

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, 14th Feb., 1901.

DRUGS, CHEMICALS, ETC.—The wholesale drug houses have nothing to complain of as to the amount of business being done, though there is nothing exceptional, either in the amount or the quantity of orders coming in. Prices remain in statu quo. The New York market is reported as being somewhat dull just now, with no immediate changes in value probable, except, possibly, an advance in menthol, owing to scarcity.

DRY GOODS.—There has been an increased demand for spring and summer dress goods during the past few days, indirectly due to the improved state of the roads, throughout the outlying districts, which has tempted farmers out of doors, both to take in their grain shipments and to make needed purchases for themselves and families. Printed goods are in large request, especially the mercerized variety.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—The demand from across the Atlantic for flour is light. One difficulty at the present time is the competition offered by French flour in the London market. In Liverpool and the other markets, it is not so notable. The demand from the East has been quiet, but has improved a little during the last day or two. Millers are holding at \$2.60, but business is practically being done at \$2.55, in buyers' covers, which is really below the cost of the wheat, which the millers have in hand. Bran and shorts remain about steady.

GRAIN.—Wheat, both Ontario and Manitoba, remains steady at unchanged prices. Oats are about $\frac{1}{2}$ c. higher. Peas are firm at 1c. advance. Rye and corn are unchanged. Buckwheat is 2 to 3c. higher, and firm at the advance. Receipts have been light, owing to the storm, but are becoming very much better as the roads get into condition for sleighing.

GREEN FRUIT.—The extremely cold weather has militated somewhat against heavy shipments of fruit, but fairly large numbers of oranges and lemons have been coming in and have sold at good prices. We quote: Lemons, new Messina, fancy, \$2.75 per box; choice, \$3; California fancy, \$3.50. Oranges, Jamaica, \$2.50; Mexican, \$2.00; California navel, \$3.25; to \$3.35; Florida, \$3.00 to \$3.50; Valencia, \$3.00 to \$4.50. Bananas, fancy, \$1.50 to \$1.75; Almeria grapes, \$6 to \$6.50 per keg; Canadian onions, 85c. per bag.

GROCERIES.—The extremely cold weather has rendered business somewhat

quiet, as is usually the case. Parcels going out are largely of a sorting-up nature. For city and nearby trade some good round lots have been shipped, especially eastern and northern. Sugars are moving in small quantities only. Syrups of all kinds, on the contrary, are selling freely, and a heavy trade is also in progress for fish. California prunes are also in fair demand, especially for medium sizes at quotations. Valencia raisins are easy at $7\frac{1}{4}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ c. for F. O. S., and $7\frac{3}{4}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ c. for selected, the latter for fancy fruit.

HARDWARE.—No new feature has developed in this market since last week's report. Business continues very good, indeed, and prospects are bright. A somewhat more active market for Scotch pig iron warrants is reported from Glasgow, though prices remain about the same. Hematite warrants, according to last reports, were dull and heavy.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Receipts of hides are ample, but the tone of the local market is somewhat stronger, in sympathy with slightly improved conditions in Chicago.

PROVISIONS.—The supply of butter has been ample, and the demand somewhat slack. For large rolls, 17 to 18c. is asked. No fine dairy tub is at present in the market. Creamery is $22\frac{1}{2}$ c. Cheese is quiet and easy. In hog products, a fair business is being done, and no change has been made in prices. Eggs are bringing, new laid, 20c. Receipts have increased in quantity.

WOOL.—In spite of a somewhat increased demand in the States, the wool situation here remains practically unchanged, with nothing doing.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 13th Feb., 1901.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Matters in this line are quiet, with prices, as a rule, steady. Cheese values are nominally unchanged at say, $10\frac{1}{4}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$ c.; butter, steady, with creamery unchanged at 23c.; western rolls, at $19\frac{1}{2}$ to 20c.; and Manitoba dairy, $17\frac{1}{2}$ c. No further change in the egg market, prices being about steady at the recent reduction. Demand fair for small lots of fresh, but other grades were quiet. We quote: Fall laid fresh stock at 21 to 23c.; Montreal limed at $15\frac{1}{2}$ to 16c.; western, limed, at $14\frac{1}{2}$ to 15c., and cold storage, at $13\frac{1}{2}$ to 15c.

FISH.—The approach of Lent makes business more active, and the wintry weather has helped trade. Orders are free from Ontario buyers, as well as from nearer points. With the exception of pickled herrings and Western fish, there are no sea fish in view, and there will be a shortage in some kinds; prices are firm. In fresh fish, haddock and herrings are dearer, and in salt, No. 2 green cod has advanced 25c. per barrel, while herrings are weak and lower. We quote as follows: Fresh fish, British Columbia salmon, 10c. per lb.; haddock, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ c.; halibut, 11c. per lb.; whitefish, 7c. to $7\frac{1}{2}$ c.; pike, 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ c.; dore, $5\frac{1}{4}$ to 6c.; mackerel, 10c. each; fresh frozen

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The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of the above Company will be held at the Head Office, 70 King Street East, Toronto, on Tuesday, February 12th, 1901 at 11 a.m.

A. J. PATTISON,
Managing Director
Toronto, Jan. 15th, 1901.

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Comparative Statement

	1899.	1900.	Increase.
Premium income (net)	\$510,560 52	\$579,255 94	\$68,695 42
Interest and Rents	72,801 98	87,461 11	14,659 13
Total Income	583,362 50	666,717 05	83,354 55
Assets	1,810,155 17	2,279,865 42	469,710 25
Insurance Reserve	1,622,012 00	1,950,784 00	328,772 00
Surplus over all liabilities and Capital Stock	33,756 01	101,372 69	67,616 68
Insurance in force	14,368,236 00	15,389,236 00	1,021,000 00

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