

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Sept. 4th, 1902.

Chemicals and Drugs.—No new feature is to be noted under this heading this week. Prices remain about the same and are fairly firm. Opium continues dull, as does also quinine. In the New York market, little is being done except in a routine way.

Dry Goods.—All the big wholesale houses are extraordinarily busy with swarms of visitors to the city, who have availed themselves of the cheap rates for Exhibition. All lines are moving well and prices continue very firm. Any change which may take place in this regard, is likely to be in an upward direction.

Flour and Meal.—For 90 per cent. patents, \$2.70 is the prevailing price just now, for medium grades in buyers' bags, middle freights. Fancy grades are a trifle higher. Oatmeal is about the same, while bran and shorts are somewhat dull. Wheat is dull and tending lower. Barley is worth 38 to 40c. for export. Oats are about 30 to 31c. Peas, new crop, are scarce, and scarcely any are moving yet. Of rye, a few carloads have been sold this week at quotations. Corn and buckwheat are nominally unchanged.

Fruits.—This has been a heavy week for domestic fruits of several kinds. They have come in plentifully, but the demand has been good, and they have not dragged. Prices are quoted as follows: California grapes, 4-basket crates, \$2.25 to \$3; California peaches, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; Bartlett pears, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per box; plums, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; bananas, \$1.50 to \$1.85 per large bunch; late Valencia oranges, \$6 per box; Sorrento, \$4; lemons, Majori, \$4 to \$4.50; Verdilli, \$2.75 per box; limes, \$2.50 per box; watermelons, 20c. to 30c. each; Canadian peaches, 20c. to 75c.; according to grade and variety; canteloupes, 30c. to 60c.; Lawton berries, 6c. to 7c.; blueberries, \$1.75 to \$2 per box; Canadian tomatoes, 40c. to 60c.; potatoes, 45c. to 55c. per bushel; cabbage, \$1.25 per barrel; apples, early, 20c. to 25c. per

basket; \$1.50 per barrel; cukes, 20c. to 30c. per 12-quart basket; green corn, 8c. to 10c. per dozen; Jamaica cocoanuts, \$3.50 per sack.

Groceries.—The chief feature in the grocery trade continues to be the scarcity of Valencia raisins of which there are only a few boxes left in the market. Some are expected to arrive in a few days. Currants are about the same as last week, on the easy side. Sultanas are scarcely so firm as they were. Most nuts are high this season, especially almonds, which will be from 2c. to 3c. higher than was the case last year. Sugars remain just the same as for several weeks past. Canned goods are very firm. Practically no tomatoes are to be bought, though the quotation \$1.15 remains about the same.

Hides and Skins.—Offerings of hides are fairly plentiful, but the demand continues keen and there is no accumulation of stocks. Tallow remains the same, a steady market prevailing.

Hardware.—Trade continues very satisfactory for this time of the year. Nuts, screws and bolts are in big demand, and the factories are experiencing difficulty in keeping up with the demand. Guns and cartridges are also being asked for in large quantities. Steel wire is easy; otherwise prices are quite firm.

Provisions.—With regard to dairy products, nothing very new has developed since last issue. The hog-product trade is still very active. Large quantities of eggs are coming forward, but there is a poor demand, although extra fancy stock does not drag. Second-class goods and chips sell very slowly. Only a moderate demand exists for poultry, and the market is easy.

Wool.—About the average quantity of wool is changing hands, though very little for export, prices still being such as only to present a very poor prospect for profit. A report from Philadelphia says that the prospective benefits of the biggest grain crop ever known overreach everything else in the wool trade situation. Cheaper food is certain, leaving a better margin for clothing. It is probably owing to these promising conditions that the demand for woolsens is now excellent. Some mills, after having had their samples out for only three weeks, have withdrawn them because their orders are already as large as they can fill. Goods which were opened at last year's prices have been advanced, and some that were opened 10 per cent. higher than last year are selling freely. The trade looks forward to a steady demand for wool for the balance of the season, with firmness as to prices. It looks now as though the mills would be better employed for the remainder of the year, and for a longer continuous period than at any time in the history of woolen manufacturing, thus breaking all record of wool consumption; and because of this and of reduction in the supply, the cost of importing wool must be the controlling influence that will determine values hereafter, and not the free wool surplus, as heretofore.

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