

occasion to eat, you would stay right there; you would never get away." Later, in overhauling the ruins in the cellar of the barn, the partly burned skeleton of the dog was found, and, in verification of the doctor's story of his quality, the animal's teeth were tightly clinched about the leg-bone of a man, whose remains were charred beyond personal recognition. No one has been reported missing from the vicinity, and the reasonable theory, in the absence of any facts, is that a tramp entered the barn and was smoking, when the dog found him, and in the struggle his pipe set the barn on fire. The dog held on to his captive until both perished. The story is unique in the records of singular things among underwriters, as an explanation of a fire, and it is also an illustration of the way in which a well-trained bull-dog attends to business. If the tramp fraternity reads the Boston Herald, which is quite possible, the story may also serve as a warning to them against lodging in barns where bull-dogs are on guard. The fire marshal has had the case under investigation, but nothing has been elicited to explain the incident.

TRAVELING LIBRARY.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railway has a traveling library, for the exclusive use of its employees and their families, containing 14,000 volumes. This library was started in 1885, with 4,500 volumes, 3,000 of which had been purchased, the remainder donated. The headquarters of the library is in Baltimore, from which current periodicals and standard works on science, general literature, poetry, history and other books of practical utility to railway employees, are distributed to any point on the B. & O. lines. The books are delivered to borrowers through local agents. The average time from the placing of an order for a book in the hands of an agent until the book is in his hands for delivery, is officially stated to be less than 24 hours for the entire system, which comprises 674 agencies, extending over 3,000 miles of line, through eight states, and as far west as the Mississippi river. According to the rules of the library a book may be retained two weeks, after which it will be once renewed for a like period, upon request, if no other application for it is on file. There is a fine of one cent per day for books kept over time, a margin of three days being allowed to cover the time consumed in transit. Upon leaving the service of the company all books must be returned before pay vouchers are cashed; otherwise the price of the book is deducted from the wages of the employee. The management of the library is intrusted to a committee, composed of two members of the relief department of the road, and a representative of the railway company, appointed by the president, who also appoints the librarian. The library is sustained by voluntary contributions of money and literature, from the officers and employees of the railway company and outside friends interested in their welfare. The circulation increased steadily from 16,120 volumes in 1885, to 39,505 volumes, loaned 2,500 borrowers, in 1896. The figures for the last two years are not at hand. The circulation of books of fiction has decreased from 64 per cent. of the total circulation, the first year, to less than 53 per cent. at present.—Rail. and Eng. Review.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Nov. 17th, 1898.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The wholesale jobbing houses are very busy at present. There is a large turnover in seasonable goods. Rubber shoes have been in urgent demand. Retailers do not carry as large

stocks as formerly, of these lines, and a few wet days bring out the "rush" orders. There is considerable competition among rubber houses in this city. Several large jobbing houses have thrown off their former allegiance and are selling the goods of a comparatively new concern. It is said that the introduction of new blood into the industry has led to an all-round improvement in the quality of goods. Business for the spring of 1899 is showing good prospects.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—For all stocks of choice dairy butter there is good demand at prices quoted. Creamery finds moderate movement in the local trade and activity by way of export. Cheese is fairly active in the local market. New-laid eggs are difficult to obtain; the demand is very active and all supplies coming forward bring high prices. Quotations range from 12 to 20c. per dozen, according to quality.

GRAIN.—The market has been quiet during the week. Supplies of new wheat are slow in coming forward, so far as Ontario is concerned, but the movement in the West is somewhat freer. Coarse grains are generally in good demand. Peas are steady at 59c. Barley has lost a point during the week, and is quoted at 50c., outside. The activity in rye has been continued, and supplies have been sold at 49c. per bushel.

GROCERIES.—The most notable feature of the grocery market is the sugar situation, which we note elsewhere. For general supplies there is fair demand, while business in winter specialties is improving. New Persian dates are expected to arrive about the first week in December. Cables from Malaga quote 23s. for prime and 24s. for selected Valencia shelled almonds, which prices are equal to about 27 to 28c. laid down in New York. Cables on Sicily shelled almonds for shipment this month name 79s. cost and freight, New York, or about 23½c. laid down here. The advance is said to be due to short crop. Shipments of currants from Greece to the United States and Canada to August 11th, 1898, were 13,830 tons, as against 8,723 tons to Oct. 31st, 1897. For prunes there is a fair enquiry. The high prices of the new figs are affecting consumption. We quote: California prunes, 90-100, 50-lb. boxes, per lb., 6c.; 90-100, 25-lb. boxes, per lb., 6¼c.; 70-80, 50-lb. boxes, per lb., 7¼c.; 70-80, 25-lb., boxes, per lb., 7½c.; 50-60, 25-lb. boxes, per lb., 9¼c. Figs, glove boxes, 18c. per box; 6-crown, 10-lb. boxes, per lb., 22c.; 6-crown, 24-lb. boxes, per lb., 22c.; 7-crown, 56-lb. boxes, per lb., 28c.; Tapnets, per lb., 4c.

GREEN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.—The orange market is slow; the demand is not active, and supplies remain limited. For lemons there has been a better tone to the market this week. New supplies of Messina fruit coming forward, prices have fallen to a level which must encourage consumption. Apples are active, and large receipts continue to come forward. In pears and grapes there is only moderate movement. Almira grapes are in moderate request, and supplies are ample, the season's stock having come forward very quickly this year. Cranberries are firm. We quote: Oranges, Jamaica, bbls., \$7 to \$7.50; Jamaica, boxes, \$3.75; lemons, new Messina, 300's, 360's, \$3.50 to \$4; Canadian pears, per basket, 35 to 60c.; Kiefer pears, \$2.50 per bbl.; cranberries, stock is fine, \$8 to \$8.50 per bbl.; \$2.75 to \$3 per box; sweet potatoes, per bbl., \$2 to \$2.25; bananas, fancy fruit, per bunch, \$1.50 to \$1.75; Spanish onions, \$1 to \$1.10 per box; Canadian onions, 80 lbs., red and yellow, \$1 per bag; Lima beans, per lb., 5½ to 6c.

HARDWOOD LUMBER.—The position is very strong at present, as we note in another column. There has been a considerable demand for all hardwoods, and prices

have advanced. Elm is selling up as high as \$22 to \$23, while ash has been selling at from \$24 to \$26 per thousand feet. We are importing stocks of quarter-cut oak and plain oak from the United States. Supplies last year were rather less than usual, as the farmers obtained a good price for their merchandise, and were not disposed to take out any very heavy stocks of logs last winter. The present high prices, however, will probably continue unless they increase their cut this year. As new stocks cannot reach the market before February, or possibly March, we may look for a continuation of high prices until then. With the continuance of the present good demand, it will require an enormous cut in 1899 to materially reduce prices from their present level.

HIDES AND SKINS.—There is little or no change in the market situation. Hides are not accumulating here, in spite of the objection of tanners to high prices. Caliskins are quiet. Sheepskins remain quoted at 75 to 80c. From Chicago, Nov. 15th.—A fairly firm tone dominated the market for city slaughter hides. The recent demand was sufficiently large to absorb a considerable percentage of packers' holdings; consequently they showed less anxiety to make sales, and in some instances held for slightly higher prices, closing at 11 to 11¼c. for native steers, 10 to 10½c. for Texas, 9½c. for butt brands, 8½c. for Colorados, 9 to 9¼c. for branded cows, and 10½ to 10¾c. for native cows.

PROVISIONS.—Active trading continues to rule in the provision market, and, for the season large supplies are going forward. Values are steady. Receipts of dressed hogs, by city packers, are fairly large, prices ranging from \$5.50 to \$5.75 per cwt., according to weights.

SEEDS.—Both red clover and alsike are coming forward very freely, the former being quoted by merchants at a range of \$3.50 to \$4.50, and the latter, \$2.50 to \$4.50, according to quality. From New York, November 16th.—There was a nominal market still here for exports. We quote: Common to fair clover, \$5.12½ to \$6.66; good to fancy, \$7.67½ to \$8.67½; timothy, \$2.50 to \$3, in job lots for common to choice, per 100 lbs. Flax, \$1.05 asked, c.i.f., New York, nominal.

WOOL.—The situation in wool circles is quiet, and unchanged. The demand for fleece is nominal; merchants are paying very low prices, and holders are not anxious to load up the market with supplies at current rates.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 16th Nov., 1898.

ASHES.—The lately acquired strength in the market is fully maintained at the moment, but may abate after this week, and the close of navigation. Stock in store is a mere bagatelle, and quotations for first quality of pots range from \$4.40 to \$4.50, seconds, \$4.15 to \$4.20; pearls, nominal, about \$4.90 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The big freight steamship, the "Westmeath," abandoned at sea last week, included in her immense cargo some 20,000 barrels of cement, for this market. About 12,000 barrels of this were for Government works, and the loss may seriously inconvenience the parties interested, unless the Government is willing to modify the terms of the contract, as to brands and quality. The effect of this loss is not felt by the market to any great extent as yet, as the present demand is small, but quotations, as last given, are very firmly held. The actual receipts of the week are 1,935 barrels of English, 7,799 barrels of German and Belgian, and 225,000 firebricks.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The steamship "Monterey" alone took 40,700 boxes of cheese to Bristol last week, and the total