

STANDARD MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO

Head Office, - MARKHAM, Ont.

Authorized Capital, - 500,000
Subscribed Capital, - 125,000WM. ARMSTRONG, H. B. REESOR
President Man. Director
F. K. REESOR, FRANK EDMAND,
Inspector City Agent
Confederation Life Bldg.**The Metropolitan Fire Insurance Company**CASH-MUTUAL and STOCK
HEAD OFFICE, - TORONTO
Authorized Capital, \$500,000D. HIBNER, Berlin, Pres. W. G. WRIGHT, Inspector.
W. H. SHAPLEY, Toronto, F. CLEMENT BROWN,
Vice President. Manager.**Forging Ahead . . .**

In Tending to its Policyholders and Well Wishers

THE SEASON'S HEARTY GREETINGS

Head Office, - WATERLOO, ONT.

The Mutual Life OF CANADA

is pleased to announce that it has written during the past year

Over Five Millions

of good Canadian Business; and that in all other respects the Company has had a most successful year.

Dry Goods.—Wholesale dry goods houses have been extra busy this week owing to the numerous visitors in the city for the millinery openings. Considering the state of the weather, it is matter for surprise that so many people came. No further change has been made in prices, but they continue exceedingly strong, so far as cotton staples are concerned, and practically all other goods are firm also. Early in March is an important time in the dry goods trade for payments, and this year is likely to make but a poor showing. Not because trade is not good intrinsically, but merely that the blocked state of the roads and railways has prevented people from getting around. A quick change to reasonably spring-like weather would very likely lead to a rushing business.

Flour and Grain.—A firm market prevails for flour, \$3.75 being the price quoted for ninety per cent. patents, in buyers' bags, middle freights. Both bran and shorts are firm. So also is oatmeal. Wheat continues unchanged as to prices, but the position is quite strong. Oats are 1c. higher. Rye has gone up 1c.

Other grains remain the same. Little or no business is being done in the country.

Fruits and Vegetables.—Great difficulty is being experienced in moving stuff, so trade is rather dull. Prices may be quoted thus: Apples, 75c. to \$2.75 per bbl., according to grade; cocoanuts, \$4 per sack; oranges, Florida, \$2.75 to \$3 per case; California navels, \$2 to \$3; Mexican, \$2 to \$2.50; Valencias, ordinary, \$4, large, 714's, \$5; marmalade oranges, \$2.50 per box; bananas, 8's, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bunch; firsts, \$2 to \$2.50; celery, \$5 to \$5.50 per case and 75 to 90c. per doz.; cranberries, \$8 to \$9 per bbl., \$1.10 to \$1.25 per basket; Spanish onions, \$3.50 to \$3.75 per large case, and \$1.25 for small; Malaga grapes, \$6.50 to \$7.50 per bbl.; tomatoes, \$5 to \$5.50 per case.

Hardware.—The only change which has taken place in prices since last report is in rope, which has gone up 1/2c. For some time past there has been a marked discrepancy between the value of rope and that of the raw material, which has advanced more than once, and now the manufacturers have placed their goods more on a parity. The business actually transacted during the last two or three months has been smaller considerably than last year, owing to the inconveniences of transportation, etc., but trade may be said to be nevertheless on a satisfactory footing. Metals are affected by causes similar to the above. As to the state of things in the iron trade in the United States, the situation can hardly be said to show any pronounced tendency. Pig iron is a little weaker, but that is not new. Finished products, on the other hand, are generally firm, and a larger volume of business is being done. The exceedingly severe weather of the past week has interfered considerably with manufacturing operations. Pig iron is weaker in the West and South. The Southern price, which had been held firmly for a time, has given way under the competition of Northern iron in common markets. This was to be expected. The price will probably decline a little further, when another buying movement may be expected, as there are plenty of customers waiting for an opportunity to get in again on a lower level. The light sheet trade is again disturbed by the cutting of some of the independent mills. It was supposed that a basis had been reached which would be satisfactory to all concerned, and that prices would be maintained, but it seems that this expectation was not well grounded.

Provisions.—Considerable quantities of fair-quality dairy and creamery butter have come in during the week, but the demand is good. Stocks are accumulating, however, to some slight extent. Cheese is easy. The egg market continues very firm. Few poultry are coming forward, and there is a brisk demand for choice stock. A somewhat more active demand for hogs is setting in, as is often the case at this time of the year.

Seeds.—Little business is being done locally in seeds. Prices are unchanged. Advices from London, Eng., on the other

Merchants FIRE**INSURANCE CO.****CAPITAL AND ASSETS OVER****HALF A MILLION**

— HEAD OFFICE —

TORONTO.

Agents Wanted in All Unrepresented Districts.

**The Altar Of Friendship**

Do not hazard your all on the altar of friendship. Thousands of men have been ruined by going surety for friends. Better far for you to pay a strong surety company the premium on the bond. It will pay you to enquire about our policies.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION
MONTREAL — TORONTO**GRIFFIN & WOODLAND**
MANAGERS.

3

hand, report a general shortage of red clover seed, with sales at steadily advancing prices. In fact, English buyers admit that they will have to depend mainly upon foreign seed during the coming spring; and of these it is said there are good supplies already in the hands of the large importing houses, which are being offered at very reasonable prices, which, it is thought will induce buyers to take hold pretty liberally as soon as they find out that there are scarcely any English reds to be had at any price.

Wool and Hides.—There is no change in the wool market, which continues very quiet, in the absence of further export demand. Pulled wools are in fair request from domestic mills. Hides are dull, and green have declined 1/2c. Sheepskins are in moderate request, while calfskins are steady.