

ers who make up their minds to work off their medium grades here, even though they accept low prices, will be vastly better off than by shipping such goods to England, and waiting for account sales thereof. Both the Grand Trunk *via* Portland and the Canadian Pacific *via* New York are carrying butter to Liverpool at 35s, which is the lowest rate known for this season of the year. The shipments from Portland last week were 445 packages, all on Western account, against 2236 packages for the corresponding week last year. *Cheese*.—This market appears to be in bad shape in Liverpool, the cable having dropped to 53s. In sympathy there with the situation here has developed considerable weakness and 11c to 1½c is all that would be paid for a round lot of fine to fancy. September cheese—stocks must have been considerably reduced here within the past few weeks, but it appears they have accumulated in the English markets and hence the depression which has set in on both sides of the Atlantic. The exports from Portland last week were 2117 boxes, of which 1,500 boxes were on Western, and 617 boxes on Montreal account.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—In general drugs a fair amount of business has transpired since this day week, the only change of importance being in oil of peppermint, which has materially advanced. Quinine is somewhat easier, in sympathy with the New York market, where German in bulk has declined to 96c per ounce. Here prices are quoted at \$1.30 to \$1.35 for Howards' in ounce bottles, and at \$1.15 to \$1.20 for German. Opium is quiet, at \$4.25 to \$4.45 and morphin at \$2.25 to \$2.40. In heavy chemicals the contracts mentioned by us last week for future delivery have been supplemented by further business. Freight is very low just now from Liverpool, and this has facilitated business for future account. Bleaching powder remains quiet at \$2.40 for round parcels. Bicarb soda been offered at \$2.25 and soda ash is unchanged at \$1.70 to \$1.80.

DRY GOODS.—Most of the travellers have returned, from their first spring trip, and have done moderately well under all the circumstances. Quite a number of buyers from Winnipeg and west of Toronto have just arrived by the excursion train, and it is believed they intend to purchase liberally. Cottons are steady and a good business is anticipated in greys at the advance. Canadian tweeds are not moving briskly. Remittances are poor, and city collections are not what they ought to be. An order has just been cabled over for a large line of fine English prints; some think it a pity the order cannot be filled by having the printing done upon Canadian cloth.

FISH.—An important feature in the fish trade is the growing demand for fresh frozen fish during the cold weather, frozen herring, smelts and tommy cods being furnished in large quantities by the trade of the Lower Provinces during the winter. This trade, which commenced about four years ago, is growing larger every year, and is gradually taking the place of pickled fish in cold weather, and consequently the small demand for the latter is accounted for. A few Western and city orders for herring, green and dry cod, salmon, etc., have been received, but they amount to a small aggregate as compared with former seasons. Prices are unchanged, as follows:—Green cod—No. 1 \$4 to \$4.50, and No. 1 large, \$4.50 to \$5.00. Dry cod quiet at \$3 to \$3.25 for American and \$4.25 to \$4.50 for Gaspe. Labrador herring \$5.50 to \$6, Nova Scotia \$4.50 to \$5.00 for No. 1. Salmon \$18 per tierce for No. 1, and \$13 to \$14 per bbl. In fresh fish, frozen herring are selling at 80c to \$1.00 per 100 for large and at 60c to 70c for small. Tommy cods are firmer at \$1.35 to \$1.50 per bbl. Smelts 3½c to 4c as to quality

GRAIN AND FLOUR.—Quietness continues, to reign supreme in the grain trade, so far as spot transactions are concerned. Some trading is reported along the line of the Grand Trunk for through shipment to Liverpool, and one or two cargoes go out weekly. Wheat is quiet, business here being confined to the sale of a few cars of winter and spring descriptions for milling purposes. Values are quoted as follows:—No. 2 red winter wheat 91c to 93c. No. 2 Spring and white winter 90c to 91c. Wheat however could not be laid down here at these prices, and holders are asking \$1 for May delivery. In corn the movement is very light, car lots on spot being quoted at 52½c for Western in bond and at 53c to 55c for Ontario on track and in store. There has been some movement in peas along the line, at 61c to 62c per 60 lbs. for shipment on a through rate of freight to Liverpool *via* Portland. Here prices are nominal at 72c to 73c; barley is quiet at 45c to 60c as to quality, and oats are unchanged, at 32c per 32 lbs. Rye nominal at 60c to 62c May. The flour market is dull, and values are gradually weakening. To move a round lot present rates would have to be materially shaded. Oatmeal remains steady at \$4.15 to \$4.25 for ordinary, and at \$4.50 to \$4.60 for granulated; cornmeal \$2.80 to \$3.10. Pot barley, \$4.25 per bbl, pearl barley, \$6.25 to \$6.75. Bran \$14 to \$15 per ton, and shorts 17c to 18c. The *Mark Lane Express* of Feb. 16th, in its weekly review of the British grain trade, says:—"The crops progress favorably. Wheat is 6d to 1s lower. The sales of the week were 58,814 quarters at 32s 10d, against 52,121 quarters at 37s 3d the corresponding week last year. In flour there was a sluggish sale, owing to large foreign arrivals. Foreign wheats were inanimate; prices were nominally maintained, with the tendency in favor of buyers. American maize was notably unaltered, despite large arrivals. In cargoes there were, off coast, two; sales, one Californian; arrivals, two; one was withdrawn, two remain, and fifteen are due the current week. To-day there was only a small retail trade. Wheat values were nominally unchanged. Flour was very slow and rather against sellers."

GREEN FRUIT.—The apple market is firmer and the outlook is certainly much better than a few weeks ago. Recent Liverpool sales have shown Canadian exporters a profit, and according to late advices from England there is a probability of a growing demand for apples, on account of the great destruction of the orange crop in the Spanish districts, caused by the severe cold and snow storms. Here sales of round lots of winter apples have been made at \$2.25 to \$2.50, with retail lots selling at 50c per bbl more. The freight on apples to Liverpool *via* Portland has declined another 6d, to 3s 6d per bbl. Oranges are firmer and 50c per case higher, at \$5.50 to \$6 per case. Lemons quiet at \$2 to \$3 per box, fancy at \$3.50. New dates 5½c to 6½c, and old at 3½c to 4c. Evaporated apples slow sale, with business at 7½c to 8c per lb in 50-lb. boxes. Almeria grapes 53 to \$7 as to quality and condition.

GROCERIES.—The sugar market closes firm, under a fairly good demand for both refined and raw. During the past week some large transactions have occurred in raw, the sale of about 1,700 hds of fair refining Jamaica having been put through at 4½c per lb., and another lot was reported on p. t. In refined sugar the feeling is very firm, and still higher figures are confidently looked for. Granulated is quoted at 6-8 to 6-7-8 and yellows at 4½c to 5½c. Besides the sales above reported in raw, a number of cargoes of Brazil and West India sugar have changed hands for future delivery. A cable from London says:—Cane sugar firm but unchanged. Beet quiet and steady. Stock in four ports United Kingdom, Feb. 7, 190 tons under last week, or 273,554 tons, against 255,355 tons same time last year. Quotations: Java No. 15, 14s 9d; fully fair

refining muscovado, 12s 9d; Austrian and German beet, 88°, 11s 7½d. A cable from Havana reads: "Fair business doing in sugar. Stock at Havana and Matanzas, Feb. 15, 47,000 tons, against 38,000 tons same time last year. Quotations: Centrifugals, 95° to 96°, 5-3-8 mills; fair refining, 89° test, 3-7-3 mills. Freight from four ports \$3.50 to \$3.75. Exchange—Short sight, 6½ to 7 per cent premium. Since the above were received a further despatch reports an advance of 8d to 6d per cwt in refined at London, and a drop of 3d in raw beet sugar. On the whole, the tendency is decidedly towards improvement. Syrups there is a fair trade doing at from 25c to 50c, as to quality. Barbadoes molasses is held at 32c. Sales of jobbing lots of Trinidad are reported at 28c, but round lots would be shaded. Trinidad is quoted at 26c to 27c and Cuba at 23c to 24c. The fruit market is quiet, Valencia raisins being quoted at 8½c to 8c for well known brands and off grades at 7½c to 8c. Old stock can be had at lower prices. Sultan raisins sell all the way from 6c up to 7½c, as to quality. Currants dull at 4-5-8c to 5½c in barrels. Figs quiet, Elemen at 11c to 12c in boxes, and Malaga at 4c to 5c in mats. Prunes are in large supply, and can be bought at 4c and under. Dates 6c to 6½c for new and 3c to 4c old. Nuts are unchanged. The tea market continues to improve both as regards volume of business and prices, and sales are reported of 200 half chests of Young Hysons at 32c to 33c, and 100 half chests low grade do at 14½c. Also 200 ½-chests of low grade Japans at 15½c to 19c, and 200 ½-chests of good medium and fine Japans at 28c to 28c. Coffee and spices unchanged. Rice steady at \$3.40 to \$3.50.

HOPS.—The market continues dull, with offerings full, and the demand light. About 140 bales of Prince Edward County hops have been received here, but, as the owners cannot get their figures here, the different lots will go forward on consignment to Liverpool. Whether or not they will do better than placing them in this market remains to be proved. Sales have been made in the Prestcott district at 8c and 8½c for pretty good qualities. Prices here are quoted at 10c to 11c for choice, 8c to 9c for good and 5c to 7c for poor to medium. About two years ago choice Canadian hops brought as high as \$1.25, whilst to-day they are down to 10c at 11c, which shows an extraordinary change.

IRON AND HARDWARE.—The business in pig iron reported by us last week has been further supplemented by a large sale of 800 tons of Summerlee for future delivery at a point West of Toronto on p. t., but supposed to be in the close vicinity of \$18.25. One or two lots of Calder are also said to have been placed for spring delivery in the West on p. t. Warrants are dull at about 41s 1d. Prices here are quoted as follows:—Siemens, \$18 to \$18.50; Coltness, \$20 to \$20.50; Langloan, \$19.50 to \$20; Calder, Gartsherrie and Summerlee, \$18.25 to \$19; Dalmellington, \$17 to \$17.25; Eglinton, \$16.50 to \$17. Finished iron quiet; bars, \$1.05 to \$1.70; sheets, \$2.40 to \$2.60; plates, \$2.50 to \$2.75. Tin plates I. O. charcoal, \$4.30 to \$4.40 and I. U. coke \$3.95 to \$4. Two large sales of tin plates have been mentioned at below our quotations, understood to cost laid down here about \$4.20 to \$4.25, which of course could not be sold at under quoted rates. Hardware remains very quiet. Remittances have been somewhat disappointing with some houses, whilst with others they are said to be fully as well as expected. The English correspondent of the *Pittsburg Iron World* says:—"What the past has been in the matter of decreased profits we are afresh reminded this week by the secretary of the British Iron Trade Association, who shows that in the seven principal shipbuilding centres of this country the decrease in the tonnage built in 1884 on that of 1883 was not less than 436,000 tons. Two and a half million less trade. The quantity of iron and steel used in ship building in 1884 is calculated at 311,000 tons less