

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

TORONTO, October 12th, 1857.

The past month has been one of unusual dullness and depression in all departments of trade. For the first two weeks, the backwardness of the season, and the work on the hands of farmers, prevented them from bringing out their wheat, and, for the last fortnight, when these obstacles no longer existed, others of greater magnitude presented, the most important of which was the inability of buyers to obtain money from the banks, with which to purchase produce. The extraordinary panic on the other side of the lake has caused that the sources from which our banks drew their principal supplies of specie are no longer available, and as the circulation of the banks is already too large, they are pursuing the policy of contraction—limiting their discounts so that the usual facilities for the purchase and transmission of produce to market, are cut off. This state of affairs necessarily affects all kinds of business. The farmer has wheat, but no money: he is unable to pay or purchase from the retail dealer, who, in his turn, fails to meet his paper in the hands of the wholesale merchant—the latter, of course, being materially affected thereby. Thus the machinery of our commerce is deranged, and almost suspended, the moving or motive power—money, being insufficient to keep it in motion. Efforts are being made by a large class of merchants, to induce a different policy on the part of the banks, alleging that expansion, or, in other words, more liberal discounts, in order that the produce of the country may be moved forward, is the only thing that will restore our commercial affairs to an equilibrium. It is said that the jealousies and rivalry between the banks, prevent them from extending their discounts, an unnecessary fear of each other being prevalent; and a more cordial policy between them is urged. Whether the movement on the part of the merchants will be of avail, or whether the banks will preserve themselves at the risk of great injury to the country, we have no means of knowing; but it is certainly evident that unless relief comes from some quarter, the prospects of trade are far from flattering.

The produce-trade during the month has not been extensive. Prices for nearly every article have receded, and, in the principle articles for export, a decrease of fully fifty per cent in the value has taken place, resulting first from the state of financial affairs above reverted to, and secondly from the fall of prices in New-York and other important markets, owing to the extensive supplies received from the Western States, and the almost entire cessation of a shipping demand for England, in consequence of the difficulty of negotiating exchange. Prices here for good Fall Wheat now range from 4s. to 4s. 6d. per bushel; for inferior 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. Spring wheat has not been offered to any extent, but is worth about 3s. 9d. The supplies of wheat during the last two weeks have averaged about 3000 bushels per day; while the receipts for the same weeks last year, averaged 8500 bushels per day. The amount exported from this port, of this year's crop, amounts to only 15,000 bushels, while up to the same period last year, they amounted to over 200,000 bushels. This state of affairs is alarming, especially when it is taken into consideration in connection with the lowness of the price. The same may be said of every port on the north shore of Lake Ontario.

FLOUR is very dull, the sales thus far being mainly to supply home consumption. Prices are much lower, Superfine being readily bought at \$4, Fancy at \$4.50, and Extra at \$5 per barrel. There is an utter absence of a shipping demand, and the market presents an unfavorable aspect.

IN GROCERIES we have to notice another decline in Sugar, the quotation for Bright Porto-Rico now being 58s. 9d. to 60s. per cwt. Teas are firm at the old rates; while every other article remains unchanged.