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the farmers. The uncertainty with regard to the Russian crop continues, and has an appreciable influence on the Belgian and Dutch flax markets. Business in the brown cloth market continues satisfactory, the new orders totalling a substantial amount. Dress goods, unions, damasks, and handkerchiefs are all in improving request, and prices continue to tend upwards. There is a further increase in home orders for bleached and finished goods and fancy goods for the Christmas trade are in active demand. Canadian business is described as substantial.

Bradford.—The consumption of the coarser-fibred crossbred wools in both the Huddersfield and Leeds districts, as well as in Scotland, continues to be on such a large scale, and all the available stocks of last season's clip are so very nearly expended, that it does not seem possible for any serious decline in the prices of these lower wools to set in at present, although, of course, the present prices are unusually high. Pure merino colonial wools will be offered in London in large quantity that has been the case at these sales for some years past, but as this increase will not exceed 20,000 bales, and both home and foreign users are still hungry for wool, and the consumption of merino wools is still on the ascending scale, it is probable that any hesitation on the part of buyers at the opening will quite have vanished before the end of the sales.

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**TORONTO MARKETS.**

Toronto, Dec. 14, 1905.

Chemicals, Drugs, Etc.—With the exception of there being a slight lull, such as is not infrequently the case just before Christmas, trade, generally speaking, may be described as good. Prices remain at steady figures and the volume of transactions is about normal. There is no special feature making its appearance in connection with the staple drugs.

Dry Goods.—There is considerable activity in dry goods circles, though perhaps not more than has been usual in recent years at this time of the year. All lines of dress staples and fancy goods are in good demand, and the tendency of prices is upward rather than down. There is brisk enquiry for carpets and house furnishings. Payments are reported fairly satisfactory.

Flour and Wheat.—The market for flour is a little on the quiet side. Holders of ninety per cent. patents ask about \$3.25 in buyers' bags, but buyers refuse more than \$3.10 as a rule. Not much change has taken place in the wheat situation during the week. Mixed con-

tinues very firm. Peas are scarce and in demand. Barley, rye and oats are rather dull.

Fruits.—A holiday demand has begun for fruits, which hold very steady at about the following quotations: Apples, barrel \$2.25 to \$3.50; grapes, Tokay, \$2.25 to \$2.50; do, Malaga, keg, \$6 to \$7; bananas, bunch, \$1.50 to \$2; lemons, box, \$2.75 to \$3.25; oranges, Jamaicaicas, barrel, \$4 to \$4.50; do, Florida, case, \$3 to \$3.50; do, navel, \$3.75 to \$4; do, Mexican, \$2.35 to \$2.50; grape fruit, \$4 to \$4.50; cranberries, barrel, \$12 to \$13; celery, dozen, 35c. to 40c.; tomatoes, 10-lb. basket, \$2.25 to \$2.50; sweet potatoes, barrel, \$3.25 to \$4; do, kiln dried, \$4.50 to \$5; onions, bag, \$1.15 to \$1.25; onions, case, \$3.

Groceries.—Sugars are firmer, and yellows have advanced 10c. per cwt. The movement is quite brisk. For canned goods of all kinds there is also a good business doing with prices in most lines very firm. In teas only a nominal trade is being done. Coffees, on the

other hand, are wanted more freely. Travellers' reports in the rural districts speak favorably of the prospects.

Provisions.—Dairy products remain firm, and good grades sell readily. Cheese is a trifle firmer. New-laid eggs are practically out of the market, though a few small lots continue to come into the city. Smoked meats are steady and meeting with a pretty good demand.

Live Stock.—Cattle at the markets this week, especially at the Junction yards, were in good demand, and exporters were too few for the demand. High-class butchers' animals for the Christmas trade were also wanted at good prices. They were fairly firm.

Wool.—Prices are but nominal, as really there is no business being done.

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