

1st of June. There is a fair movement in leather for the season, and prices are pretty steady, concessions would be made for round lots of cheap and measured leathers. Stocks generally are ample, fine upper being the only line of which there is no amount in the market. Some recent shipments to England of buff and splits have brought considerably better than local prices. We quote:—Spanish sole B. A. No. 1, 24 to 26c.; do. No. 2, B. A. 21 to 23c.; No. 1 Ordinary Spanish, 23 to 24c.; No. 2 do. 21 to 22c.; No. 1 China, 22 to 23c.; No. 2, 21 to 22c.; ditto, Buffalo Sole, No. 1, 21 to 22c.; ditto, No. 2, 19½ to 21c.; Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1, 26 to 27c.; oak sole, 45 to 50c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 39c.; ditto, heavy, 32 to 36c.; Grained, 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained, 36 to 42c.; Splits large, 22 to 28c.; ditto, small, 16 to 24c.; Calf-splits, 28 to 32c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46lbs.), 70 to 80c.; Imitation French Calf skins, 80 to 85c.; Russet Sheepskin Linings, 30 to 40c.; Harness, 24 to 33c.; Buffed Cow, 13 to 16c.; Pebbled Cow, 12 to 15½c.; Rough, 13 to 28c.; Russet and Bridle, 54 to 55c.

SALT.—Is coming in fair lots, and one cargo is at hand but has not been placed as yet. Prices ex-wharf for elevens 50 to 52½c.; twelves 47½ to 50c.; factory filled \$1.10 to \$1.15; Higgins and Ashton's \$2.40; Rice's pure dairy \$2.00; 50c. for quarters.

WOOL.—Business has quieted down to some extent but is expected to liven up again about 1st of June. Cape is still hard to move, and our lower quotations would be shaded for round lots. Domestic as before. We quote: Cape 12½ to 13½c.; Australian none. Domestic, A super, 27 to 38c.; B super, 22 to 24c.; unassorted, 21 to 22c.; fleece, 19 to 21c.; black 21 to 22c.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, May 20th, 1886.

The feature on the Stock Exchange this week has been the buoyancy of insurance shares, which have been eagerly sought after on the continued improvement in that line of business and the cheapness of these shares as compared with others paying similar dividends. Bank shares have been irregular, Ontario and Federal being strongest and Montreal and Commerce weakest, the fluctuations being mainly the result of manipulation. Except Commerce and Standard all bank shares are now selling at *ex dividend* quotations. Buyers are offering 110 for British America Insurance, a rise of 5½ and Western Assurance is 4% higher in bids, at 131½, though the last sale was at 133.

Telegraph shares are slightly easier, while Consumers Gas has fallen 4%, with sellers at 184. Canada North-West Land sold at 75, closing quiet at 73½ to 75½. With the reduction in dividend Hamilton Provident Loan declined 4%, to 123, but otherwise Loan Societies' shares are firm though inactive.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Trade in this department is described as decidedly brisk with prices steady and unchanged in most lines. Travellers now out are sending in good orders and money is coming to hand more freely. We note that spirits of turpentine is lower, the figure now being 60 to 65c.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—No better state of things exists this week than last. No one seems anxious to do business in the face of the most pronounced dullness. Quotations of flour remain nominally the same. Oatmeal and cornmeal are moving in job lots only and prices are unchanged. Bran is dull and lower, say \$9.50 to \$10.00 on the spot.

GRAIN.—WHEAT.—Outside wheat markets being weaker the feeling here is similarly affected. The demand is almost nil and quotations nominal. Trading in barley will not be indulged in until the new crop is on the market; quotations, in the meantime, are nominal. Oats have been very dull, but during the last day or so appear to be steadier at the decline. Peas are dull of sale at 60c. Corn and rye as previously reported.

GROCERIES.—Nearly every enquiry elicits the response that trade is very quiet this week. The sugar market is dull and retailers seem to

be holding off for lower prices, which, others say, will not rule, as the article seems to be now as low as it is possible to get it. Sales are for small lots mostly. We quote Canadian refined 5½ to 6½c.; extra granulated 7 to 7½c. Teas are quiet. Tobaccos are firm and fruits dull.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—We have to note a continued activity in Ingot tin and no lots can now be had under 23½c. Pig lead is firm at quotations, although the decreased rates of freight from London should, in the near future, have a tendency to make the feeling easier. The market for tin plates remains unchanged. In American and Canadian markets the consumption of coals is in excess of last year, but the supply appears to keep pace with the demand. Zinc shows a decline of about 5% per ton, but as stocks in this market are pretty well reduced this falling off has not materially affected prices here. The lack of improvement in the copper market can, in some measure, be attributed to the fact that a number of factories that have been large consumers have shut down. When work is resumed a revival is confidently looked for. A fair sorting-up business in shelf goods is reported and trade in general is regarded as satisfactory with the exception that the margin of profit on a number of lines is still far from what it should be. The manufacturers of pressed tinware, who have apparently become tired of exchanging dollars through the medium of their goods, met together in this city during the current week. Nearly every principal manufacturer in Canada was represented. They have agreed upon a scale of prices and while they are not in excess of the supposed general ruling figures it is beyond doubt that quotations will be maintained and no concessions made. The jobber will now be in a better position to assist the manufacturers in placing their goods on the market.

HIDES AND SKINS.—About the same state of things exists as a week ago. The demand for hides is slightly more active at steady and unchanged prices. There is a more plentiful supply of calfskins but quotations remain unaltered. Quite a few lambskins are coming in, dealers are paying 25c. The receipts of sheepskins are very small and values are nominal. Tallow continues dull and unchanged.

HARD WOOD.—We make no changes in our quotations of hardwood, the demand for which keeps up fairly well. Butternut, we observe, is getting scarce; it is not, however, greatly in request. Mahogany is coming to be rather more used for furniture and house furnishing. It is not easy to quote, but we hear of some selling as low as 12½c. per lineal foot, No. 1 and 2, however, sells at 20 to 25c.

LUMBER.—There is no new pine lumber in market here as yet and nothing has occurred to inflate prices, which are still maintained. Demand from the States is as good as usual at this season and some sales have been made to go across the lake. The prospects are that quite as much will be shipped from this port this year as in 1885, at prices quite as good and in some cases better, this, notwithstanding the fact, that labor troubles have seriously interfered with building in the United States. The American market, as a rule, it appears, is bare of dry lumber, but advices of 14th from Albany say that the yard stocks are full and the assortment good. Trade in New York is depressed, but prices not much affected. In Boston, matters are extremely dull. In Detroit and Chicago, the building trade is affected by the strikes, car factories and the larger planing mills were idle for weeks.

LEATHER.—Without there being any special features to notice this week it might be remarked that prices are, if anything, in favor of buyers in nearly all lines; this applies especially to A. 1 men, who are in the market to buy large lots. There are, however, few who are in that position. While trade is quiet and the volume of business not quite so large as the same time last year, we hear of no great accumulation of stocks and certainly no feeling of despondency. Harness leather is quiet. Other lines such as upper, are not in active request and prices are weaker than some months ago. Indeed in looking back we find that black leather has about reached the point it was at a twelve-month ago. Sole leather, however, is not as valuable as then. Some of these weeks we intend to review prices for a year back and to contract them both in the raw material and in finished stock. In the meantime let us again reiterate what we have so frequently

said to tanners before: don't be too anxious to work in green stock; hold off and do all you can to get prices lower. Under all the circumstances it is not thought that there is any reason to suppose that you will see any very high prices for your products for some time to come. Payments are not as satisfactory as could be desired.

PROVISIONS.—A further heavy decline is to be noted in the price of butter. Receipts have been very free and sales are recorded at 12 to 12½c. Cheese is also weaker and 9½c. is now the outside price. Business in hog products has been quiet and uneventful. Last week's figures still rule. Eggs are dull at 11½ to 12c. Few or no dressed hogs are to be seen on this market and the price remains at \$6.50 to \$6.60. We hear of no transactions in dried or evaporated apples.

SEEDS.—Dealers are now at the tail end of the season and prices have consequently eased off to some extent. We quote alsike clover \$11.25 to \$11.50, red ditto \$11.00 to \$11.25. Other kinds as before.

WOOL.—Some new clip fleece, it is expected, will offer in the course of a week or ten days.

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TENDERS FOR COAL FOR THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF ONTARIO.—The undersigned will receive tenders (to be addressed to him at his office at the Parliament buildings, and marked "Tenders for Coal") up to noon of WEDNESDAY, 26TH MAY, 1886, for the delivery of the following quantities of coal in the sheds of the institutions below-named on or before the 15th day of August next, except as regards the coal for the Central Prison.

Asylum for the Insane, Toronto.—Hard coal, 600 tons large egg size, 125 tons stove size; soft coal 250 tons.

Central Prison, Toronto.—Soft coal, 500 tons. Note: To be delivered in lots of 100 tons in each of the months of September, October, November, December, and January.

Reformatory for Females, Toronto.—Hard coal, 200 tons large egg size, 50 tons stove size, 25 tons nut size; soft coal, 50 tons.

Asylum for the Insane, London.—Hard coal, 150 tons large egg size, 40 tons chestnut size; soft coal 1,000 tons for steam, 75 tons for grates.

Asylum for the Insane, Kingston.—Main asylum, hard coal, 1,000 tons large egg size, 75 tons small egg size, 25 tons stove size. Regiopolis Branch.—Hard coal, 90 tons large egg size, 2 tons small egg size.

Asylum for the Insane, Hamilton, Main Asylum.—Hard coal, 50 tons egg size, 41 tons chestnut size, 50 tons stove size; soft coal, 500 tons for steam, 10 tons for grates. Asylum Pumping House.—Hard coal, 5 tons chestnut size; soft coal, 150 tons.

Asylum for Idiots, Orillia.—Hard coal, 55 tons stove size.

Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville.—Hard coal, 70 tons small egg size, 30 tons chestnut size, 10 tons stove size; soft coal, 40 tons.

Institution for the Blind, Brantford.—Hard coal, 450 tons egg size, 75 tons stove size.

The hard coal to be Pittston or Scranton. Tenders are to name the mine or mines from which it is proposed to take the soft coal, and to designate the quality of the same, and, if required, to produce satisfactory evidence that the coal is true to name. Delivery is to be effected in a manner satisfactory to the authorities of the respective institutions.

Tenders will be received for the whole quantity specified or for the quantities required in each institution. An accepted cheque for \$500, payable to the order of the Secretary of the Province of Ontario, must accompany each tender as a guarantee of its bona fides, and two sufficient securities will be required for the due fulfilment of each contract. Specifications and forms and conditions of tender are to be obtained from the bursars of the above-named institutions. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

W. T. O'REILLY.

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities, Ontario. Parliament Buildings, Toronto, 10th May, 1886.