

their way to Chicago report the Engusn market firmer and trade prospects brighter. We have previously shown that the country is full of sheepskins, and dealers considered the supply such that no change in price was made in the middle of the present month. Tallow is weak and dull, prices nominally unaltered.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—While the immediate trade doing is strictly seasonable and thus of a limited character, the situation is regarded as more hopeful than it was a year ago. In the first place we have not to face the uncertainty of tariff reduction, while last January this was the all absorbing feature of interest. During the year many reductions have from time to time been made in price, until values are now on a basis which every retailer recognizes as exceedingly low. Any change in the price list must apparently be of an upward character, and in view of this merchants are disposed to order more freely in advance of their requirements. On the whole it may be said that orders booked for spring supply are, in both hardware and tinware lines, considered satisfactory. Cut nails are higher in price as a result of the action of the association, and prices are now on a \$2.10 basis f.o.b. Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and London, or 35c. higher than the previous quotation. Horse shoes have been reduced 5c. per keg, and we quote Montreal \$3.50; Toronto, \$3.60; London, \$3.65. In wire nails the association has made no change, with the exception of reducing the discount allowed on 1 lb. paper pkgs. by 5 per cent. Barb wire in plain twist and staple lines, since the 14th inst., has been offering at 3c. per pound. Terms remain as before, viz., freight allowed to a maximum of 25c. per 100 lbs. Sisal rope has been reduced to a 6 1/2c. basis. Manilla, however, remains unchanged. All the different brands of horseshoe nails are now sold at the same discount, viz., 60 per cent. An association of steel-clad bath manufacturers has been formed, and the discount is now 20 per cent., with an extra 5 per cent. allowed on orders of one dozen or more. Import orders are being booked for galvanized and tinned iron, while a large number of orders for tin plate to be delivered in May are being placed. Window glass is also being ordered for June delivery.

PROVISIONS.—Each week we have to report increasing depression in the butter trade, and must continue to do so until some change is made in the present system of the production and distribution of this commodity. We elsewhere at length describe market conditions. Cheese is quiet and unchanged; the demand is slow and of a strictly retail character. Receipts of dressed hogs on the local market are large and prices correspondingly easy; quotations stand at \$5 to 5.10. The feeling in hog products is weak all around, although quotations have not undergone change. In eggs, strictly fresh are bringing 16 to 17c.; pickled, 12c.; held stock, 8 to 10c. per doz. There is but little enquiry for held stock as there is great uncertainty as to quality. Dried and evaporated apples are unchanged from last week.

WOOL.—The market presents no features of an absorbing interest at this season of the year. There yet lingers some movement in fleece, but stocks in the hands of Canadian merchants are small and every week lessens the quantity.

Some pulled combing has been sent to the United States this week at 19c.; shipments of the same quality were made a week ago, at 18 1/2c. American merchants continue to send samples of fine clothing wools here, and doubtless pick up a fair amount of trade throughout the country.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET.

We received, too late for publication last week, Farnworth & Jardine's wood circular, dated Liverpool, 1st January. Happily it shows a reduction in the arrivals of timber and lumber from British North America during December, in which month they were 11 vessels, 9,241 tons, against 22 vessels, 21,166 tons, during the corresponding month last year. But the aggregate

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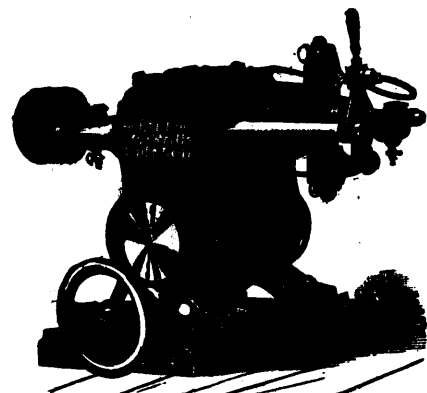
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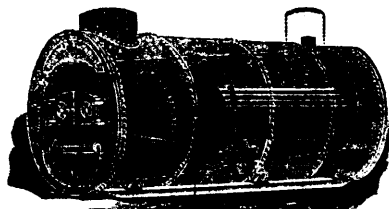
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