derwear. There was an advance of ⅛c. in the price of flannelette, and ¼c. in shirtings this week. The textile market is firm, and staples are generally regarded as in a strong position. Our advices from abroad show that Canada is purchasing very freely for future trade requirements.

GRAIN.—Wheat has advanced 2c. per bushel in the local market this week, as a result of a bull movement in American centres. Receipts are restricted. It is the opinion of competent authorities that considerably more than half of Ontario's crop is yet in the hands of farmers. As a result of holding back wheat, other cereals have come forward freely, and a greater percentage than usual is now in second hands. Rye and buckwheat are firm at higher prices. Oats have lost strength, and are quoted a fraction cheaper.

Visible supply in the United States and Canada:

Bush.	Jan. 21st. 1899.	Jan 22nd. 1897.
Wheat	28,273,000	37,153,000
Corn	26,061,000	41,789,000
Oats	6,986,000	14,540,000
Rye	1,797,000	4,002,000
Barley	3,354,000	3,161,000

HARDWARE AND METALS.—There is in the trade a general upward tendency in prices. Advances have within the past fortnight been recorded in all wire goods. Oiled annealed, and annealed and bright wires are dearer. Wire nails are quoted at $1.90, and screws are dearer by 14 per cent. The strength which we noted in the metal market has undergone some fluctuation, but prices generally are firm. The one weak spot in hardware supplies is rope, which has been reduced ½c. per lb.

GREEN FRUITS.—The orange market has been overstocked, and merchants have been offering bargains to the trade. Sales have been made, as follows: Valencia oranges, 420's, $3.25 case; 714's, $4.25, large case; 420's, $4.50, large case; boxes, Mexicans, 126's, 150's, 176's, 200's, 250's, $2 box; boxes, California navels, 200's, $2.75; 216's, $2.65; 250's, $2.50 box; boxes, Tangerines (Japanese), $1 box. Lemon stock is within small compass, and values are firm. Trade in bananas is quiet.

GROCERIES.—Trade is rather on the quiet side, although some of the staples find fairly good movement. Some teas are selling but the movement is not brisk. Merchants are wondering whether the next session of Parliament will bring an increase in the tea duty. Tapiocas are firm abroad. Cables report a firm market in pepper in primary markets. The sugar market has been on a very low basis for some time, and the refiners have to work on a very small margin. Values in the raw market are very firm and agents say the situation here is stronger, but in neither foreign nor local markets have there been any price changes during the week.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Prices remain quotably unchanged, although recently there has been some stir on the part of buyers to keep outside purchasers, who were reported operating here, away from this market Business is generally quiet, and altough tanners are not anxious buyers, stocks do not accumulate. From Chicago, Jan. 24h.—The call for packer hides continued fairly good, and owing to the fact that packers in most instances were well up to kill, sales were being made for forward deliveries. The close was firm at 11½ to 11¾c. for native steers, 10½ to 11c. for Texas, 10¼c. for butt brands, 9¼ to 9½c. for Coloradoes, 9¾c. for branded cows, and 11c. for native cows.

PROVISIONS.—There is only a moderate supply of strictly choice dairy butter coming forward, and this is rapidly taken. Anything less desirable meets with only fair request, although offered at very much reduced prices. Creamery is steady. Producers would do well to note the difference that exists between the prices paid for poor and good butter. From London, January 13th, we have the following: A quantity of butter has been taken for cold storage, against the known shortage of February arrivals due to drought in Australia. Prices are fairly well maintained, especially for really "choicest" brands, that are proof against "fishiness," of which there are not too many. On the contrary, there is far too large a proportion of fishy butter about. Prices for "choicest" are 100s. to 102s., with 104s. for a few favorite brands. "Finest" is easier than it was last week, as there is more of this quality on offer. The demand for Canadian cheese of the best quality is not so active as for lower qualities, which can be purchased from 44s. to 48s. "Choicest" Septembers still bring 50s. to 51s. The local cheese trade is quiet, but prices are steady.

WOOL.—The local market is quiet, and uninteresting. Fleece and pulled wools are quiet at unchanged prices. The demand from local mills is fairly good. Advices from London, January 23rd, state: "Bidding is generally active and prices of a hardening tendency. Medium and good merinos are well represented in the offerings, the bulk of them going to Germany. Fine crossbreds, slipes and medium greasies are in moderate supply, the Continent competing with the home trade, and American representatives buying at 15 per cent. above the December figures. Cape of Good Hope and Natal wools have been in limited supply, and brought extreme figures, the best going to Germany. The number of bales of this series disposed of so far aggregates 67,500.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 25th Jan., 1899.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The butter market is of rather a slow character, the demand being of a moderate local character altogether. Receipts are light, and values rule about steady at last week's figures. We quote fine creamery, 19 to 19¼c.; Townships dairy, 15 to 16c.; Western do., 12½ to 13½c.; rolls, 14½ to 15½c. There were cheese shipments last week of 11,924 boxes, making 219,972 boxes in all since close of navigation. Buyers and sellers in this line continue pretty far apart, and there is really little doing at the moment. Quotations are more or less nominal at from 9¾ to 10¼c. Eggs are easier, if anything, as fresh stock is coming in more freely; we quote new laid about 25c.; No. 1, candled, 16½ to 17c.; lined, 13 to 15c.

DRY GOODS.—Deliveries of spring goods in this line are brisk, and travellers' orders are coming in in steady volume from the country. City dealers are still pretty well occupied with cheap January sales, and are not buying very liberally yet. Business with New Brunswick is reported somewhat slow, but in Ontario and British Columbia it is reported excellent, good in this province, and better than expected in the North-West. Applications for renewals are reported few, and there are no indications as yet of the usual run of spring failures that generally sets in about this time. The firmness in the cotton market is well held, and woolens are now beginning to show symptions of advance, the trade having been just advised of an advance in Campbellford flannels of a cent a yard.

FISH.—Lent sets in on the 15th prox., but there is yet no special evidence of increased demand for pickled fish. We quote No. 1 green cod, $5.25 to $5.50; No. 1, large, $5.75; No. 2, $4 to $4.25; Nova Scotia herrings, $4.25 to $4.50; N. S. salmon, $14 to $15; B. C. do., $12.50 to $13; sea trout, $10; lake trout, $4.50 a keg; dry cod, $4. There is a good demand for smoked fish, and haddies are quoted at 6½ to 7c. per lb.; bloaters, 85 to 90c. per box, and smoked herrings, 9 to 9½c.

FURS.—The full cable reports of last week's London sales are as follows: At the Hudson Bay sale, average beaver advanced 12½ per cent. on last January, pale do., 17½ per cent. advance; dark, same as last January; fall rats same, winter ditto, 7½ per cent. lower, spring 12½ per cent. lower. At the Lampon sale the comparisons are made with figures of last March: Lynx, 20 per cent. advance; red fox, 15 per cent. advance; otter, same; wolverine, 25 per cent. advance; wild cat, same; marten, 40 per cent. advance; skunk, old, same; fresh, ditto, 15 per cent. higher; old mink, 15 per cent. advance; new ditto, 35 per cent. advance; coon, 15 per cent. advance; black bear, 15 per cent. lower; brown do., 10 per cent. lower; grizzly ditto, 10 per cent lower. These advances, from indications at the last October sales, were anticipated to some extent, especially in the case of mink, marten and beaver, and recent local quotations will not be proportionately advanced. We quote: Mink, $1.50 to $2; marten, $2.25 to $3; fisher, $4 to $6; lynx, $1.75 to $2.25; otter, $5 to $13; red fox, $1.50 to $1.80; cross do., $3 to $7; silver do., $20 to $60; skunk, 25 to 75c.; coon, 25 to 80c.; fall rats, 5 to 10c.; winter, 10 to 14c.; wolverine, $3 to $5. The catching and buying of beaver is still illegal in both Ontario and Quebec.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Bushels. Jan. 15.	Bushels. Jan. 22.
Wheat	20,225	19,096
Corn	22,610	22,787
Oats	133,431	147,854
Rye	2,296	4,088
Peas	18,816	18,153
Barley	12,856	1,585
Total grain	210,234	213,563
Oatmeal	494	393
Flour	14,949	..
Buckwheat	24,588	25,869

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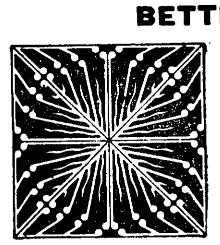

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