

We quote:—Coltness pig iron, none here; Calder, No. 1, none here; Calder, No. 3, none here; Summerlee, \$20.50 to 21.00; Eglington, \$18.00 to 18.50; Gartsherrie, none here; Carnbroe, \$19.00; Shotts, \$19.50 ex-yard; Middlesboro, No. 3, \$17.; Niagara, No. 2, \$21; Siemens pig, No. 1, \$17.50 to 17.75; Ferrona, No. 1, \$17.50 to 17.75; machinery scrap, \$15; common do., \$12 to 13.00; bar iron, Canadian, \$1.55 to \$1.60; British, \$2.00 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.40; Low Moor, \$5.00; Canada plates—Blaina, or Garth, \$2.25, 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets \$2.30; 75 sheets \$2.40; all polished Canadas, \$2.50 to 2.75; Terne roofing plate, 20x28, \$5.75 to 6.00; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.50; No. 26, \$2.40; No. 24, \$2.30; Nos. 17 to 20, \$2.25; No. 16 and heavier, \$2.40; tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$5.00 to 5.50; charcoal, I. C., \$3.25; P.D. Crown, \$3.75; do., I.X., \$4.75; Coke I.C., \$2.90; coke wasters, \$2.50; galvanized sheets, No. 28, ordinary brands, 4c.; No. 26, 4c.; No. 24, 3c., in case lots; Morewood, \$5.15 to 5.40; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6 to 6½c.; No. 26, 6½ to 6¾c.; the usual extra for large sizes. Canadian bar, 11 lbs., \$1.85; English ditto, \$2; hoops, \$2.15. Steel boiler plate, ½ inch and upwards, \$1.90 to 2.00 for Dalzell, and equal; ditto, three-sixteenths inch, \$2.60; tank iron, ½ inch, \$1.50; three-sixteenths do., \$2.15; tank steel, \$1.70; heads, seven-sixteenths and upwards, \$2.00; Russian sheet iron, 9½ to 10c.; lead, per 100 lbs.; pig, \$3.15 to 3.25; sheet, \$4 to 4.25; shot, \$6 to 6.50; best cast steel, 9 to 10c.; toe calk, \$2.25; spring, \$2.50; sleigh shoe, \$1.90; tire, \$2; round machinery steel, \$2.50; ingot tin, 16 to 16½c. for best; Straits, 16c.; bar tin, 16½ to 17c.; ingot copper, 12 to 13c.; sheet zinc, \$4.50 to 4.75; Silesian spelter, \$4.25; American do., \$4.25

Antimony, 9 to 9½c.; bright iron wires, Nos. 0 to 8, \$2.60 per 100 lbs.; annealed and oiled, do., \$2.70; galvanized, \$3.15; the trade discount on wire is 20 per cent. Barb and twisted wire and staples, 3½c.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, Dec. 31st, 1895.

FLAX AND PRODUCTS.—There is apparently a weaker movement all along the line. Holders of flaxseed are willing to accept lower prices, and 90c. is quoted on the track here. The crushers are pretty well loaded up, and there are yet supplies seeking an outlet in the market. Oil cake remains firmer than one would expect from the weakness in seed, and is quoted \$18 to \$19 on the track. Toronto jobbers quote linseed meal, pure, in small lots, \$2.75 per cwt.; prime, \$2.50 per cwt.; both quotations include cost of boxes. Linseed oil suffers in value from the increased production of cake; dealers quote raw, 52c.; boiled, 55c. per gal. net cash. Following are advices from foreign markets: New York, January 1—Linseed is neglected, and, in the absence of business, prices quoted were nominal at \$1.52½ by sail from Calcutta and \$1.52½ by steam from England. The oil market is unchanged, quotations standing as follows: raw, American seed, 42c.; boiled, American seed, 45c.; raw, Calcutta seed, 50c. per gal. Chicago, December 29—The total movement in flax seed has been decidedly less brisk. The past week has witnessed a falling off of 62,371 bushels in receipts and a decline of 93,334 bushels in shipments. The oil cake market is weak. There seems to be literally no inquiry on export account, and the heavy rains of the past week have interrupted the domestic de-

mand, farmers feeding but little to stock at present. The market is quoted nominally at \$13 to 13.50 for cake and \$14.50 to 15.00 for meal. Next to no business is reported in oil; all descriptions of consuming trade being phenomenally quiet, even for the season. Nominally the market is quotable at 37 to 38c.; there are rumors of small offers at cut prices.

GRAIN.—The markets both at home and abroad are of a holiday character. During the week, with colder weather, the roads have improved, and farmers in some districts are able to make deliveries once more. It is said that in Western Ontario farmers have been ploughing during December; it is a certainty that millers and buyers throughout the province have received very little wheat this past ten days. Manitoba wheat is a little dull, and offerings are liberal. There is an accumulation at the several Ontario receiving points, Owen Sound, Midland and Sarnia. Peas are dull and unchanged; held at 51c., with buyers at 50c. per bushel. Shipments are going via Portland, merchants preferring to use this port rather than St. John, since it affords an opportunity of wider markets abroad. Barley is dull and easier. The chances seem to favor the passage of the proposed additional tax upon barley in the United States tariff; this means an extra two cents per bushel upon the present basis of prices. Oats are dull at 23 to 24c. outside, and 26 to 27c. per bushel here. Rye is scarce and in good demand. Buckwheat is dull, quoted at 33 to 34c. per bushel.

The stocks of grain in store at Port Arthur on Dec. 21st were 2,101,996 bushels. During the week there were received 374,350 bushels, and shipped 11,694 bushels, leaving in store on Dec. 28th, 2,464,654 bushels.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—An exceedingly quiet week is the universal opinion. But expectations had not been raised very high and so no one was disappointed. Purchases for the holiday supplies were all made several weeks ago and this branch of the trade is closed. Retail merchants are now stock-taking. The actual movement from the jobbing houses is confined to the supply of immediate requirements. The demand for skates has been better than for years past, and although jobbers have received large shipments from time to time, they have failed to supply the demand for different sizes. In plate ware and case goods trade is up to last year. In metals, trade has been only fairly good, and is now rapidly dropping off in volume. Block iron has advanced. Sheet steel is dearer by 5 per cent. Coil chain has made a similar advance. But further than this there has been little change in price. Nearly all the representatives of different jobbing houses are in the city for the holidays, as is the usual custom, but they take up their usual routes on the 6th inst.

HAY AND STRAW.—The roads have improved sufficiently to increase receipts of hay and straw on the St. Lawrence market. Hay is quoted \$16 to 17.50, and straw \$13 to 13.50. The daily average of receipts of hay is about twenty loads.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The local hide market is without change. Butchers continue to receive 5c. for their take-off. The last sales of cured reported were made at 6c., although there are rumors of sales at higher figures. However, several merchants have contracted for delivery in January at 6c. Great difference of opinion exists as to the interpretation of despatches from Chicago. Buff hides having advanced 1½c., within a fortnight have declined ½c., and dealers are in doubt as to the meaning of this reaction. Sheepskins remain at 80c. Pullers are active and have received during the week shipments from the United States. It is a curious feature of trade that while Americans are shipping sheepskins to this market, Canadians are exporting skins to the United States. Tallow is quiet and dull. Dealers are paying 4½c., and quote 5c. to purchasers.

PAINTS AND OILS.—The first week of the year is always a quiet one. The trade of 1896 has not yet opened up; manufacturers are busy making up prices and preparations. Although it is too soon to give the new scale of prices it is safe to predict that it will be on a higher scale than during the year just closed. The prospects are not for an active, exciting movement, although there are indications of a steady trade, which it is to be hoped may be realized.

PROVISIONS.—Receipts of butter are more than equal to the demand, and in fact there are accumulations. The export demand is dull, and prices abroad are too low to admit of

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New Assurances written in 1894.....	2,881,854
Cash Income for 1894.....	659,989
Reserve for Security of Policy-holders, Dec. 31, '94	2,566,560
Assets, December 31, 1894.....	2,865, 60
Surplus over all Liabilities, December 31, 1895....	277 747

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