THE COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

Giving Ranges of Prices in some of the More Important Branches of Trade; their Situation and Tendencies.

Trade is fairly active. A large volume of goods is moving to interior points, this being due to the desire of purchasers to lay in supplies before the close of navigation, after which time the freight always shows a material advance. The activity is more particularly in heavy goods, upon which the difference in freight would be more noticeable than in the lighter. Dry goods merhants report a rather unsatisfactory volume of sorting orders, although, at the moment, the movement in dry goods is fairly good. The demand for sugar is limited, but other lines of groceries show a fair activity. Boot and shoe manufacturers report a quiet tendency in the West.

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MONTREAL.

Montreal, Nov. 7th.

Butter.—The market has shown a slightly easier tendency during the past few days, and current makes could be purchased at ½c. less than last week's figures. Choicest full grass creamery is quoted at 28c. to 29c., while the goods now being received, being somewhat inferior, may be had at ½c. less.

Cheese.—The market has shown considerable fluctuations, and is generally easier than a week ago. Prices are now 12c. to 12⅜c. for current Quebecs, 12½c. to 12¾c. for Townships, and 12½c. to 12⅝c. for Ontarios. The quality has shown considerable deterioration.

Eggs.—A few fall fresh eggs are still being received from the country, and are selling here at about 30c. for selects. Fresh laid eggs are worth up to 40c. No. 1 cold storage are selling at 24c. to 25c., and select cold storage at 27c. Demand is good.

Hides.—The market in beef hides shows an easier tone, but lambskins are firmer. Dealers are paying 7, 8 and 9c. per lb. for No. 3, 2 and 1 hides respectively, and 8 and 10c. for No. 2 and 1 calfskins respectively, and selling to tanners at ½c. advance. Lambskins are now 85c. to 90c.

Potatoes.—Dealers are making purchases of car loads on track at 55c. per 90 lbs. for mixed stock, and 5c. to 8c more for Quebec whites. These are selling at an advance of 10c. to 15c., bagged and delivered into store.

Poultry.—Supplies are light and prices hold fairly high. Fresh killed turkeys have been sold here during the past few days at 13c. to 15c. per lb., according to quality, chickens at 9c. to 10c., fowl at 7c. to 8c., and ducks at 10c. to 11c. per lb.

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TORONTO.

Toronto, Nov. 7th.

Fruit.—Old lemons are off the market and new Messinas will arrive next week, the price being probably $4.25 to $4.50 per box. The first arrival of Mexican oranges are expected next week. Grape fruit is very scarce; Mediterranean fruits have arrived.

Groceries.—Business is good and canned goods continue firm. There is a strong market in rice and higher prices may be expected.

Hides.—There is no change in the situation. Business is dull. We quote: Inspected, No. 1, 7½c., No. 2, 6½c., No. 3, 5½c; country, 6 to 7c.; calf skins, city, 12c.; country, 10 and 11c.; lambskins, 65 to 75c.

Provisions.—Butter supplies are a little freer. Business is good and there is a strong demand in all lines. We quote: Creamery prints, 31 to 33c.; creamery solids, 30c.; dairy prints, 27 to 28c.; dairy solids, 26 to 27c.; selected eggs, 26 to 27c.; fresh eggs, 24c.; pickled, 24c.

Tallow.—The market remains firm and the prices ruling are 5½ to 6¼c.

Wool.—The market is almost featureless and the prices remain unchanged. Few sales have been recorded here. We quote: Unwashed, 12 to 13c.; washed, 22 to 23c.; rejects, 16c.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sydney, October, 1907.

The wool markets have opened for the current year with prices higher for first-class wool and firm for inferior sorts. The output of wool from Australia will be about the same in quantity as last year, but there will be less of the best grades; hence the keen competition. Each year witnesses a large number of buyers from abroad. Bradford sends no less than 35, while Belgium, France and Germany have 90 per cent. The United States and Japan are also in the field besides a strong force of local men who buy to order. Of last year's exports, it is stated that 727,000 bales were consumed in Great Britain, 1,767,000 bales on the Continent, 143,000 bales went to the United States and small lots went elsewhere. Some of the United States' lot went to Canada.

TRADE WITH MEXICO.

Opportunities in the Southern Republic for the Canadian Manufacturer.

Mr. A. W. Donly, Canadian Government commercial agent in Mexico, is returning to Mexico City next week. He has been in Canada for the past three months to demonstrate to the Canadian manufacturer and exporter the trade opportunities which exist there.

Mr. Percy F. Martin, who has just written an interesting volume, "Mexico of the Twentieth Century," is very enthusiastic concerning the future of that country, and points out the commanding position it has attained amongst the Latin American powers. In the preface he summarizes his impressions of the country. "Let us glance at the Republic of Mexico to-day and see what are its claims to be considered a factor in the world's affairs. A public exchequer in the full tide of prosperity and a substantial surplus; its bonds held in every country of the world and quoted upon every Stock Exchange; a solid, well-drilled and devoted army of 26,000 men on a peace footing, increased at twenty-four hours' notice to 60,000 upon a war footing; 20,000 miles of telegraph lines, 17,000 miles of railways, public credit upon a level never attained previously, an entire absence of jealousy or contention among the Government officials from the highest to the lowest, a lack of polemics which can be matched in but few countries of the world, and a general peacefulness among all classes as complete as it is rooted. As a Mexican once expressed himself, 'Progress and peace are nailed to our soil with the rails of our iron roads, and no criminal hand shall be strong enough to tear them asunder.' What the country has lacked hitherto has been an intelligent middle-class, and gradually this great desideratum to the permanent welfare of any nation is growing into existence."

Mexican Trade With Canada Gratifying.

Gratifying expansion is noted in the trade between Mexico and Canada. The steamer Georgia, which sailed on Thursday week from Victoria took 15 passengers. It was not long ago that hardly any freight was offering, but on this trip a quarter of a million feet of lumber was shipped, and about 1,000 tons altogether of various merchandise.

A meeting was held in Victoria last week of Mexican and Canadian gentlemen, who are largely interested in a gigantic scheme of land cultivation in Mexico, which will furnish business for this steamship line. The growing of tropical fruits for the Canadian market has been embarked upon, the starting of steamers on the southern route having rendered this practicable. Luis Ibarra and de Toro, both of Mexico, and Mr. Fitzhugh Lee, whose name has been previously mentioned in this connection, came from the South. Victorians who have invested are Messrs. Otto Weiler, Mr. Warner and Mr. Bender. The company has secured large concessions from the Mexican Government, and will grow bananas, pine apples, limes, and citrus fruits, tobacco and cotton. Means of inland transportation have been provided.

Last year was a bad one for the Scottish Live Stock Insurance Company, the net premium income of £24,454 having produced a trading loss of probably not less than £1,000 when unearned premiums are taken into account. The large increase of claims is explained as due to the bad weather.

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A dinner was given in London, England, last month to Mr. J. Herbert Walton, who has been associated with the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York for the last twelve years (the earlier portion being spent in the Provinces and the latter in the metropolis), and who for the last eighteen months has been London agency manager, has been appointed general manager for the South African branch of that company.