

## Commercial.

## TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, July 21st, 1898.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—There is little demand for dairy butter and receipts are, for the most part, going into cold storage. The market is practically on the basis of trading in futures. Much of the butter coming forward is unsatisfactory in quality, showing the effects of heat. Creamery shows no special activity, and sales for export are made only at a sacrifice. Cheese is quiet as is elsewhere noted. Owing to the inferior quality of the eggs arriving in the market, the consumption is slow; prices, however, are maintained at previous quotations.

**DRY GOODS.**—Between the intervals of the more serious work of attempting to keep cool, the employees of the wholesale houses are engaged in filling orders for summer assortments. Business is fully up to expectations for the season. Values are unchanged in staple lines. The prospects for fall business are bright, and retailers are looking for a large turn-over in goods. No considerable house-trade can be looked for until the close of next month, when the fall millinery openings and the fair will attract visitors from the country.

**FLOUR AND MEAL.**—Trade is at a standstill, and in the absence of anything but isolated transactions it is impossible to give fair quotations for round lots. The demand for flour is very weak. Bran is low, dealers quoting \$9, while shorts are quoted at \$14 per ton.

**GRAIN.**—The wheat crop prospects are elsewhere reviewed. The new crop of oats is looking well, but rain would better its condition. Barley in most districts promises well. Peas are quoted 1c. per bushel in advance of last week's figures. Rye and corn are nominal.

**GROCERIES.**—There is a good seasonable trade doing in general lines. Sugar is selling well; prices remain at the basis established last week. Cables from Greece report a firmer market for currants, while late advices by mail are to the effect that the crop was progressing favorably. One of the Smyrna exporters puts forward by cable his estimate of the extent of the fig crop, claiming that it will only amount to 45 per cent. of a good yield. While the crop may not turn out as short as reported, still it is doubtless below an average, and, while more reasonable figures may prevail as the time of shipment draws near, still buyers must expect to pay somewhat more than in previous years. The filbert is a very speculative article in Sicily, where options in new crop are dealt in about the manner that wheat is sold on the exchanges in this country, and the whole crop is sold many times over before the goods are actually gathered. At the present time speculators there are very "bearish," and prices for October shipment are again rather easier. It is reported that the new crop Jordans will be rather later than in other years and first shipments are only expected to leave Malaga the beginning of September, and rather full prices are spoken of.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—The feeling in the market is slightly weaker, although this has not resulted in lower quotations. Dealers are asking 9½c. per lb. for cured hides; the last sales of which we have heard were made at 9½c. or a fraction over the lowest price recorded last week. This applies to No. 1 Toronto inspected hides. Butchers are receiving 9½c. per lb., and the margin between the prices of cured and green is only a fair working one. From Chicago, July 19th.—A moderate volume of business was transacted in the market for packer hides, as some tanners were showing more interest, and steady prices were paid. Sales reported were 6,000 Colorados, June—July take-off, at 9½c., and 4,000 native steers, July take-off, at 11c. and 12c. for heavy and light.

The close was steady at 12c. for native steers, 11¼ to 11½c. for Texas, 10¼ to 10½c. for butt brands, 9½ to 9¾c. for Colorados, 10¼c. for branded cows, 11c. for heavy native cows and 11½ to 11¾c. for light ditto.

**LEATHER.**—The demand from the general trade is slack and of a hand to mouth character. The boot and shoe houses, who, by the way, are already thinking out spring samples, are not taking large stocks of leather. The tanners find the conservative policy in buying raw material to be the best one, and only small accumulations of hides are to be found in their cellars. Values show no quotable change, although in the natural order of things they should be higher.

**PROVISIONS.**—Several houses on the street maintain that not for years has there been a better July demand for hog products. The consumption of smoked meats is large and all prices are firm. Several large sales of sweet pickled goods are reported to packers. Values in the dressed hog market are firm at \$6.75 to \$7 per cwt., but only a butcher's trade is doing.

**WOOL.**—Dullness continues. Receipts from country buyers are limited within very narrow bounds. Growers and merchants are apart in their ideas, and little wool is passing for export. In the country mill owners are securing fairly good supplies. The London wool sales are well attended. Late reports say there was extreme competition all around and good New South Wales wool sold at the late high prices, especially locks and pieces. New South Wales and Queensland greasy were taken principally by the Continent. Australian greasy and merinos were in strong demand. The arrivals for the next series number 129,192 bales, including 2,500 forwarded direct. The imports for the week are as follows: New South Wales, 2,967; Melbourne, 3,563; South Australia, 389; Stanley, 1,168; New Zealand, 3,448; Cape of Good Hope and Natal, 1,676, and elsewhere, 1,212.

## MONTREAL MARKETS

Montreal, 20th July, 1898.

**ASHES.**—Pearl ashes are easier at \$4.65 to \$4.75, pots show no change, being quoted at \$3.65 to \$3.80 as to tare for firsts, and \$3.35 to \$3.40 for seconds. The demand is limited, and receipts small.

**CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.**—Receipts of cement are again larger this week, and are intended for immediate delivery on Government contracts for canal works; the figures are 15,390 bris. of Belgian and German, and 2,550 bris. of English. Regular business is quiet just now, but quotations are steady at unchanged figures. Receipts of firebricks, 5,000.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—Cheese exports last week were much below those of the corresponding week of 1897, being 57,891 boxes, as against 104,408 boxes last year. Total shipments this season to date are 466,633 boxes, last year to same date they were 644,362 boxes. The cable has shown some further slight advance in price since last writing, and the local market is a quoted at about 7¼ to 7½c.; Western is little firmer. Quebec cheese might be more or less nominal at about 7½c. The butter market is quiet and easier, and it is doubtful if much beyond 16c. could be realized for choice creamery. Shipments to Britain have dropped off considerably, only 1,405 packages being reported for last week, against 3,234 packages for same week last year.

**DRY GOODS.**—The wholesale warehouses of the city show great activity and bustle in the despatch of fall goods, orders for which continue to be liberal, and the intensely hot weather causes a fair amount of sorting business in seasonable fabrics and knick-knacks. The recently reported advance in price of foreign woolen goods is confirmed by recent letters, and further stiffness in cashmeres, mohairs and kindred lines is not improbable. General

collections are hardly so good as last month, but the falling off is only seasonable, as in the country farmers are not doing much trading just now, their attention being taken up with haying.

## MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

|             | July 11.  | July 16.  |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
|             | Bushels.  | Bushels.  |
| Wheat.....  | 9,500     | 9,500     |
| Corn.....   | 124,157   | 139,488   |
| Oats.....   | 1,104,968 | 1,086,895 |
| Rye.....    | 13,376    | 13,376    |
| Peas.....   | 268,829   | 218,033   |
| Barley..... | 16,817    | 28,032    |

|                   |           |           |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total grain ..... | 1,537,647 | 1,495,324 |
| Oatmeal.....      | 373       | 333       |
| Flour.....        | 23,481    | 2,258     |
| Buckwheat.....    | 38,524    | 40,012    |

**GROCERIES.**—The demand for sugars may now be called good, and both the local refineries are very busy with deliveries. Present quotations are 4 5-16c. factory price for standard granulated, Dutch ditto, 4 3-16c.; yellows from 3½ to 3¾c. Within the last few days the outside markets for raws have shown some signs of advance, but local refiners have not shown any disposition as yet to revise quotations. The bulk of the 5,000 bag lot of German refined sugar, spoken of last week, is said to have gone into storage, and no further lots of any consequence are expected from that quarter, for a while at least. Molasses is not in much request just now, but since last report we hear of a sale of a 100-puncheon lot of Barbadoes at 27c.; in a jobbing way 30 to 31c. is the figure. Teas continue quiet, and most buyers are still hanging back, in hopes of the Japan market coming down, a prospect for which good authorities say there is a very slight possibility. As showing the difference between the local market, and that in the United States, it is stated that a local firm had a lot of new dust, for which they could not get over 6¼c. bid here; they shipped the goods to New York, paying the 10c. a lb. duty, and sold them there for 18c. The quantity of new Japan teas yet received here is very small, but a 1,500 package lot has just arrived on the coast for this market, and will probably be shortly offered at about 17c. Only one house is said to have any quantity of old common medium Japans at about 13c. The Foo-chow market for China blacks seems to have eased off a little from the advance reported at the opening, as shaded offers cabled from here have been

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