

say that about 8c. must be the standard price in the country markets during the coming week.

**DRY GOODS.**—Although for some time the wholesale houses have not been pressed with trade, the movement has not been quite as slow as during the present and past weeks. In the city retail circles a fair amount of business has been done, but in the country trade is a little slack and must remain so until the pressure of farm work is over. The manufacturers' agents are finishing up their fall campaign in woollens, and have received the initial orders from clothiers for the spring of 1899 for tweeds. It is now more than a rumor that the Klondyke supply business is very flat. In blankets there has been a wonderful increase in production for this trade within the past several months, and we are told North-West Canadian houses are over-stocked with these goods. Values of staple goods remain without alteration.

**GRAIN.**—The wheat market has shown a strong element of uncertainty and prices of Ontario wheat are 1 to 2c. per bushel lower, while Manitoba has declined 5c. per bushel. The bear element is more in the prospects of larger crops in the coming season than any falling off in consumption. In most cases in Ontario, the crop came out in the spring in about the same condition as it entered the winter. Little harm appears to have been done by insects, wire worm being reported in a few cases. The first two weeks of April were far more favorable for the crop, and although rains later helped the plant, it is hardly in as forward a position as usual. Where sown early on summer fallow, fall wheat has never been more promising. In several of the western and central counties some ploughing up has been done, but not to any considerable extent. The present acreage of the crop, therefore, may be set down as quite up to the average, and the average condition in May is fair. The monthly statement of the United States Government shows the world's wheat crop of 1897 smaller than since 1890, and the crop of the United States larger than since 1891, and the average price the highest since 1883, except in 1888, 1890, and 1891, while the average rail rate freight from Chicago to New York has fallen in same period from 16 5-10c. to 12-32c. It estimates wheat in farmers' hands, United States, March 1st, 1898, 121,000,000 bushels, against 88 millions last year and 75 millions in 1895. The barley trade is dull. Oats are firm and unchanged. Peas are weaker, having declined 1 to 2c. per bushel. Rye and corn remain nominal.

**GREEN FRUITS.**—The weather has been rather colder than the fruit trade desired for this week, but in spite of the unfavorable conditions a fair amount of business has been done. The demand from the country, in preparation for the Queen's Birthday celebration, on May 24th, has been unusually large this year. The Wednesday auctions of the Toronto Fruit Auction Company were very successful this week and well attended. For oranges there was good demand but small sizes were not wanted. We quote: Mediterranean sweets, fancy, 126s, 150s, 176s, 200s, 216s, \$3 to \$3.25 per box; ditto 250s, 300s, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per box; California seedlings, 126s, 150s, 176s, 200s, 216s, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per box; ditto, 250s, 228s, 300s, 360s, \$2 to \$2.25 per box. The quality of the lemons sold here on Wednesday was good and consisted, in the main, of Fremona stock. We quote: New Messina, fancy, 300s, 360s, November cuts, \$3 to \$3.50; ditto, choice, 300s, 360s, \$2.50 to \$2.75. The last large import fruit sale of the season was held by the Montreal Fruit Auction Co. last Saturday. The fruit offered was steamships "Truma" and "Bellona" and consisted of 14,000 boxes of lemons and oranges. The attendance of buyers was large and the bidding throughout was brisk. The condition of the fruit was good, and considering the large quantity put up by auction this season here, the

prices realized all round were satisfactory, they being in many cases higher than those ruling the American markets. Lemons sold at from 90c. to \$2.65 per box, as to quality and condition. Oranges in boxes brought \$2 to \$2.60 and in half boxes 90c. to \$2.30. Bananas are selling well and the consumption is increasing, but warm weather is badly needed. Pineapples are in rather scarce supply but prices are low. Strawberries are coming forward more freely and show improved quality.

**GROCERIES.**—There is no activity in trade, and reports from country merchants show that the only commodity in request is seed. The influence of the war on imported commodities is shown in stiffer values, and all such articles are firm in value if not held at higher prices. Dried fruits, other than table varieties, are scarce, and prices are firm. We quote: California prunes, 50—60, per lb., 7c.; 40—50, per lb., 7½c. The Greek currant market, by recent advices, advanced on Continental buying; and as the Continental markets are carrying extremely light stocks, they will probably have to buy heavily during the next few months, and stocks in Greece being so light, and that market very sensitive, it would no doubt advance further should any more orders be put forward from the principal consuming countries. It is probable that the remaining stock in Greece will finally be taken by the Continental countries and England, as statistically America has just about enough to last her until the new crop. Cables from Malaga state there is nothing there in the way of Jordan shelled almonds to offer for prompt shipment. The local sugar market has shown no change in values but holds firm at former quotations. There is nothing new in teas and the situation is rather uninteresting. Manufacturers of starch say that the trade need not be surprised if another advance in price lists is made soon, but nothing definite is announced. The same may be said of tobaccos, which some houses report to be about to advance in price.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—The hide market is firm. Merchants are paying 8c. to butchers, and asking 8¾ to 9c. for No. 1 Toronto inspected cured cow hides. We have heard of no sales at the latter figure but believe that choice hides would bring that figure. In Chicago, according to recent report, dated May 18th, the tendency of prices in the market for packer hides continued to be towards a higher basis. The demand for hides was moderately active, although the purchases made were generally of small lots, as tanners were confining their takings to only such supplies as were needed to meet current wants, the extreme figures now ruling serving to hold the demand in check. There were rumors of sales of native steers, late April take off, at 12¼c. and do. May take off at 12½c., but particulars could not be obtained. The close was firm, with native steers at 12 to 12½c.; Texas at 11¾ to 12c.; butt brands at 10¾ to 11c.; branded cows at 10¼ to 10½c.; Colorados at 9¾ to 10c.; heavy native cows at 11¼ to 11½c., and light do. at 11¾ to 12c.

**PROVISIONS.**—Goods are firm and merchants are asking ¼ to ½c. per lb. over last week's quotations. Long clear bacon is strong at 8¾c. per lb., and all other meats show a decided improvement. The war markets of the United States are responsible for a part of the strength and the advance in quotations there has prevented American packers from competing strongly in Canadian North-west markets.

**WOOL.**—A few lots of new fleece wool, washed and unwashed, are coming into this market, but deliveries are limited and prices continue unchanged. We elsewhere review the situation at length. Advances of the London auction, dated 16th inst., contain the following: "A good selection of greasy, which was eagerly competed for, the Continental buyers

securing the bulk at top prices. Heavy New South Wales and Melbourne ruled easier. Punta Arenas of good quality was firm, while inferior ruled irregular at a farthing decline."

## MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, May 18th, 1898.

**ASHES.**—The ashes market shows neither improvement in demand, nor increase of receipts, and local trading is of a very light character. Quotations are more or less nominal at \$3.40 to \$3.50 for first quality of pots, seconds \$3.15 to \$3.20 and pearls about \$4.75 per cental.

**CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.**—Receipts of cement since last writing have been large, the figures being 1,900 brls. of English, and 30,512 brls. of Belgian, the latter being largely on account of the large government contracts, for use on the Soulanges canal, and which were reported on in these columns some weeks ago. The demand continues good, and prices steady at \$1.80 to \$1.95 for Belgian, and \$2.20 to \$2.30 for English. Receipts of firebricks, 5,000; prices range from \$16 to \$21.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—Receipts of cheese here are increasing a little, but the make so far, it appears, is considerably behind this time a year ago. It is said that the cows are later than usual in coming in this spring. The small receipts of French country cheese on Monday, realized about 7¾c.; the general idea as regards the price of Western is from 8 to 8¼c. In the butter market there is rather an easier feeling, though receipts are not particularly large. For creamery the quotation is 16½ to 17c. Township's dairy 15 to 15½c., dairy rolls 13 to 15c. as to quality.

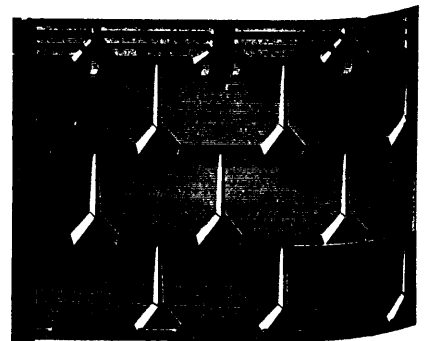
**DRY GOODS.**—Up to to-day the weather has been somewhat cool, and quite a few city retailers report finding their sales of summer goods affected, more or less, in consequence. There are now indications, however, of a more seasonable temperature. Moderate sorting business, from the country, is reported, though some dealers are deferring orders to secure fall dating, which goes into effect June 1st. Collections are well kept up. With regard to values of textiles nothing new is heard from either home or foreign sources.

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