

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, May 21st, 1896.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—Trade is now "between seasons." Fall orders have only commenced to arrive, while the sorting up business is of moderate dimensions. Retail trade in the country is reported brisk, although the city trade is in an unsatisfactory condition owing to excessive competition. It is pleasing to note a tendency in Toronto to turn increased attention to manufacture, and probably more shoes will be made in Toronto for next season than during several years past.

**DRUGS.**—A fair distributive movement is taking place in staple drugs. Collections are slow, and payments none too promptly met. Opium is, if anything, slightly firmer. In New York \$2.10 is the open quotation for single cases, with an indication that \$2.07½ might be accepted. Mail advices state that a severe frost between April 9th and 11th destroyed many young plants, which injury, added to the already affected autumn and winter sowings, will bring the percentage of damage between 75 and 80 per cent. Quinine remains unchanged. Staple chemicals remain steady in price, with moderate movement reported. There is a good demand for hellebore. Moth camphor is active. Paris green meets with good demand, dealers quoting 15c. per 100 lbs.

**DRY GOODS.**—The wholesale dry goods trade is very quiet at present. Weather conditions favor the retailer and reports from the country are satisfactory. Values remain without any special change.

**GRAIN.**—The markets are generally weak. In American and European wheat centres wheat has been dull, although late reports show a slight improvement, and prices in Toronto are lower. Crop prospects in Ontario continue without change from previous reports, and it is thought a fair average condition will be reached, taking the country as a whole. Barley remains nominal. Oats are dull at a decline of 1c. per bushel. Rye is without change. Peas continue steady, some round lots for export having exchanged hands at a basis of 48c. outside.

The stocks of grain in store at Port Arthur on May 9th were 2,789,513 bushels. During the week there were received 408,740 bushels, and shipped 969,892 bushels, leaving in store on May 16th, 2,228,362 bushels.

TORONTO STOCKS OF GRAIN.

	May, 18, 1896.	May, 20, 1896.
Fall wheat, bushels .....	5,607	38,737
Spring wheat, " .....	2,435	3,119
Hard wheat, " .....	14,112	7,300
Goose wheat, " .....	7,552	...
Total wheat .....	29,706	49,156
Barley, bushels .....	22,452	6,575
Oats, " .....	93,476	14,937
Peas, " .....	2,272	1,168
Corn, " .....	16,699	450
Total grain .....	164,605	72,286

**GROCERIES.**—In staple groceries trade is seasonably active. The local coffee market remains without special feature; there is a decrease of 199,180 bags in the American visible supply of coffee as compared with a year ago. Dried fruits show no change locally, while foreign markets show no special activity. Trade in sugars only moderately active; buyers are holding off and the season promises to open much later than last year. Low grades of canned salmon are scarce and prices are firmer, dealers quoting \$1.12½ to 1.20. The new pack of canned lobsters may be expected within a few weeks' time. In canned vegetables, peas are unchanged at 95c. to \$1; corn is quoted 55 to 85c., and tomatoes 82½ to 85c.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—The hide market continues to show slight improvement, but the improvement has as yet not effected actual prices. The last sales of which we learn were made at 5½c., and although dealers talk of 5½c., we have not learned of any transactions at this figure. The strength to the local market comes from Chicago, where a "flurry" has apparently taken place, but dealers here look for little advance until the leather trade is placed upon a more secure footing. Calfskins are dull. There is no movement in sheepskins worthy of note. Tallow remains dull, with dealers paying 3½c. for rendered and offering stock at 4c. per lb.

**PAINTS AND OILS.**—Trade during the fortnight past has been very brisk. In values the feature of the market is the depression in turpentine; quotations have dropped to 41½ to 44½c., and as usual there is little anxiety expressed to buy on a falling market. Reports from American producing centres indicate that the new crop is moving to the seaboard in phenomenal volume. New territory has been opened up this year, and as there has apparently been no effort made to check the production, the new crop is very large. In the presence of excessive stocks there is little inclination on behalf of speculators to interfere with

the market. The whole tendency of prices is from present appearances downwards. Varnishes, in sympathy with turpentine, are easier. The spirit of the linseed oil market is not at all firm, but quotations remain unaltered. White lead is in active request at unchanged prices. The Paris green season is now fully open, and the volume of movement shows daily improvement. The distributive trade in window glass is of good seasonable dimensions; stocks are sufficient to meet all demands, while values are well maintained.

**PROVISIONS.**—For the past several months the bulk of the receipts of butter has been made up of large rolls. Grass butter is now in the market and merchants are packing tubs; in consequence receipts of rolls have shown a falling off. Prices remain unchanged, dealers quoting: Tubs, 10 to 12c., and pound prints, 11 to 13c. per lb. The export demand for new white cheese is slow, but moderate sales have been made on local account at 7½ to 8c. per lb. The best descriptions of old cheese have been sold in a jobbing way at 8 to 9c. per lb. Hog products are slow of sale, with nothing new to report in values. It has been estimated that some 20,000 dozen eggs are received here daily; some of the picklers have already obtained their season's supplies, and dealers quote 9½c. per dozen.

**SEEDS.**—The season is almost closed. Prices of timothy and clover seeds, in the absence of any urgent demand, are nominal. A fair movement is taking place in Hungarian millet and other late sowing varieties, including ensilage corn.

**WOOL.**—In the present depressed state of the wool market, it was not to be expected that the new clip would come forward very rapidly. However, a number of growers have offered their wool at the following prices: Best fleece, 18c.; rejects, 15c.; and unwashed, 11c. per lb. In most sections of the country, the conditions have been favorable for washing, and this work is now well advanced. The present range of prices, although exceedingly low, is not out of harmony with other markets. In the United States trade is very dull; growers must wait until with the curtailment in production of goods and decrease in importations of wool from abroad, affairs reach a normal state. The opening of the third series of sales began with a decline in merinos of 5 per cent. and in crossbreds from parity to 5 per cent. For several days the tendency was downward, especially in inferior merinos, which lost a further 5 per cent., but there was a scarcity of good clips and the reaction in values was maintained, especially in superior Tasmanian greasies. Among the better offerings were some diverted shipments of good light greasy, which was purchased in the colonies direct for America, but marketed owing to the depression in trade in the United States. The best crossbreds held their own throughout the series, but the other grades did not recover their decline. Cape of Good Hope and Natal wools suffered a little owing to their relative scarcity. Scoured and snow white wools suffered an occasional loss of a half penny, and greasies were a farthing below the March prices, though occasionally a half penny less was accepted. Of the sales 94,000 bales were taken by the home trade, 105,000 by continental buyers and 1,000 by American buyers. The fourth series will begin on June 30th. The list will close when 375,000 bales have been received.

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