per dozen; cranberries, \$9.50 to \$10 per barrel, \$1.25 per basket; Spanish onions, \$2.75 to \$3 per large case, and \$1 for small; Malaga grapes, \$5 to \$6 per barrel.

Wool.—Little is doing in this market, though the stronger feeling in the London wool sales is having some effect for pulled wools, the demand is fair, but for fleece very quiet.

THE Montreal and South Shore Auto Car Company purposes to operate automobiles and motor cars between Montreal and the south shore of the St. Lawrence, if permission can be obtained from the Grand Trunk Railway to cross upon the Victoria Bridge driveway.