

Dry Goods.—The recent atmospheric changes from mild to cold weather has had a wonderful effect on the retail department of this branch of trade, and most of the larger houses have been busy. Our wholesale friends having just got through stock taking and closing up business for 1881 are now seriously turning their attention to the Spring trade of 1882, and will within the next few weeks start their respective representatives on the road with samples. Remittances are only what might be called fair, not quite up to expectations, and this is to be accounted for by the absence of s now throughout the country, thereby preventing farmers from the interior getting forward with their produce and turning it into cash.

GROCERIES.—The want of Winter roads is badly felt in its effects on business as well as otherwise. **Sugars.**—Granulated unchanged and not active. Good Yellow Refined about 4th advanced. **Teas,** higher at place of growth for Japans of good quality, equal to about 2c the pound for good to fine qualities. U.S. markets improved also to some extent. Our proposed abolition of duties on Tea and Coffee continues to operate severely against business here. Pity the change intended should not at once be carried out and duty refunded on duty paid Teas. Some sales have been made, but of course in bond for any quantity. Prices are but little altered with us. **Chint Green and Black Teas** quiet. **Molasses** continues dull and rather easier. **Syrup** firm. **Coffees.**—Not much to report as to operations. **Rice** is also dull. **Spices.**—Pepper somewhat easier to arrive. **Pimento** dull. **Nutmegs** firm. **Fruits.**—Over the whole range since passing of holiday times there is an easier feeling. Business is light.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—The English wheat market has continued firm, corn quieter and a little off. The imports of wheat into the U. K. show a very considerable increase, being 365,000 qrs., more than double the amount of previous week; those of corn were 35,000 qrs. and of flour 135,000 barrels. The Western grain markets have fluctuated slightly, but remain without any marked change. In New York exporters have been buying moderately, chief business of a speculative character. On the local grain market values are higher; business quiet. A few transactions in our lots of No. 2 Red Winter at \$1.42 to \$1.46, and No. 2 Spring Wheat at \$1.42 to \$1.50, the latter figure for fine hard wheat. In coarse grains both oats and peas are rather firmer, a few car lots of each selling at 39c to 40c for the former, and 77½c to 79c per 60 lbs along the line for the latter. Stocks in store on the 1st inst. were: Wheat 118,662, Corn 59,115, Peas, 110,642, Oats 63,020, Barley, 22,955. Flour prices have had an upward tendency, but business has been small; coarse grades are nominal. Stocks in store show a decrease of 2,500 bbls during the past fortnight, now being 44,048 bbls against 41,625 bbls last year. The inspection returns for twelve months ended 31st December show that 253,752 bbls were inspected out of a total receipt of 873,498 bbls. The quantity of the various grades was as follows:

Superior Extra,.....	140,470 bbls
Extra Superfine,.....	1,527 "
Fancy,.....	4,252 "
Spring Extra,.....	43,792 "
Superfine,.....	17,486 "
Fine,.....	9,096 "
Middlings,.....	6,614 "
Pollards,.....	1,373 "
Strong Bakers,.....	1,382 "
Rejected, etc.,.....	10,800 "

Total,.....253,752 bbls.

FRUITS.—With a cessation of the brisk demand caused by the holidays prices of Valencia oranges have dropped, but supply is light, owing to small importations, and they are selling at \$6.00 per case. *Lemons* steady at \$6 to \$7.00 per case, and *Malagas* \$3.00 per

box. *Apples.* Values are fully maintained; cable from Liverpool reports them rather firmer with good demand, at 25s to 26s. Sales have been made here at \$3.50 to \$4.50 for good average, with a round lot at outside figure. *Cranberries* are not to be had except a few frosted at \$7 to \$10 per bbl.

FURS.—The wholesale trade report having closed up a satisfactory business, except as regards a difficulty in filling orders promptly owing to scarcity of skilled labor. In Raw furs prices remain unchanged and arrivals continue small.

HARDWARE AND IRON.—The Iron market has seldom held such a firm position as at present, and there is every indication at the moment of its being maintained. Immense as the production has been during the past twelve months, the consumptive requirements of the world have shown so great an increase that no serious accumulation of supplies has taken place in any of the principal centres of production. The market here during the past six months has been characterized by a steady advance in both pig and manufactured iron, and the new year commences with the price of pig iron \$4.50 to \$5.00 per ton higher than at this date last year. During the past week business has been limited by the paucity of spot supplies, and those who have been compelled to order from the other side of present rates of winter freights have had to pay high figures, the sale being reported of a round lot of Eglington for Feb. shipment at \$24 at four months. Some holders are asking \$26 for their No. 1 brands of Scotch pig iron, but others who have less confidence in the market ahead are offering similar brands at \$1 to \$2 per ton less. Siemens pig is still offered at the old figure, \$24, and therefore has the advantage over the imported article. Bar iron has been advanced 25c per 100 lbs., Staffordshire Crown and equal brands being now quoted at \$2.25, with business reported at the advance, a lot of 150 tons of Staffordshire having changed hands at \$2.25. Late advices from England report makers very busy, with full orders for two and three months ahead, which renders it extremely improbable that any reduction will come from that quarter for some time to come. Scotch warrants are cabled at 51s. In Canada plates nothing of importance has transpired since our last report, the season being now over. Tin plates continue to command the attention of buyers, and we hear of sales of round quantities of charcoal at \$4 and of coke at \$5.25. The firm feeling previously noticed in ingot copper is still a prominent feature of the market, and buyers are compelled to come up in their bids, in order to secure goods, sales having occurred at 20½c to 21c for good sized lots as to brand. Ingot tin rules firm also, at 29c to 30c. The general hardware trade occupies a very healthy position in sympathy with the strength developed in the raw material, imparting to values a strong upward tendency, especially in the heavier kinds of ware. At a meeting of many of the principal iron merchants of the city last Friday, among other things it was resolved to advance the prices of bar and other wrought iron 25 cents per 100 lbs in accordance with the general advance in Great Britain and the United States. The regulations as to discounts and length of credits are timely, and will be to the advantage of the legitimate retailer as well of the wholesale trade. Besides the reduction agreed upon in cash discounts, it was decided that sellers should pay only one half of one per cent. upon brokers' sales; the broker will probably look to the customer for the other half of the usual commission. The following were the terms adopted in the reduction of cash discounts:— "On goods sold at six months, four per cent. if paid within fifteen days of date of invoice. On goods sold at four months, three per cent. if paid within fifteen days of date of invoice. When paid after the expiry of fifteen days, discount for unexpired time will be allowed at the rate of seven per cent. per annum." The nail manufacturers have advanced prices

another step, but this, in view of the advance in price of their raw material, goes but a very little way towards a fair paying price. The recent destruction of the Nail works of the Montreal Rolling Mills Co. will have little or no effect upon prices, as they held a large stock, none of which was injured, and the premises are being rapidly rebuilt. It will be observed that there is a tendency to abolish the heavy discounts that have characterized the nail trade. This will account for the apparent drop in tobacco box nails, as shown by our prices current. See explanation of brands elsewhere.

HIDES AND SKINS.—There is no change to note from last week, factories doing nothing, having been closed nearly all the week. The season for *Skins* is over, values are quoted unchanged.

LEATHER.—Dealers say that they have nothing to report last week, owing to holidays having been the quietest of the year. Stocks are liberal and prices steady.

PROVISIONS.—Pork has ruled steady in the West, here it is nominally unchanged; business light, without the usual local trade, owing to bad roads from absence of snow. New mess quoted at \$21.00, no Thin Mess on the market. Lard quiet, jobbing trade in Canadian mills at 14c to 14½c and 15c for Chicago. Dressed Hogs still come in sparingly, but if the present cold weather continues heavier arrivals may be looked for, though it is stated the crop this season is not large.

WOOL.—Cape and Australian are quoted firm but without sales. American market stronger. Native Wool, in the absence of business quotations, are unaltered.

MARITIME MARKETS.

HALIFAX, N.S., Jan. 5, 1882.

The weather is cool and dry. In business there is absolutely little or nothing doing, and prices are purely nominal. Some few parcels of flour have changed hands or bought to fill orders but at cost and less than cost. We quote: Patents nominally unchanged, but no demand. Superior Extras at \$6.50, other grades not wanted. Oatmeal nominally unchanged at \$5.55; and Cornmeal \$3.85, three months. P. E. Island oats are jobbing at 44c per 34 pounds. Potatoes quiet at 50c to 55c per 60 lbs, and Butter dull at 14c to 19c as to quality. Fish, but little doing, excepting in way of export to West Indies and Brazil, mostly from stocks in warehouse; large Cod may be quoted at \$5 to \$5.25 per quintal; Shore Herrings \$4.50 for No. 1, and Labrador very scarce at \$5.70.

AMERICAN MARKETS.

Boston, Jan. 5.—**Flour.**—There has been no improvement in the market, trade only purchasing as wanted. The sales of Superfine have been at \$4.50 to \$5, and Extras \$5.50 to \$7.50, including choice Bakers brands. Winter Wheat \$6.50 to \$7.75 per bbl.; Spring Wheat Patent \$7.50 to \$8.50. Cornmeal quoted at \$3.20 to \$3.30; Rye flour \$5.50 to \$5.75, and Oatmeal \$6.75 to \$7.75 per bbl. **Grain.**—There is moderate demand for Corn, and prices remain about same. Sales of No. 2 and high mixed at 73c to 74½c, and steamer 71c to 72c per bushel. Oats in moderate demand at 55c to 56c per bushel. Rye selling at \$1 per bushel. Barley quiet and unchanged. **Hay.**—Market well supplied, and prices favored buyers; we quote choice at \$20 to \$21, and ordinary \$11 to \$15 per ton. **Produce.**—No change in butter, all choice grades held with firmness and in good demand, other kinds moderate request. We quote prices at 35c to 40c choice, 25c to 34c fair and good. Cheese, firm and steady demand at 13c to 13½ choice, 9c to 11c good. Eggs easier, with Canada and P.E.I. at 27c to 28c per doz. Canadian peas steady and remain unchanged. Potatoes