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ult. were a fraction under the first quarter of 1887, but for the last few days receipts have been very liberal.

CEMENTS, FIRECLAY, &c.—There is a little more doing, but business is not at all lively. Portland cement is selling at \$2.50 to 2.75 for round lots, \$3.00 by the single barrel; Roman, \$2.75; Canadian, \$1.75; fireclay, \$2.00 a bag; firebricks, \$20.00 to 25.00 per 1,000 as to brand.

DRY GOODS.—A quiet tone still pervades the wholesale trade; some travellers are just getting out upon the road for the sorting trip, but others will remain home a fortnight longer, as the impression prevails with a good many houses that country stocks are still unbroken to any great extent. This is pretty true of Eastern sections we have no doubt, but from Western points, such as Brantford, Guelph, London, there are reports of fair sales, and letter orders from that section of Ontario would indicate some necessity for sorting up. City retail trade is fair, but a more decided degree of warmth in the air is needed to make trade brisk. Payments show some improvement we are glad to say, and money for 4th April payments has been coming in more freely than was almost expected, but at moment of writing full information is not available as to how paper maturing to-day was provided for. There is nothing new to be said as regards prices.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—A fair jobbing trade continues. Glycerine is very scarce on spot, one house controlling the supply just now; bleaching powder also in very light supply; quinine still flat and dull; opium has suffered further decline, also morphia, and we revise quotations; borax also is lower. We quote:—Sal soda, \$1.00 to 1.05; bi-carb soda, \$2.25 to 2.50; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.70 to \$0.08 bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 9½ to 10½c.; cream tartar crystals, 34 to 36c.; do. ground, 36 to 38c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 54 to 55c.; do. powder, 55 to 60c.; citric acid, 75 to 80c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.40 to 2.60; sugar of lead, 10 to 11c.; bleaching powder, \$2.50 to 2.60; alum, \$1.65 to 1.70; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.60 to 2.75; roll sulphur, \$2.00 to 2.25; sulphate of copper, \$6.00 to 6.50; epsom salts, \$1.25 to 1.40; saltpetre \$8.75 to 9.25; American quinine, 60 to 65c.; German quinine, 55 to 65c.; Howard's quinine, 65 to 75c.; opium, \$4.50 to 5.00; morphia, \$2.25 to 2.50; gum arabic, sorts, 80 to 90c.; white, \$1.00 to \$1.25; carbolic acid, 55 to 65c.; iodide potassium, \$4.00 to 4.25 per lb.; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; iodoform, \$5.75

to 6.25. Prices for essential oils are:—oil lemon, \$2.00 to 2.50; oil bergamot, \$3.00 to 3.50; orange, \$2.75 to 3.00; oil peppermint, \$3.50 to 4.50; glycerine, 25 to 35c.; senna, 15 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 45 to 50c.; American do., 37 to 40c.; insect powder, 70 to 90c.

FURS.—Raw furs are offering fairly. Fuller reports of the late London sales confirm first reports of a severe falling off in prices, ranging from 15 to 40 per cent. The decline was almost universal, and such a general falling off in values has not been known for a great many years. About the only exceptions were beaver which unexpectedly held its own, and red fox which showed a slight advance. The collection offered was a very fair one, the attendance was good, and there was an entire absence of speculative tendencies on the part of buyers, such as marked the sales of two years ago. We quote for prime skins:—Beaver, \$3 50 to 4.00; bear, \$10.00 to 12.00; cub ditto, \$4.00 to 5.00; fisher, \$5.00; red fox, \$1.00 to 1.25; cross ditto, \$2.00 to 3.00; lynx, \$2.00 to \$2.50; marten, 65 to 80c.; mink, 50 to 75c.; fall muskrat, 8c.; winter muskrat, 12c.; spring, 15c.; raccoon, 25, 50 and 75c.; skunk, 25, 50 and 75c.; otter, \$8.00 to 10.00.

GROCERIES.—Trade in wholesale quarters is of rather a quiet character, the break-up of the roads in the country affecting orders materially. As regards payments, a fair proportion of renewals are being asked for. Sugars are a shade easier; granulated being 6½c. at refinery, or from 7½c. to jobbing trade; there is some scarcity of yellows, the lowest at factory being 5½c., and ranging up to 6½c.; grocery raws are moving fairly at 5½c. There is great scarcity of Barbadoes molasses, which is firm at 40 to 41c.; syrups still unobtainable. Teas are not moving at all freely just now, but are fairly steady. Reports from London show a plethora of low priced blacks, there being in stock some 91 million pounds of blacks ranging from 7 pence downwards, while finer grades are comparatively scarce. Much about the same state of affairs exists in Japanese in American markets. Coffees still unsettled and tending to lower values. Dried fruits in very light demand. Valencia raisins are locally scarce and firm, one to two shillings higher in London, in New York a quarter cent higher. Currants also very scarce, but there will be some fresh supplies in on opening of navigation, 6½c. is lowest figure now. No Elemé raisins offering this year at all. Rice \$3.60 to 3.70; the mill people will not make any further contracts just now, and unless they can secure another cargo, of which there seems some doubt, there will be a considerable scarcity before next crop. Spices show little change; black pepper 15½ to 17c. according to percentage of dust, white 26½ to 29c.; cloves, 26 to 30c.; nutmegs, 35 to 80c. Tobaccos as before. For canned salmon there is a better demand, price still \$1.65 to 1.75, in spite of fact that contracts are being made for new pack at \$1.00 a case advance on last year. Would-be canners of tomatoes find that supplies are much larger than they imagine and would like to unload, we quote now at \$1.10 to 1.25 as to brand. Lobsters are being bought in this market on American account to go to the Pacific coast.

LEATHER AND SHOES.—The month has opened rather better, the local market showing a little improvement in the demand; the English market also shows some strengthening, and shipments of coarse leather are going forward more freely from Quebec and the west. We revise prices of sole, which is easier; splits are perhaps a little more firmly held, as there is not the same quantity coming to this market as there was. There have been failures of four or five smaller tanners consequent on the failure of Germain & Frere, Quebec, recently noted; these, it is understood, will be closed out, and will afford some relief to the trade. Shoe manufacturers are busy preparing fall samples. We quote:—Spanish sole, B. A., No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, B. A., 19 to 20c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 18 to 19c.; No. 1 China, 20 to 21c.; No. 2, 17 to 18c.; hemlock slaughter, No. 1, 23 to 26c.; oak sole, 40 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 33 to 37c.; ditto, heavy, 31 to 35c.; grained, 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained, 36 to 40c.; splits, large, 16 to 26c.; do., small, 12 to 18c.; calf-splits, 32 to 33c.; calfskins (35 to 46 lbs.), 55 to 70c.; imitation French calfskins, 75 to 85c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; harness, 24 to 33c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.;