

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, Dec. 24th, 1896.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The receipts of large rolls have not been as liberal this week as usual. There has been, however, an accumulation of stock, and jobbers are working hard to reduce it. Values are unchanged. Plentiful supplies of winter creamery are coming forward; surplus stocks are being exported. We quote: dairy, large rolls, 12½ to 13½c.; pound prints, 14 to 15c.; tubs, 12 to 13c.; inferior grades, 8 to 10c.; creamery, prints, 19 to 20c.; tubs, 18 to 19c. Trade in cheese has been very quiet. There is no export demand, with British advices indicating a quiet market and easier tendency. The local trade is light. Values are unaltered. In eggs the local trade continues fairly active; by way of export a marked improvement is taking place. Stocks in Toronto are apparently light, and there is every prospect of prices being maintained. If the demand from the export trade continues strong, values may go higher.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.—Receipts of dressed hogs during the week have been very liberal. Prices are well maintained and are above packers' ideas. Growers are asking relatively more for heavy dressed hogs than for heavy live hogs. The weather has been favorable to shippers as to packers. But the opinions of buyers as to values are not likely to encourage free transactions. Trade in provisions for the Christmas week has been active, but as usual is made up of small orders. However, the heavier class, such as barreled pork and bacon, have been slow. There is no activity in lard, while prices continue unaltered. In Chicago provisions have been very quiet, both in the speculative lines and on the spot, the past week, with very little change in the value of the former, while the latter generally have declined, except on the speculative articles, which have been held up by the futures, and they in turn have been held up by the continued light receipts of hogs and the steady demand from the packers both for hogs and products to cover their heavy January short sales.

DRUGS.—Business during the past week has been good. The movement has, however, been principally in small wares and sundries. As usual at this season of the year, every order requests immediate attention and express parcels are the order of the day. Only a quiet trade has been done in heavy goods, but the volume of movement is fully up to the season's requirements. Quinine is depressed and values have lower tendencies. The reports of increased production, although possibly exaggerated, appear to be well founded, and the bear element, at the moment, has the upper hand. Opium continues quiet, with easy tendencies; in New York, for single case lots, \$2.20 is quoted. Castor oil is firm. Glycerine remains strong, with prices tending upward. Cream tartar was advanced 1c. per lb. by American grinders on the 19th inst. Remittances are slow.

DRY GOODS.—The month of December has given as favorable results as are usually shown in the last month of the year. The mild weather in the first week of the month prevented stocks from being broken, but there has recently been some improvement in the movement of heavy goods. Spring prospects are now the subject of conversation in the trade. Travellers have been in the spring campaign since October, and have covered a great deal of territory; the orders received and reports made as to trade conditions are very encouraging. Values remain steady. The raw cotton market has been subjected to speculative influences, as a result of the possible interference of the United States in the Cuban matter. Wool remains dull and unchanged.

GRAIN.—The markets, as to values, are in about the same position as reported last week. Manitoba hard wheat has advanced 1 to 2c. per bushel; but other grains remain unchanged. Deliveries are light. Farmers complain of the low prices of coarse grains, and do not feel disposed to offer supplies at prevailing quotations. It is the general opinion that in the country wheat will advance after the holidays, and the statistical position certainly shows considerable strength. In another column we refer to the situation at greater length. Barley remains dull; American brewers are making few enquiries in this market. Rye remains steady at 34 to 35c. per bushel; trade is quiet. The export enquiry for peas continues good, and the feeling in the market is slightly firmer, but quotations are unaltered. Corn is dull.

The buckwheat market shows little evidence of life.

GROCERIES.—The Christmas trade is over and has given fairly good results. Stocks were ample to meet all demands, although some lines of nuts were scarce. Coffees remain without change. Sugars are dull and trade is quiet. Reports from New Orleans are firm in regard to molasses, and indicate a scarcity of choice stock at primary points; advances recently made are well maintained. There is little that is interesting to report of teas. Shipments of young hysons, ex-steamer "Empress of India," are expected here in a week or ten days' time. There are some stocks of excellent French prunes in the market, ranging in value from 12 to 18c.

HIDES AND SKINS.—At the close of last week the market was depressed and prices slightly easier, but there is a better feeling at present and values show some recovery. The last sales of which we heard were made at 7½c., but appearances indicate that No. 1 Toronto inspected could now be sold at 7½c. The butchers are being paid 6½c. for green cow hides and 7c. for heavy steers. The quality of offerings shows the usual deterioration at this season of the year. Deliveries have been larger this week, as a result of the Christmas trade in meats and increased kill. In American markets the United States Leather Company has been a buyer of hides, but as the prices it names have averaged ¼c. to 1c. per lb. below sellers' ideas, they have not succeeded in obtaining extensive supplies. These purchases have been limited to a few straggling lots, which importers have not cared to hold. At the West fairly large sales were reported in Chicago early in the week, but since trade has been quiet. Packers, however, have appeared to be fairly well sold up, and have held prices steady.

LEATHER.—The trade is now "between seasons" and the movement is limited. November and December are, as a rule, quiet months, but during the past four weeks and last month tanners have had little cause for complaint. The export trade has proved a special source of profit. The situation is much brighter than it was a year ago. At the close of the year 1895 there were considerable surplus stocks in warehouses. These have been exhausted and a large part of the year's output sold. There are no excessive stocks on hand with which to begin the new year, although supplies are quite ample for all probable requirements. No special activity is looked for until the middle of January, and it will be well into February before the consumptive demand becomes urgent.

WOOL.—The situation has not developed anything new this week. The season's trade in fleece wool is over, and as there are only nominal supplies held here, there is no active interest in the market. Some ten days ago a number of enquiries were received from the United States for lustre wools, but the demand is now less active and prices slightly weaker. In reviewing the sixth series of London wool sales, Messrs Helmut, Schwartz & Co. say: Owing to the decrease in the production and partly also to the lighter stocks in the beginning of the year, the total deliveries to the trade fall short of those of 1895 by 179,000 bales, the deficit being distributed as follows: 73,000 bales less for home consumption, 32,000 bales less to the Continent and 74,000 bales less to America. The total season's imports into Europe and North America of Colonial and River Plate wool is 2,681,000 bales against 2,783,000 bales in 1895, an aggregate decrease of 102,000 bales, or a little over 3½ per cent. The first two series for next year have been fixed to commence on Tuesday, the 19th January, the list to be closed on the 16th January, and Tuesday, the 9th March.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 23rd Dec., 1896.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Most houses continue to report that orders are coming in this month much better than is usual at this season. The factories, however, are but light buyers of leather, being apparently not quite satisfied with the state of business.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—For October make of cheese there is rather a better demand, at figures ranging from 9½ to 9¾c., but the finer September goods are not at all in request. For butter there is only the ordinary local jobbing demand at about 18 to 18½c. for fine creamery. Boiling eggs are in good demand, and are quoted at 22c.; limed stock is in fair request, at 14 to 15c.

FURS.—Receipts of pelts are fair for the season, including a good many skunks, of which there is already an over-stock; there are also fair quantities of rats, fox and mink, with a moderate sprinkling of marten, and a few fisher, but few bear are offering and the demand for them is small. The killing of beaver is prohibited by law until 1899, but we fear a few of these skins are still finding their way to market, and being bought by dealers who should have more regard for the law. Under the circumstances, we withdraw quotations of beaver. The following quotations we give, it should be understood, are for prime skins: Black bear, choice only, \$15 to 20; cubs and yearlings, \$1 to 5; fisher, \$5 to 7.50 as to color; red fox, \$1.20 to 1.50; cross do. \$4 to 10, depending on size and beauty; silver do., \$20 to 50; lynx, \$1.50 to \$2; marten, \$1.50 to 2.25; mink, \$1 to 1.50; muskrat, winter, 10 to 13c.; fall, 6 to 9c.; coon, 60c. to \$1; black, do., \$1.75 to 2.25; skunk, black, 75 to 90c.; short stripe, 50 to 60c.; long stripe, 20 to 30c.; white, 05 to 15c.

GROCERIES.—For the season of the year, a fair jobbing demand is reported. The bulk of the raisin business has been done, but there is not expected to be any sag in prices, as the market is comparatively bare, jobbers' stocks even being small; all the best lines of Malaga table fruit are said to be well sold out, as well as Valencias. None of the Malaga loose muscatels, in 50-lb. boxes, to compete with the California goods, are yet to hand, and they will be altogether too late for the holiday trade; jobbing price, to arrive, is 6½c., and they will probably grade between 2 and 3-crown Californias. Austrian and Bosnian prunes are quoted high, so high that some jobbers are not ordering; they may be easier after the New Year. Dates are again rather scarce and steady at about 6c. Shelled walnuts are now in fair supply, and are quoted at 18c. in a jobbing way; new filberts still scarce. Teas are momentarily quiet, though one or two brokers report moderate sales; there is no weakness to prices, and there would be considerable difficulty experienced in getting any medium grade Japans below 15c. Coffees are steady at 15½ to 17c. for Rio; for Java, 24 to 28c.; Mocha, 23 to 27c.; Maracaibo, 17 to 18c. Sugars are dull, and factory prices remain unchanged at 3½ to 4c. per lb. for granulated, and 3½ to 3¾c. for yellows. Molasses has been moving rather more freely at 28 to 28½c., in lots, for Barbadoes. Canned peaches are notably advanced, 2-lbs. jobbing now at \$2, and 3-lbs. at \$3; the strong advance in tomatoes and peas is also firmly advanced.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—The Chicago market is reported again stronger a point or two, with No. 1 buff quoted at 8c., but in the local market there is no change of any kind, and the demand is not equal to receipts. Dealers are paying for No. 1 beef hides 7c. per lb.; sheepskins, 75c. each; calfskins, 6c. and 4c. per lb. for Nos. 1 and 2 respectively. Tallow dull at 1½ to 1¾c. for rough, and 3 to 3½c. for rendered per pound.

LEATHER.—The shoe houses are still very light buyers of leather, and no transactions worth speaking of are reported. Receipts of leather here are light, and letters from tanners claim that values will not recede in the near future. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 22 to 23c.; do. No. 2, 21c. to 22c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 25c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; common, 17 to 18c.; waxed upper light and medium, 26 to 29c.; do. heavy, 24 to 27c.; grained, 25 to 30c.; Scotch grained, 25 to 30c.; western splits, 20 to 25c.; Quebec do., 15 to 17c.; juniors, 13 to 15c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 22c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 14c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 11 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 11 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—A holiday dullness reigns in these lines, and we do not hear of a noteworthy transaction. General prices are without variation; the only thing reported of in this way being an advance of 50 to 60c. a dozen on cheap lines of shovels and spades, owing to some trade complications on the other side of the line. English advices speak of a healthy market there, with firmness in all descriptions of goods. We quote:—Summerlee pig iron, \$20.00 to 20.50, ex-store; Carron, \$19.50; Ayrshire,