

sold on the other side at an advance of only some 7 per cent., as compared with a year ago, there does not seem to be much danger in users of merino wool textiles operating on the basis of today's rates. In the case of the coarser fibred crossbred wools (from which the great bulk of the Continental export yarns are made) it seems probable that the temporary defection of the two great using countries, Russia and Germany, may have the effect of making the prices of these wools rather easier for the time being, and if a settlement in Germany is not arrived at soon, of course the effect on values would be proportionately greater. The demand for both raw wool and for worsted yarns in the home market is certainly improving, and in Bradford district generally looms are in much better employment, and the prospects for the coming year are decidedly better than they were from the manufacturer's point of view.

The troubles in Russia are having a considerable influence on the Belfast flax market. Shipments are uncertain, and prices have been advanced. There have been fairly good supplies in the home markets, and these were disposed of at full late rates. Stocks of yarns are in very small compass. Spinners are over-sold, and there has been a considerable demand for foreign spinnings, while prices have hardened.

#### TRULY, WATSON IS A FOOL.

Doctor Johnston.—Is it true that Watson's mills have been burned to the ground?

Agent Jones.—Yes.

Doctor.—How much insurance?

Agent.—None.

Doctor.—Oh! What a fool!

Agent.—By the way, doctor, are your buildings insured?

Doctor.—I don't own any building.

Agent.—How do you invest your money?

Doctor.—I do not invest any. I have a good income from my profession, but my family expenses eat most of it up.

Agent.—Then if you die, your wife and daughters will carry on your business.

Doctor.—My dear sir, I am a physician; how can I leave my practice with a parcel of women?

Agent.—Then your income ceases at your death?

Doctor.—Yes.

Agent.—How much assurance do you carry on your life?

Doctor.—None.

Agent.—Ahem!—Yes, you are right, Watson is a fool!—Business.

#### TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, November 30th, 1905.

Chemicals, Drugs, etc.—The market for all the principal staples remains quite firm, with a normally good local

demand. Cod liver oil is a little easier. Carbolic acid is likewise. The chemical markets of the south are said to be rather exceptionally strong. In England the export of staple chemicals is going on more briskly. For home trade, the requirements seem small.

Dry Goods.—A large volume of trade of a general character is being done, though no doubt had it not been such mild weather, the requirements in the way of seasonable heavier goods would have been somewhat larger. No anxiety is expressed on this score, however. The position of the raw cotton market has been unsettled, though strong on the whole, but this uncertainty has not been allowed to affect the values of finished goods, which are all very firm.

Flour and Grain.—A quiet demand has prevailed this week for wheat, while holders have been content to wait. Good business has been done in Manitoba flour, while of Ontario flour the deliveries have been light with little export demand. Bran and shorts are in very good demand, with the former particularly scarce. Barley and oats are a little easier. For Canadian corn there is no great demand as yet. Rolled oats are firmer.

Fruits.—The demand for foreign fruits is increasing with the disappearance of the domestic. Oranges are selling at normally good prices.

Hides and Leather.—In sympathy with easier prices in Chicago, the tone of the market here for hides is less firm than it was, though as yet there is no appreciable change in prices. In leather no very great amount of business is now

being done, but prospects continue good for a good season's trading.

Groceries.—No further change has occurred in sugars, and the position of the market both locally and in New York remains much as before. The movement is only fair. In keeping with the season of the year, the demand is increasing for dried fruits. Currants are in good demand, and so are sultanas. Prunes are not apparently selling over-readily. Teas are firm, while for coffees the enquiry seems temporarily to have gone off a little. There is a brisk demand for canned goods of all descriptions.

Seeds.—Most seeds are more firm than they were a couple of weeks ago. Alsike, for instance, is quoted as high as \$6.25 to \$6.50 per bushel for No. 1. Red clover keeps unchanged at \$7. Timothy is easier. The efforts of the pure seed advocates seem to be gaining ground, for seeds where the admixture of weeds or foreign substances is at all pronounced meet with a great reduction in price.

Provisions.—For really good butter the market is a firm one, and prices are unchanged, but considerable quantities of inferior quality are coming in, for which values are naturally easy. Cheese is firm, at 12¾ to 13c. Eggs are very firm in price, with less plentiful receipts. Much of the poultry coming to hand is poor stock, and for this prices are easy. The season for game is now practically over. Smoked meats are in good demand for this time of the year.

Wool.—Prices are unchanged for wool, but the market is a dull one, and little business is being done.

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