

tempted in a week or two; whether it will succeed it is impossible to say, but it certainly can only be a wise precaution for people who have not done so to secure their future supplies at current rates.

GROCERIES.—We hear of few quotable changes, but there has been a steady improvement in most of the leading lines this week. Sugars are firm and in good demand, though there is no change in the general situation. Cheap and medium goods of Japan teas are in active and increasing demand. There has been a rather better enquiry lately for canned goods, especially salmon. A cargo of Sultana raisins has been received to-day. Sultanas and Valencias are being received freely, and a drop in prices will probably occur

in a few days. Values generally are entirely unchanged. Prospects are good and payments are improving.

HARDWARE.—Business is tolerably good in the city, and totalling up to a very fair aggregate as far as the country trade is concerned. Orders for fall and winter specialties are coming freely to hand. Prices remain unchanged and the outlook is good. Payments are somewhat better.

HIDES, SKINS, ETC.—Trade has been rather quiet. There has been a fair supply of green hides sold at previous prices; very little doing

in cured, a few small lots sold at 5½c. Calfskins are unchanged; neither cured nor green are wanted. Sheepskins are steady at last week's prices of 55 and 60c. for the best green; dry have sold down to 40c.; the supply is moderate.

LEATHER.—A steady supply and gradually increasing business is going on, but there is no special feature, nor have we any changes of any importance to report. Stocks generally are sufficient, but by no means large. Payments are better and the outlook is good.

LIVE STOCK.—The slightly better feeling we were able to announce last week in the live stock trade was of very brief duration; it was scarcely felt before a glut of supplies at the western cattle yards again demoralized the business all round. The export trade has quite suddenly fallen off, and nothing here for shipment will fetch over 4c. per pound; the British markets are reported again weak. Stockers are selling freely at from 3½ to 3¾c. per pound. Butchers' cattle are only in moderate supply, but of such poor quality that prices cannot be expected to advance; good butchers' cattle are wanted; prices are about unchanged. Sheep are dull. Lambs are plentiful, and owing to a good local enquiry are selling pretty freely, but prices are fairly steady at recent quotations, though early in the week they did harden somewhat. Calves are wanted if of good quality. For milkers and springers there is a better demand. Hogs are plentiful and easy at 5c. for the best. Prospects are very discouraging, and drovers should hold back their stock at present, as prices are entirely in the hands of the buyers.

PAINTS AND OILS.—Since our last report there has been a decided advance in business, and we are now experiencing a brisk movement. Prices are steady but unchanged, and the prospects are good.

PROVISIONS.—A fairly good trade can be reported this week. Butter has been rather scarce and steady at 18 to 19c. per pound for the best, with large quantities of very good selling at 17 and 18c.; creamery, 20 and 23c.; medium, 14 and 15c. Eggs have been rather scarce and all offerings have sold well at steady prices, 14 and 15c. for car lots; street receipts light and fresh sell at 15 to 16c. Cheese is steady and sold readily in small lots at about 10½c., with inferior at 9 and 9½c. Pork is quiet and prices easy at \$14 to 14.50 for small lots of mess pork. Stocks of bacon are low

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