

dear, sales being reported of small and ordinary ones at from \$3 to \$5; fair to good qualities ranging as high as \$7 to \$10 each. A few small sheep were placed at from \$5 to \$5.50 each. A small lot of live hogs, were sold at \$7 per 100 lbs. Dressed hogs quiet, at \$8.75 to \$9 per 100 lbs.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—Since Monday last the English wheat markets have improved in tone and are decidedly firmer, though no activity has been noticeable. Beerbohm's London advices to-day report floating cargoes wheat and corn firmer, and wheat and corn on spot in Liverpool steady and firmly held. The Chicago wheat market has ruled about steady until yesterday and to day, when it has been steadily losing strength; it closed last night at a decline of 3c for April and of 1c for May and to-day a further drop of 1c for March and April delivery is advised. "The closing quotations will be found under the heading, American Markets," in another column. In this market there has been no business doing in either wheat or coarse grains all week, and values remain minimal and unchanged. In Flour, also, there has been nothing at all doing, beyond supplying the immediate wants of local consumption; and as stocks have been daily accumulating values are steadily weakening, and buyers continue to hold off for greater concessions. Stocks in store here have increased 8,324 barrels during the past fortnight, and show an increase of nearly 24,000 barrels, as compared with the like date last year, the figures being 67,540 barrels and 41,890 barrels, respectively.

FRUITS.—Trade quiet. Oranges have been arriving in a rotten condition, and importers are considerable losers; Valencia re-packed selling, \$7 to \$8 per case. Lemons in good demand, and a trifle higher; Palermos selling in cases at \$5.50 to \$6, and in boxes at \$5. Naples, chests worth \$6 to \$7. Apples: Good stock very firm, and readily commands \$4 per Baldwin's; \$3.50 for Greenings, and \$5 for Spies and Russets. Damaged stock, \$2 to \$3. Shipments from this city to Liverpool last week were 500 barrels. Dried and evaporated apples now offering at 7c to 8c per lb for the former, and 14c for the latter.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—There is little change to note in the condition of the local Butter market. There has been a fair local demand during the week for the best grades obtainable, and a number of lots of 20 to 30 packages each have been sold at 22c to 25c. Sales of rolls in brls and cases have been made at 13c to 22c, as to quality, while fine rolls in tubs have changed hands at 23c to 25c. Kamouraska also has been in fair request, at 16c to 17c, and with favorable weather this month the supply of Canadian butter is expected to be pretty well exhausted by the beginning of April. A few small lots of new butter—the first of the season—have been received, and are held at 30c. The Oleomargarine is said to be proving a formidable foe to genuine stock offering in New York. The season is nearly over for Cheese in this market, and there is little doing beyond the sale of a few small lots to grocers at 12½c to 13c for fine to choice qualities; these figures also represent the nominal quotations for round lot, but stocks held here will now likely be shipped to England to find a market. In New York, the Commercial Bulletin says, "there is a reasonable scarcity of fine goods, and for such holders are firm in asking full former rates. Beyond this, however, the tone appears slack, and there is not an outlet sufficient to exhaust much of a supply. Butter has been bought principally by the local trade, selecting the top of all grades, and while there is no heavy accumulation of stock, a great many parcels of quality just a little off" are on hand, for which holders would be well pleased to find customers. Cheese has been neglected by shippees, except on positive orders, and holders are still making consignments to reduce stock. The

home trade is not generally active, but small special selections and mail orders continue to be filled at extreme rates on the light amount of fancy quality left to select from.

DRY GOODS.—Some houses have been busier than others; a number of North-West buyers have been in the market selecting their Spring stocks, but no Western Ontario buyers have been down yet. A good many of the latter are expected here next week, judging from the number of applications for the single fare return tickets that have been received. Travelers are returning home from their first trip, to assist with the shipment of orders. Stocks are as well assorted now as they will be at any time during the season. Canadian cotton goods are still in active demand, and in short supply. City retailers report business fairly good, and are looking around the market for sorting-up parcels. Payments fair, the breaking-up of the country roads has retarded the movement of produce and made money somewhat tighter than it otherwise would have been.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There has been a moderate inquiry for goods in this line, with a considerably firmer tone in prices. Stocks are gradually getting smaller, and the high rates of freight prevents importations of the cheaper chemicals at present. The general feeling is that, notwithstanding the depression in the English Markets, the high rates of freight will prevent any decline in prices here. Quinine being now duty free has declined to \$2.75 to \$2.90. Oxalic Acid scarce, and advanced. Potass Iodide a little easier.

FISH.—Stocks of nearly all kinds are low, having been well cleared out at steady prices. The demand for Labrador Herrings for shipment to the Western States, referred to in our last report, has continued, and several carloads have been sold at \$6.25 to \$6.50. Cape Breton Herrings still very scarce; sales of small lots have occurred at \$6. The market, as previously stated, is almost bare of lake fish; Dry and Green Cod; quotations for these kinds therefore remain nominal, as previously quoted.

FRUITS.—Rates quoted from Montreal to Liverpool via Portland:—For heavy grain, 15s per qr of 480 lbs; flour, 25s for sacks and 34s 9d per brl; Ashes, port, 30s; pearls, 37s 6d; Butter and cheese, 45s per gross ton.

GROCERIES.—Teas:—The release of teas from bond and abolition of duty, the 10 per cent U. S. excepted, has caused an active movement, chiefly in distributing. The market is fairly active at figures for some grades above difference of duty. Desirable Teas are not in large supply. Sugars:—Steadiness, on about last week's basis prevails, with moderate demand. Molasses:—Barbadoes is not plenty, and is firm at previous advance. Syrups quite active, and very scarce at advance. Coffee:—Proportionate reduction of duty, prices are without special change. Rice dull. Spices, moderate business. Pepper is somewhat higher. Fruits:—Valencia fairly steady at last week's figures. Some exports to New York reported. Malaga fruit quiet. Currants dull. Sultanas not much wanted. Nuts and Almonds quiet.

HARDWARE AND IRON.—A fair business continues to be done in general hardware, orders for Spring shipment after the reduction in freights, expected to take place next month, being up to the average for the season; the volume of trade, however, has been curtailed this Winter by the bad country roads, which also interferes with collection. The wholesale trade here are naturally dissatisfied over the proposed changes in the tariff, which have unsettled the market for Tin, Zinc, and such

articles as have been removed from the 10 per cent duty list to the free list. Owing to increased wants of consumers, leading importers had been led to supply themselves with heavier stocks of raw material than usual, and some are of opinion that the Government should allow a refund on stocks in the hands of importers, equal to the amount of duty paid. The amendments as relate to this branch of trade, are held to be open to exception, as unnecessary, and as they will not become law until they have passed the House it has been suggested that the views of the trade be communicated to the Finance Minister. As customers are already asking for a reduction in prices of 10 per cent, some holders are reducing Tin Plates 25c per box all round, to work off their stocks. Tin is likewise slightly easier, while iron wire has been advanced 10c per bundle, and window glass is also advanced 10c per box, to cover the advance in duty.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The hide markets are, if anything, a shade stronger this week. The supply of native hides has been comparatively light, but prices remain unchanged, 8c being still paid to butchers for No. 1, and 9c to dealers for inspected. The percentage of grubs is reported not nearly so large as in former years, owing presumably to the mild weather. In Chicago also the supply is reported light; a few carloads of Western Buffalo hides have been sold by holders here at 94c for No. 1. Sheepskins in light supply, as usual during Lent, but offerings sufficient for the demand; fresh are still quoted at \$1.25 to \$1.35 each, while good salted skins bring about \$1 to \$1.20. Catskins beginning to come in, at 12c per lb.

LEATHER.—A limited quantity of leather has passed into the hands of cutters during the week, and some houses report trade fair, but no activity yet. There is practically no prime Sole leather in the market, although Slaughter continues in good demand, and with dry hides in New York reported still firmer. Spanish Sole rules quiet and firm here, for black leathers, the bottom may be said to be out of the market, in consequence of the over production; Upper and Splits very dull, with stocks quite excessive. A few small lots have been shipped to Liverpool, but that market is said to be dull, and affords little or no relief. Measured leather continues in moderate request, and trifling sales have occurred at slightly easier prices, though we cannot note any actual decline; there is no accumulation of these except in Quebec.

WOOL.—The market remains quiet and steady, with reported transactions in foreign wools during the week comprising 130 bales Greasy Cape and Australian on p.t.; the average range, however, is from 194c to 204c for Cape, and 224c to 244c for Australian. There is a nominal value for domestic pulled, ranging from 22c to 33c, as to quality, but manufacturers are buying slowly, and there is not much doing in this description. The London wool sales which opened on Tuesday last gave promise of a change for the better in the finer grades of foreign descriptions. The wool trade in England is considered in good condition. Of Australian wool, the imports into England in 1881 were 931,889 bales, and 863,816 bales in 1880. Of Cape wools, the imports were 194,133 bales last year, against 193,520 bales in 1880. The total domestic clip fell from 149,000,000 lbs. in 1880 to 139,000,000 lbs. in 1881, and a further decline is anticipated for this year.

LUMBER.—Not much doing in local trade; stocks of common lumber are pretty well assorted, as quantities have come down on the Q. M. O. & O. Railroad, the Co. having reduced the former high rates to a reasonable figure. Considerable hardwood would be brought from the West were it not for the excessive high freight rates from Toronto and West, especially if the unfortunate purchaser has to come over two roads. The extreme rates charged in Winter almost stop winter importations. The continued