

Toronto Markets.

Brans worth \$14 on track here, and shorts, \$15 to \$16.

Wheat—Was quiet, but steadier. Offerings were light. Odd cars of straight white sold at 85c on the Northern, and more white and red offered at that price. Manitoba wheat steadily held. On call \$1.08 was bid for No. 1 hard North Bay, but there is apparently none there. There were sellers at \$1.08 to arrive, with \$1.05 bid. No. 2 hard sold at 99c North Bay. On call sellers asked 93c, and 97c was bid. No. 3 hard sold at 89c, to arrive North Bay. No. 1 northern was wanted at 97c to arrive first half next month. No. 2 northern offered at 92c Point Edward grinding in transit now on route. No. 1 regular sold at 78c North Bay, it was offered at that price in store Montreal. No. 2 regular offered at 67c North Bay, with 65c bid. There was an enquiry for dry feed wheat at 45c North Bay.

Oats—Weak and lower, with very little demand. White sold on track here at 31c and more could be bought at the same price. Odd ears, white, were bought on the G. T. R. west at 28c.

Grain and flour—Car prices are:—Flour (Toronto freights)—Manitoba patents, \$5.10 to \$5.50; Manitoba strong bakers', \$1.70 to \$1.90; Ontario patents, \$4.50 to \$4.90; straight roller, \$4.10 to \$4.20; extra, \$3.95 to \$4.00, low grades, per bag, \$1.25 to \$1.75. Bran—\$14 to \$15. Shorts—\$15 to \$16. Wheat—standard, north and west points—white, 84c; spring, 83c; red winter, 83c; goose, 79c to 80c; No. 1 hard, \$1.05; No. 2 hard, 99c; No. 3 hard, 88 to 89c; No. 1 regular, 78 to 79c; No. 2 regular, 68 to 67c. Peas—No. 2, 62 to 63c. Barley—No. 1, 56 to 57c; No. 2, 51 to 52c; No. 3 extra, 48 to 49c; No. 3, 45 to 47c; two-rowed, 54 lbs, averaging about No. 3 extra in color (outside), 53 to 57c. Corn—48 to 49c. Buckwheat—50c. Rye—78 to 80c. Oats—31c.

Apples, dried—Trade shows a little improvement. Dried are selling 4 to 4½c in trade lots, and 4½ to 5c in small jobbing lots. Evaporated are dull but firm at 8 to 8½c.

Eggs—The market appears to be completely demoralized under the heavy offerings. Several round lots of fresh in cases were sold at 10c to-day, although most dealers were holding for 10½c. A further decline in prices is not improbable should receipts continue heavy.

Hides, etc.—Quiet. Cured have some little movement at 5c, but other lines are dull. Green are quoted at 4½c; No. 2 at 3½c; No. 3 at 2½c. Skins—More coming in and prices steady and unchanged. Fresh green sheep and lamb skins sell at \$1.15 to \$1.25; calfskins at 5 to 7c for city inspected skins.

Produce—Quotations were: Beans, per bush, trade lots, \$1 to \$1.15; out of store, \$1.25 to \$1.30. Dressed meats, per lb—Beef, fore, 4½ to 5c; hind, 7½ to 8c; veal, 8½ to 9½c; mutton, 7 to 7½c; lamb, 8 to 9½. Hay—Timothy, on track, \$11.50 to \$12; No. 2, \$10.25 to \$10.50. Straw, \$6 to \$6.50 in car lots. Hops—Canadian, 1891 crop, 18 to 21c. Honey—Extracted, 9 to 10c; combs, 14 to 16c. Onions—Native, per bbl, \$2.50 to \$3 out of store. Potatoes—Per bag, on track, 30 to 32c; out of store 45c; turnips, on track, 10 to 12c per bush. Poultry—Chickens, per pair, 50 to 75c. Ducks, 50 to 85c. Geese, per lb, 8 to 10c; turkeys, 13 to 14c. Sreeds—Alsike, primo to choice, \$5.50 to \$8.50; red clover, \$7.50 to \$7.80 per bush; timothy, \$1.50 to \$2 per bushel; sugar (maple), 10 to 11c.

Provisions—Quotations are. Mess Pork United States, \$13 to \$14; do Canadian, (new), \$15; short cut, \$16 to \$16.50, bacon, long clear per lb, 7½ to 8c; lard, Canada, tubs and pails, 10 to 10½c; compound do, 8 to 8½c. Smoked meats—Hams, per lb, (new), 10½ to 11c; bellies, per lb, 9½ to 10c; rolls, per lb, 8½ to 8¾c; backs, per lb, 10½c; dressed hogs, good packing weights, \$5.50 to \$6.10, per cwt.

Butter—The market is firmer under light receipts, although values are not notably changed. Large rolls, which have been in good sup-

ply until lately, are now exceedingly scarce. Dealers are holding tubs and rolls at from 16 to 19c, although a few lots of extra choice tubs have sold at 20c. Supplies of common butter are still insufficient for the demand. It is held at 13 to 15c. Should the light receipts of the last few days continue the prospects are for higher prices.

Cheese—Quiet but firm. Fall makes are held at 11½ to 11¾c on track, and dealers are jobbing at 12 to 12½c. Early made cheese is scarce and dull, selling at 9½ to 10c.

Fruits—Apples sold at \$2 to \$2.50 for good to choice, and \$3 for fancy stock.

Cattle—Prices were well maintained to day, in spite of the heavy offerings. There was a good butchers' demand, and with the large number picked up for Montreal, all on offer changed hands. 4½c was the outside price for good to choice cattle. Inferior and rough cows and oxen sold at 3 to 3½c; fair 850 to 950 pounds heifers and steers at 3½ to 3¾c; good to choice butchers' at 4 to 4½c. Stockers—Only a few offered, and these were held at too high figures to suit buyers, who would only pay \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt. while holders wanted \$4 per cwt. Sheep sold at 3½ to 4c per pound. Lambs sold at ¾c advance, bringing 5½c per pound. Fat hogs, averaging 190 pounds, sold at \$5.10 per cwt, which was the outside figure. Stores sold at \$4.50 per cwt, and not enough were offered to supply the demand.—*Empire*, March 28.

Mineral Wealth of the United States.

The fact that the mineral statistics of the government have not been published for two years or more after time for which they were compiled has tended to lessen public interest in them and caused their importance to be kept in the background. The census report on the mineral products of the United States has recently been published, covering the ten years from 1880 to 1889 inclusive, and this is supplemented by the report of the U. S. Geological survey for the year 1890, both being prepared by the same authority. Dr. David T. Day, and disclose the vast progress made in eleven years in the development of the various mining industries, and showing mines of wealth second only to the agricultural capabilities of the country. The precious metals—gold and silver—are really of minor importance, their production in any given year being only a comparatively small part of the whole of our mineral products; the baser metals, like iron and copper, and the nonmetallic substances, like coal, building stone, lime, etc., constitute the main source of our mineral wealth, and contribute most to the annual total production.

Perhaps iron and coal are the most necessary articles for our material prosperity, for it is evident that without an adequate supply of these our manufacturing interests and industrial growth generally would not be possible on any large scale. Then what may be termed the minor articles, copper, lead, zinc, building stone, cement, lime, etc., all contribute in no small degree to the general development of industrial interests, and their production in the aggregate amounts in value to a very large sum annually.

According to the census figures our mineral productions for ten years, metallic and non-metallic, reach a total in round numbers of \$4,637,000,000, of which gold is only \$330,000,000, and silver at its coinage value \$505,000,000, the latter being considerably above its market value; thus gold and silver together, calling them \$935,000,000, are but little over one-sixth of the total. The coal production for ten years embraces 675,000,000 tons of bituminous and 342,000,000 tons of anthracite, valued at \$1,517,000,000 at the mines, no freight being added.

The iron output based on the price at Philadelphia is valued at \$957,000,000; petroleum reaches \$223,000,000, building stone \$229,000,000 and limestone \$220,000,000, all at the point of production. Copper based on the

price at New York reached \$192,000,000, lead \$126,000,000 and zinc \$38,000,000. The value of cement is given at \$38,000,000 and salt \$44,000,000. The yearly average for the ten years is about \$469,000,000, it having risen from \$369,000,000 in 1880 to \$587,000,000 in 1889, but in 1890 it rose to 6,200,000, an increase in eleven years of nearly \$330,000,000.

Without reference to changes in price which have taken place, there having been a material decline in most instances, it is significant to observe that the value of pig iron which in 1880 was a little over \$9,000,000 reached in 1890 over \$151,000,000; the coal product rose from about \$95,600,000 to 171,800,000 in value and from 63,800,000 tons in 1880 to nearly 140,000,000 tons in 1890. The production of copper advanced from about 69,500,000 pounds to 203,100,000 pounds, and in value from about \$11,500,000 to \$30,850,000; the lead product rose from 9,782,500 to \$14,267,000. There was also a large increase in the production of petroleum and building materials, and also in the output of salt, although owing to the decline in the price there was a falling off in the value of the latter.

There has been almost a constant increase in the value of our mineral productions, while our agricultural productions have varied greatly from year to year, although the general tendency has been towards an enlargement, both in quantity and value. It is known that the mineral wealth of the country is practically inexhaustible, and it only requires continued employment of developing appliances for a still more rapid increase in production in the future than in the past.—*Cincinnati Price Current*.

Movement for a Dominion Insolvency Act.

The members of the Toronto Board of Trade responded in large numbers to the call for a special meeting yesterday afternoon, to consider the necessity for a proposed Insolvency Act, applicable to the whole Dominion, etc. President Hugh Baird occupied the chair, and introduced the subject. An earnest discussion followed, Messrs. Caldecott, Hugh Blair, J. A. Bertram, Ed. Gurney, Paul Campbell, Alexander, Chas. Cockshutt, J. Brown and P. Hughes taking part. There was some little recrimination indulged, and an occasional hot shot fired at the dry goods trade, respecting long credits. The speakers seemed to agree upon two things—that the wholesale trade were largely to blame themselves for the low state of commercial morality in Canada (stated to be lower than in England or France) complained of; and second, that a general insolvency law for the equitable distribution of bankrupt estates in all the provinces is urgently needed. Finally, the following resolution, moved by S. Caldecott, and seconded by vice-president Hugh Blair, was unanimously adopted: "That in the opinion of this Board, it is desirable that there should be an Insolvency Act, with a discharge clause properly guarded, applicable to the whole Dominion, for the equitable distribution of the assets of bankrupt estates, and that the council be and are hereby instructed to cause such an Act to be prepared, and to join the other boards of trades in pressing upon the Government the necessity which exists for having the same passed at the present session of Parliament."

It is stated that Premier Abbott has expressed himself ready and willing to submit the measure to the House at once, when the business men of the country shall have agreed upon a drastic, comprehensive and satisfactory measure so that the matter appears more hopeful than for some years. We regret that owing to our paper being ready for press at time of meeting, we are unable to give a fuller report of the discussion.—*Toronto Merchant*.

Direct importations of Mediterranean fruit to Montreal, will be larger than usual this year. Four steamers are chartered, the first one to arrive with a cargo of oranges and lemons, about April 21.