## Commercial.

### TORONTO MARKET.

Business has continued quiet during the past week, although in some departments of the wholesale trade a good deal more activity is reported than existed previously. The produce and provision trades have been dull, however, notwithstanding improving prices and a more general enquiry and disposition to operate, caused by advancing markets in England and the United States. The weather has continued changeable, the thaw which set in last week taking away nearly all the snow which had previously fallen, spoiling the sleighing. A slight subsequent fall of snow again made the roads passable, but the movement of produce had been a good deal checked, and receipts throughout the week have been light. Payments of business paper, maturing this month, have unexpectedly improved, and remittances are now very satisfactory. Still country merchants complain strongly of the difficulty with which they are able to collect their outstanding accounts, from the farmers not having any stuff to dispose of. Some notes not falling due till next month have already been remitted for, but it is expected that payments in April and May will not be made with the same pleasant promptness. If, in view of short crops, the trade of the country are able to provide for their indebtedness, with even the ordinary regularity, it will speak volumes for the progress which the Dominion, and especially this province, has made within the past two years.

Boots and Shoes.—There has been little doing during the past week, merely a few small orders coming in to sort up stocks of winter goods. Prices are without change.

Drugs.—Business during the past week has been quite active, and a large amount of goods have been sold for this season of the year. Prices are without alteration.

Dry Goods.—Trade remains quiet, with only some small sorting-up orders coming in. Remittances are now reported much more satisfactory and equal to, if not greater than those of the corresponding period of last year.

Freights.—The following are the winter rates on the Grand Trunk, now in operation: Flour to Kingston, 35c., grain 18c.; flour to Prescott, 43c., grain 22c.; flour to Montreal, 50c., grain 25c.; flour to St. Johns, Q., 60c., grain 25c.; flour to Point Levis, 80c., grain 40c.; flour to St. John, N. B. $1.02, grain 51c.; flour to Halifax, $1.10, grain 55c.; flour to New York and Boston, 90c., grain 45c., gold. The steamers Chase and Carlotta leave Portland for Halifax on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Groceries.—There has been somewhat more activity in business during the past week, and general and staple goods have sold to a fair extent. *Coffee*—Meets only a limited demand, and prices are unaltered. *Fish*—Herrings have a moderate enquiry with no accumulation of stock. Dry Cod is somewhat scarce and in very few hands, and held firmly at quotations. Trout and White Fish are also in small supply and steady in price. *Fruit*—Shipments of Raisins to the United States has continued during the past week, but though the market is very firm quotations are nominally unaltered; Layers, $1.90 to $2.00; M. Rs., $1.75 to $1.80. Valentias are quoted at 5c. to 8c. for old to prime new crop. Currants are firm and unchanged. *Rice*—Sells rather slow at previous figures. *Sugars*—Sales have been small during the past week, and prices are unaltered. The market is now somewhat over stocked with refined goods, both Canadian and Brittish the latter of better appearance than quality; and holders find it difficult to sell unless below present values. A marked advance has taken place in England and in the West Indies during the past month, while the United States markets are also very firm and tending upward. Here, however, prices though somewhat stiffer show very little actual improvement at present. *Teas*—There has been an improved inquiry during the past week, principally for Young Hysons, Japans are for the most part selected. Black Teas are coming more into use in the section of the country supplied by Toronto, and sell to a fair extent. *Tobacco*—There is only the ordinary demand, and prices are without change.

Hardware.—There has been a very limited business during the past week, and quotations are entirely unaltered.

Hides and Skins.—The supply of green *Hides* is small, and there is a ready demand for all coming in. The Western Hides in this market are now principally disposed of, and there is a better enquiry than previously for Canadian slaughter. *Sheep Skins*—are in fair supply and are readily taken at quotations.

Leather.—Trade has been brisker during the past week. Receipts have been liberal, and there is a fair demand for most kinds of desirable stock. *Spanish Sole*—is in good request at advanced prices which in consequence of an advance in South American hides in the United States markets, are readily obtainable. *Slaughter*—is unchanged. *Patna Kips*—are firm and higher now quoted at 45c. to 50c. *Hemlock Calf*—is in fair supply, but owing to the scarcity and dearness of the French article, there has been an unusual demand for Canadian and prices have steadily advanced, and heavy are now held at 85c. to 90c. French may be quoted at $1.30 to $1.60.

Paints and Oils.—Only a moderate trade as yet. Prices are steady and unaltered.

Petroleum.—Business is now very quiet, and sales are generally of single barrels. Prices remain unchanged.

Produce.—The volume of business during the past week as far as made public has not been large, but with favorable advices from the English and United States markets, values have steadily advanced and breadstuffs close firm with a disposition to operate on the part of dealers, checked however by the great difference which exists between their views and those of holders. *Flour*—Receipts have been only moderate, and there has been an active enquiry, but sellers holding extreme views but little business has been transacted. A decided advance in prices has been obtained, and the various grades are readily saleable at quotations, with some difficulty in finding sellers.

Wheat.—During the week all grades have continued to improve under the influence of favorable advices from foreign markets, light receipts and a tolerably active demand. White at the close was wanted at from $1.25 to $1.30, and Spring sold at $1.17 to $1.20, with sellers rather reluctant even at these figures. *Barley*—The market has been very quiet, but firm and advancing. There has been rapid improvement in the Chicago market within a few days, and buyers have been willing to pay higher rates. Receipts have been small and all good samples arriving have been picked up at prices ranging up to 64c for choice Northern for local maltsters. *Oats*—have been steady at about 44c to 45c, with very little doing. *Peas*—have been in fair demand, but with no change to note in quotations. Small receipts have served greatly to restrict operations. Hay is not arriving very abundantly, selling at $10 to $13 50 for timothy and clover. *Straw*—is in adequate supply and is taken at $9 to $10.

Provisions.—Owing to poor roads receipts have been light during the week, and prices are consequently firm. *Butter*—very little coming in, but no demand except for choice dairy which is held at 18c. *Cheese*—quiet, and except for city consumption no demand worthy of mention. Prices are without alteration. *Eggs*—nothing doing except in a retail way, the receipts being inadequate even for city uses. *Lard*—sells at quotations to supply local demand. *Pork*—very little enquiry, and prices nominal at $19 to $20 for mess. Stocks are not large, the hogs coming in to this market yielding but a small proportion fit for making this grade. *Dressed Hogs*—have come in sparingly, and higher prices have been obtained; fair averages—200 lbs. and upwards—selling by waggon and car load, at $6.50 to $6.75, and heavy from $6.75 to $6.90.

Wool.—There has not been any great activity in this market, but there is a steady demand for *Fleece*, at 30c. to 31c., and for *Pulled* at 25 to 27½, the better figure obtainable only for choice round lots.

Money.—Sterling exchange, 60 days' sight or 75 days' date, 109¼c. to 109½c.; gold drafts on New York ¼ prem.; currency drafts on New York or greenbacks, 90c. to 90½c.; American silver, large, 4 1-2 to 5 1-2; small, 6 to 8 discount. Gold in New York has fluctuated only slightly, closing steady at 110¼.

### MONTREAL LEATHER REPORT.

(Reported by M. H. Seymour, Commission Merchant.)

Montreal, Jan. 17, 1871.

Since the opening of the new year business has not assumed any special activity, there has, however, been a tolerably fair trade doing in some descriptions of stock, the supply of which is not in excess.

*Spanish Sole* is still more than ordinarily scarce and prices rule very firm. Buffalo stock is in better supply.

*Slaughter Sole* continues in demand, and prime stock still finds ready sale at recent current rates.

*Rough*—good light stock can be placed without much difficulty, inferior and heavy less saleable.

*Harness* has no particular inquiry, and quotations are, if not actually lower, less easily obtained.

*Waxed Upper*, very little doing at present, and it is impossible now to state how the market is likely to rule.

*Buff and Pebble*, a fair inquiry prevails. Heavy buff being particularly in demand, and prime pebble is in demand.

*Patent and Enamel*—the market is more active for the latter, the supply of which is less than sufficient to meet the wants of the trade.

*Splits*—Some round lots have been placed at about one cent under quotations, but no considerable decline is anticipated for the present.

*Calfskins*—Very few of desirable weights and finish offering; choice heavy would command remunerating prices.

*Sheepskins*—There is no change noticeable since last report; colors and russets are still comparatively scarce.

### OIL MATTERS AT PETROLIA.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

Petrolia, Jan. 16, 1871.

Oil matters about the same, no change in price to note; there is no real cause for the crude here being cheaper, as on the other side, it is going up in price, the production there having considerably decreased. Our home markets being glutted with refined oil, and exporters only using their own stocks makes our crude market dull. The production for the last week about the same, say about 5,500 barrels, shipments not quite so large.

No new strikes to note and the old wells averaging about the same. As the spring opens we may expect a fresh impetus in the developing line, which at present is rather at a stand still.

The sales of outside territory are rather flat, inside lots are held about the same, with but little demand. Exporters running about half their capacity, other refiners doing little or nothing.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Crude, per brl..... | $1 25 to $1 30 | |
| Refined, per gal..... | 0 19 | 0 00 |