

opening of the spring trade next week, and as is usually the case under these circumstances, the current business is a trifle dull. Indications are that amongst other articles we shall have a considerable early demand for printed cotton fabrics, ginghams and woven wash fabrics. The feeling throughout is one of entire confidence; orders are coming in on a much larger scale than at the corresponding period of last year, and prospects are declared to be in the highest degree encouraging. Payments, too, are much better.

GRAIN.—There has been a moderate enquiry for wheat, but trading has been slow and prices generally nominal. On the street yesterday white and red closed at 91 and 92c. No. 1 Manitoba hard to arrive North Bay was offered at \$1.05, with \$1.03 bid. Some sales of No. 2 hard were effected at \$1. At Sarnia, No. 3 hard, grinding in bond, was offered at 94, and 92c. bid. Still, fall wheat (north and west) sold at 87c. We have had some enquiry for flour during the week, and sales at outside points have been made at equal to \$4.15 here for straight rollers and \$4.05 for extra; the close yesterday was dull. Barley has been in fair demand and steady but was quiet yesterday and nominal outside at 49c. for No. 2 and 44c. for No. 3 extra. Oats closed firm at 32½ and 33c. on track. Rye was firm at 88 and 90c. outside. Buckwheat was offered at 47 and 48c. Bran quiet and unchanged at \$14 per car to arrive. Our latest cable from Liverpool quotes wheat there as quiet with only a poor demand, and holders offering moderately. Corn is reported firm and with a fair demand.

GROCERIES.—The dulness which has existed with an almost unbroken monotony in the different departments of the grocery business, shows as yet scarcely any sign of improvement. Prices quatably unchanged, but are shaded in many lines. The sugar situation is unaltered, though rumors of a new combination are in the air. Meanwhile the struggle continues to the, at least, temporary advantage of the consumers. Granulated at 4½c., and yellow sugar at 3½c., are actually bottom prices, though several transactions have occurred during the week at ½c. and even ¾c. less on both kinds, but this has been where the deal comprised other articles besides sugar. In medium and cheap lines of tea there is a better movement. Coffee is quiet. The demand for dried fruits is not an average one, and prices are inclined to yield in the face of a good order. Rice is steady on better enquiry. Syrups and molasses are more asked for, but the increase in activity is only slight. Payments are, as a rule, reported "only moderately fair."

HIDES, SKINS, ETC.—Hides are firm, with cured selling at 5c. No. 1 green, at 4½c.; No. 2 green, at 3½c., and 2½c. for No. 3. Complaints are made as to quality of green hides. Cured sell at 5c. by the car, as tanners are

well supplied. Calfskins unchanged at 5 and 7c., with very few green offered. The receipts of sheep skins are fair, and prices steady and unchanged at from \$1.15 to 1.25 for best green, and \$1 to 1.10 for inferior.

IRON AND HARDWARE.—A better tone in all respects has developed during the last few days, but since our last report there has been no special change in values. There is much more activity, prospects are good, foreign markets are reported as in better shape, and payments (especially from the country districts), are more satisfactory.

LIVE STOCK.—At the western cattle yards this week the trade has experienced an oversupply, mostly of poor quality and weaker, and often quatably lower prices. The best butchers' cattle has sold at \$3.60 per hundred pounds, and this has been the outside price, as the range for very good stuff has not been more than 3 and 3½c. per pound. Sheep are quiet, and not wanted at from \$5.50 to \$7 each. Lambs are selling well and wanted at 5 and 5½c. per pound. Hogs are in demand, and prime hogs weighed off car will readily fetch 5c., and stores 4c. per pound. Springers, stockers and milk cows are in better request. Export cattle are being purchased for future delivery at 4½ and 5c. Good calves are wanted here. It is quite apparent that the coming season, while an active one, will be one of low prices for cattle.

OILS, PAINTS, ETC.—A marked advance has occurred in the demand during the week, and orders are increasing daily in number though not in volume. Turpentine has advanced 2c. and is now quoted at 58c.; there are no other changes in prices. A spell of finer weather, such as may be confidently expected now, will start building operations, and in about a couple of weeks we anticipate much activity.

PROVISIONS.—Business has been moderate and prices steady and little changed. Tub butter

in fair supply at 19 to 21c. for prime, and 18 to 15c. for medium; large rolls 16 to 18c.; pound rolls 21 to 25c. Eggs 20 to 22c. in case lots, and 25 to 27c. for new laid in small lots; limed eggs 14 to 16c. Cheese is unchanged at 11 and 12c. for choice, and inferior at 10c.; stocks are low and prices firm. Hogs are quoted outside at equal to \$6.11 and \$6.12 in Toronto for animals of not less than 120 pounds. On the street values were \$6 to 6.25 for prime, and \$6 for secondary. Hams are quiet at 10 to 11c. for smoked. Lard steady and wanted at unchanged figures.

SEEDS.—There is no material change in the conditions of business since our last report. The demand is steadily increasing, but prices continue weaker and unchanged. We have now nearly done with the export demand for alsike and red clover. Timothy is being enquired for much more freely lately, and is selling at \$1.75 to 2 per bushel out of store.

WOOL.—Wool is steady but unchanged. Small lots of fleece have sold at previous prices, 18 and 19c. for selected; unwashed, from 11 to 12c.; combing fleece sells at 18 and 19c., and fine clothing at 20 to 22c. Pulled supers are quoted at 22c and extras at 26c. Dealers have bid as much as 27½c. for super, and 25½c. for extras.

LIVERPOOL PRICES.

Feb. 25, 12.30 p. m.

	s.	d.
Wheat, Spring	8	1½
Red, Winter	8	0½
No. 1 Cal.	8	2½
Corn	4	8½
Peas	6	0
Lard	24	3
Pork	65	0
Racon, heavy	22	6
Bacon, light	33	0
Tallow	25	0
Chamo	27	0

Confederation Life

HEAD OFFICE, - TORONTO.

BUSINESS IN FORCE, - - \$20,000,000.

ASSETS AND CAPITAL

FOUR AND A QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS.

INCREASES MADE LAST YEAR

In Income,	-	-	\$55,168 00
In Assets,	-	-	\$417,141 00
In Cash Surplus,	-	-	\$68,648 00
In New Business,	-	-	\$706,967 00
In Business in Force,	-	-	\$1,600,376 00

W. G. MACDONALD

Actuary.

J. K. MACDONALD,

Managing Director

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