

Commercial.

Oil Matters at Petroleum.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

PETROLIA, April 4, 1870.

The production for the past two weeks has been falling off, and for the past week cannot be given at more than 3,500 barrels. The demand is not great, and prices have given way slightly. The shipments are still large—some 23 to 24 car-loads per day. The export firms are doing well. Great preparations are being made for sinking new wells this spring. No new strikes, and, on the whole, oil matters are rather slack.

Fresh-pumped crude, \$1.60 to \$1.75 per bbl.; Refined, 21c. to 23c. per gallon.

Toronto Market.

Navigation is just opened; vessels are plying between Port Hope and Cobourg and American ports; there has been also two or three arrivals at Toronto.

DRY GOODS.—The past week has been quite active, exceeding the anticipations of most houses; buyers are coming forward pretty freely, so that we are now in the midst of the spring trade. As will be seen from figures subjoined, the movement at this port for the month of March has been large as compared with last year:

Imports of leading Dry Goods for March.

	1869	1870
Woolens.....	\$160,034	\$194,010
Cottons.....	258,276	324,984
Silks and Velvets.....	91,632	89,879
Wearing Apparel.....	1,757	523
Fancy Goods.....	84,512	85,568

\$596,211 \$694,964

Imports of same Goods, Jan. 1 to April 1.

	1869	1870
Woolens.....	\$277,283	\$324,660
Cottons.....	438,825	504,842
Silks and Velvets.....	129,708	116,492
Clothing.....	2,279	1,612
Fancy Goods.....	110,256	140,759

Total.....\$958,351 \$1,088,365

The exports of Dry Goods from Great Britain to British America have very much fallen off within a few years, as appears from the following comparative statement for the twelve months ending 31st December in the years named:

	1869	1868	1867
Cotton piece goods, yds. 29,223,872	29,944,569	34,197,923	
Woolen cloths, " 1,898,042	2,163,317	3,245,744	
Carpets, &c., " 409,768	495,574	321,158	
Worsted goods, " 5,304,922	5,233,586	6,981,295	

The decline in woolen goods is attributable to the increased supply of home-made

GROCERIES.—Prices of all the leading articles are very steady at the quotations in our list. The stock of sugars in New York on the 31st March for three years compares as follows:—

	Hhds Cuba	Hhds P. Rico	Bags.
March 31, 1870.....	93,601	66,596	303,345
" 1869.....	42,088	33,044	54,096
" 1868.....	13,301	20,980	30,984

The following figures show the imports at Toronto of the articles named:

Imports from January 1 to April 1.

	1869	1870
Tea, green and Japan.....	\$45,326	\$69,376
Tea, black.....	9,641	8,088
Tobacco, manufactured.....	11,053	
Sugar.....	11,501	54,643
Coffee.....	2,123	17,831
Dried fruit and nuts.....	3,185	1,261

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Trade is active; manufacturers are very busy and their goods are moving off freely. Certain kinds of leather of the lighter descriptions have advanced, but so far the prices of boots and shoes are not affected, nor have they changed from any other cause.

CATTLE.—The Guelph cattle fair on Wednesday last was the best ever held there; the attendance was very large, including a number of buyers from the State of New York, and the competition for first-class stock was keen. There were about 1400 cattle on the ground, the general quality of which was very good. Fat steers weighing from 1200 to 1500 lbs. sold at about an average of 5½c live weight; some rough cows and lean steers sold as low as 4 to 4½c and 4½c. Extra cattle brought as high as 6 and 7c, and even 7½c and upwards in a few cases. About 70 carloads were shipped on Thursday, mostly for the American market. The Elora fair on Tuesday was also well attended, and a good many cattle were on the ground; prices were pretty much the same as at Guelph, but scarcely so firm. The Fergus fair on Monday was also pretty well attended, and a considerable business was done at about 5 to 6c for good to prime cattle. A lot of 14 carloads, owned by Mr. McShane and another party from Boston, passed through this city this Friday morning.

PRODUCE.—Wheat.—There was very little offered and only a small business was done; prices keep pretty firm. Carloads of Spring sold at 84c to 86c, and Fall at 91 to 92c. Barley.—The market has ruled active and stocks are pretty well cleared out; 12 cars sold at 54c; 2 cars at 56c; 1 car at 54½c; 1 car at 53c; 2 cars inferior at 51c; a lot of 11,000 bush sold at 55c f.o.b. cars; 5,000 bush sold at 51c at Brampton on cars; a lot of 2,000 bush sold at 53c delivered, and one car choice brought as high as 57c. Peas.—There is a good demand and holders are firm; 3,500 bush sold at 59c; 700 bush sold at 60c in store, and 3 cars at same price. Oats.—The demand is good at 34 to 35c for cars on the track. Rye.—several carloads sold at 56c per bush.

LOUR.—The Liverpool market is down 3d, but prices here have been steady; early in the week two 100 bbl. lots of No. 1 superfine sold at \$3 70; later in the week 200 bbls. sold at \$3 75 f.o.b. cars; 200 bbls. at equal to that price at an outside point; several lots, making 900 bbls. Spring wheat extra sold at \$3 85, closing at that figure. There is no speculative demand for flour.

A statement of the grain in store in the Toronto warehouses on the 1st April and 15th March is as follows:—

	April 1. 1870	March 15. 1870
Fall wheat, bush.....	166,922	139,186
Spring ".....	85,973	72,098
Barley, bush.....	86,988	41,243
Peas, ".....	166,258	147,556
Oats, ".....	6,858	5,785
Corn, ".....		739
Rye, ".....	3,969	3,644
Flour, bbls.....	14,280	13,750
Oatmeal, bbls.....	400	250

PROVISIONS.—Butter.—Inferior is in good supply but is difficult of sale; it is reported that one or two lots were placed for Halifax at 13 and 14c. Bacon.—Active; 300 sides Cumb. sold at 10½c; 400 sides rough at 10½c; 800 sides do and 800 hams pail dried sold at 11c all round. Pork.—Market firm; buyers and sellers report no sales.

SEEDS.—Clover is active with a rather deficient supply; lots sell at \$7 50 to \$7 75; Alsike clover \$8 to \$8 50; Timothy continues in demand and scarce; from \$4 90 to \$5 is now paid, the market tending upward. For flax seed \$1 75 to \$2 is paid by dealers, who hold at an advance of 25c on these figures.

LEATHER.—There is a better demand for leather; upper is 2c better, and Canadian calf is more enquired for; slaughter sole is in good demand.

FREIGHTS.—Rates will open to Oswego at about 4c; nothing doing from this port yet. The Grand Trunk Railway Company's rates from Toronto to England are as follows:—To Liverpool or Glasgow—butter per gross ton 95s; cheese per do 95s; lard per do, 95s; bacon and

hams per do, 82s 6d; beef, per tierce, 16s; pork, per barrel, 12s; flour per bbl, 6s 6d; grain 15s per quarter. The Great Western Railway Co'y. have established new through rates to England—grain to London, Liverpool or Glasgow at 60c per 100 lbs; flour \$1 20 per bbl. The following is the winter tariff of the Grand Trunk Railway. The rates to Halifax now stand at—Flour \$1.10; grain, 55c. Flour to St. John, \$1.02; grain 51c. The rates to railway stations are—Flour to Kingston, 35; grain, 18c; flour to Prescott, 43c; grain, 22c; flour to Montreal, 50; grain, 25; flour to St. John, Quebec, 60c; grain, 30c; flour to Point Levi, 80c; grain, 40c; flour to Portland, 85c; grain, 43c; flour to Boston and New York 90c; grain 45c gold.

Boston Market.

CATTLE, March 29.—The supply of cattle at Brighton continues light. Only 840 were reported in the yards, this week, including 719 Western. Price took another turn upward, and must be quoted ¼c. higher than those of last week. Trade was not active and transactions were comparatively small. We give quotations as follows:—Market Beef—Extra, \$13@13 50; first quality, \$12@12 50; second quality, \$10 50@11; third quality, \$9@10. Store Cattle—Working Oxen, ½ pair, from \$150, 200, 250@300; Milch Cows and Calves, from \$35, 50, 75@100; Yearlings, \$14@25; Two years old, \$26@38; Three years old, \$40@62.

LOUR.—Canada flour has been inquired for to some extent the past week, but the supply here is very small, there being a better market for it at home. It is now about time for the Provincial trade to commence, but dealers are not anticipating much in this line in view of the proposed duty of 50c. per bbl. to be levied by the Canadian Parliament, and the shipments to this point are at a stand still. The daily receipts do not vary much from those reported last week. We reduce prices of the low grades about 25c. per barrel, other grades remaining at last week's figures. We quote Western superfine at \$4 25@4 50; common extras at \$4 75@5 00, including State and Western shipping brands; medium and good extras, including strong Iowa and Minnesota brands, \$5 50@6 50; Michigan seconds, \$5@5 25; and do. family brands, \$7 50@8 ½ bbl. for choice.

WOOL.—While some owners of very choice and desirable styles of wool continue to hold back, and demand the full rates current a month or six weeks ago, there is a general and growing disposition to meet the market at a little reduction, such as shall meet the exigencies of consumers, and enable them to go on without loss. Hence all grades of domestic wool may be quoted a shade lower, the average decline, perhaps, being 2@3c. per lb from the highest point. The least reduction has been in the medium and extra grades, which will be most wanted during the balance of the season, and the greatest in pulled wools, which are in comparatively large stock, and being extensively substituted for fleece on account of the relatively low prices of the former. There is very little doing in combing, or low Western wools, on account of the absolute scarcity of these grades. But fine foreign wools are more sought for, and selling at greatly reduced currency prices. 2,000 lbs. Canada combing pulled sold at 50c.—From Commercial Bulletin.

The Tea Trade.

An important feature in the tea trade, is the great increase in the production of Indian Teas. In 1865-6 the import into Great Britain was only 4,680,000 lbs., last year 11,260,000 lbs., and this year it is estimated at 15,000,000 lbs. A great authority on the trade writes, "Indian Tea, more clearly than ever, appears to us to be the Tea of the future. There can be no doubt that with many grocers, it has been superseded all other mixing kinds, and that the use of Scented Teas and Oolongs is in some districts almost at an end; the pungent and penetrating flavour of Indian Teas never becomes stale, and adds at the same