

tection can be had, and it is now reported that at St. Jago and Guantanamo an attempt to commence operations was promptly frustrated by the application of the torch. It appears that the actual presence of insurgents in arms is not necessary for work of destruction on plantations, as their secret sympathizers are ready to act upon the least provocation. Of the local tea market, there is little that is interesting to report. The distributing movement is quiet, and will probably remain so until after the New Year. There has been no change in the price of canned goods; trade is slow and no improvement is looked for until February.

HAY AND STRAW.—The roads of York county are in a wretched condition as a result of the continued rains, and deliveries on the St. Lawrence market are very light. Hay is quoted \$16 to 17, and straw \$12 to 13. Decreased deliveries have not apparently increased prices.

HIDES AND SKINS.—A week ago there were merchants who thought that the hide market was doomed to sink down to the level of prices

which existed during the latter half of 1893, and during 1894 up to August. But the downward turn in Chicago has been checked, and the Toronto market is, in consequence, stronger in feeling, although prices are unchanged. Dealers are paying 5c. to butchers for No. 1 hides. Sales of cured have been made at 6c. Although there are rumors of transactions at 5½c. we have failed to confirm them. Sheepskins are still quoted at 80c. as compared with a quotation of 65c. in the last week of December, 1894. Prices here are abnormally light and fullers have found it profitable to import skins from the United States, some 14,000 skins having been brought here within the past few days. Tallow is quiet and dull, prices ranging between 4½ to 5½c. per lb.

LEATHER.—Those dealers who for their own selfish ends predicted several weeks ago demoralization for the leather market, have been proven false prophets. Trade is quiet, it is true, but only because tanners are unwilling to sell at buyers' terms. A canvass of several Toronto houses this week confirms our opinion that the

market is on the threshold of improvement. Several large transactions were reported to have taken place in black leathers at prices which net the sellers a fair profit. American exports to Canada and Newfoundland for ten months ending 31st October were valued at \$64,927 as compared with \$77,417 during the same period, 1894. Our imports of other leathers, however, show an increase since valued at \$213,576 as compared with \$152,269 in 1894. This increase in Canadian purchases of American leather occurred for the most part in the spring and early summer, and has resulted in the advocacy by a number of tanners of an increase in the Canadian tariff.

PROVISIONS.—Business is very quiet. The roads throughout Ontario are in very poor condition but the demand is so weak that decreased offerings have not resulted in increased prices. The butter market is well supplied with large rolls. Tub butter is in moderate supply, but consists for the most part of medium and inferior qualities which find but little request. Prices of creamery and dairy remain as quoted last week. Holders of cheese are looking for higher prices. The *London Grocer*, December 14th, says of cheese: "An absence of animation has again been apparent in this department of the provision trade, and nothing of real importance has transpired. Further importations from Montreal have been received, embracing 23,668 boxes per "Iona" and 9,659 boxes per "Monte Videan," and these go to be added to supplies in warehouse already excessive. Canadian and American cheese, therefore, have been operated in cautiously, without the slightest advance on quota.

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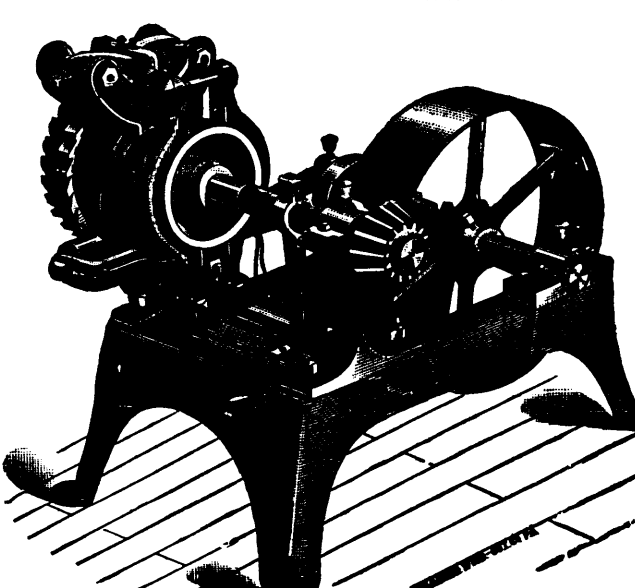
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