

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL

WHEATMERCHANTS GETTING READY FOR SPRING TRADE

Trade is Not Active But it is Improving Slightly—Prospects for Spring of the Brightest Description—Shorter Terms of Credit—The Market for Potatoes Daily Budget of Trade and Financial News.

Holiday quietude still characterizes wholesale trade circles. Business, however, is gradually improving and there is a good deal of activity around the warehouse making preparations for spring trade, which promises to be the most satisfactory for years.

The improvement is most marked in dry-goods, hardware, groceries, books and shoes. The fall in the market has somewhat unsettled the leather trade, as it is feared that "sell there's more to follow."

Payments are not altogether as good as anticipated, but an improvement is anticipated with a firm movement of farm products.

There is nothing particularly new to note. Trade is fair and the market is a shade easier than a week ago. The most activity is in dry-goods, which are in connection with the griping medicine, quite satisfactory and which specifies being in good demand.

Business does not seem to have yet recovered from the holiday quietude. Dealers are still pursuing a cautious policy in buying small parcels and often. Travelers' orders are fair and their reports re spring trade were never brighter.

Trade continues quiet. There are not many changes. Turpentine is a shade easier and while lead and oils remain as before. Demand for glass has dropped off and there is no special enquiry for any one line. Payments are rather slow. Travelers are sending in fair orders for February and March delivery.

There is nothing doing in fleece wool and prices are unchanged. Hides and skins are steady and unchanged. In leather there is a fair amount of business doing locally, but recent serious failures in the Province of Quebec has prevented people from operating as freely as they otherwise would. Nearly half a million pounds of sole leather have been shipped to England recently. As a result stocks are light and prices steady.

Trade is looking up this week. Prices are all much firmer, particularly in Canadian manufactured goods. A better tone appears to prevail throughout and payments are somewhat improved. A good spring business is looked for. Both wire and cut nails have advanced about 10 cents a keg. It is necessary in consequence of the manufacturers having been working as a loss.

An improvement is reported in orders for spring goods, which are now coming in fairly well. A few customers who also had been in the city. Stocks are beginning to come forward. The market is beginning to show signs of improvement. The most activity at the moment is displayed in making preparations for coming business. The goods which are in demand are denim, ticks, flannels, cottonades and heavy cotton goods. There is also a demand for several commodities for making up ladies' underwear, etc. Payments fairly good.

Business shows some signs of improvement. Payments are not yet to be expected. The outlook is bright. There is no material change in values, nor any expected till business becomes more active. The tone of the sugar market is much healthier, although the demand is exceptionally light. Prices are unchanged, but it is expected that a better market is announced in advance when the demand improves. There is a fair demand for some raw sugar, but it is in a fair demand with stocks of good quality. Molasses especially so owing to the large quantity of fruit canned. Good value at the moment is being offered in American syrups.

The market seems to be in a healthy condition and stocks are beginning to be a little better for goods. It is being claimed that prices have touched a low point. Canadian goods seem to be moving about as well as anything, and prices are firm. The chief demand continues to be for corn, peas and tomatoes. Salmons is moving fairly well for the season, but fruits are slow sale.

Shorter Terms of Credit. The heavy fall in the leather and trade of Quebec Province, remarked a local leather merchant to The Toronto World, "have returned to the terms of credit. The trade in the lower provinces is owing to the present state of it of so many small and insolvent concerns. It costs a number of these would necessarily be credited to the wall if latitude were given them, but a healthier condition of affairs would eventually be the result."

Big Money in Potatoes. "There'll be big money in potatoes yet," remarked a dealer to The Toronto World. "There are prices going to hold prices steady. You can bet the farmers who have been free sellers lately will soon see their hands."

"Is there any money in exporting?" "Well, a little, but a postcard here from my man in Hoboken," he added, pointing to a note in his pocket, "tells me that that price I would have had down there had got a small margin of profit."

A Quebec Shoe House Assembles. There had been hopes of trouble in the eastern boot and shoe trade. And it does not seem to be over yet. Judging from the assignment yesterday of John Ritchie, wholesale boot and shoe dealer, Quebec, the trouble is likely to spread to other parts of the province. Mr. Ritchie is also in for small sums. Mr. Ritchie recently offered to compromise at 20 cents on the dollar. It was his failure to get this which led to the assignment.

Another Failure in Leather. A trade of Quebec city, the victims of adversity in this instance is Felix Gordon, a large tanner and leather dealer, who has suspended payments. The principal creditors are in Montreal and Quebec. There is not much owing western creditors. The trouble is likely to spread to other parts of the province.

Minor Assignments. Richard Fox, iron dealer, Toronto, has been sold out by the sheriff. The liabilities of F. Hudson, wholesale dry-goods merchant, who assigned his office to amount to \$80,000. D. McLellan, buggy top manufacturer, Kingston, has called a meeting of creditors for January 30. The estate of H. C. Clarke, Caledonia, general store, is offered for sale by the assignee.

James Hannah, builder and contractor, Toronto, assigned yesterday to E. R. C. Clark. His liabilities amount to about \$7,000, and his assets nominally the same. Isaac Simpson, carriage maker, Brantford, assigned to the sheriff. Richard Brown, Toronto, the inventor of the "Patent" bicycle, has assigned his assets to the sheriff. The liabilities of the latter ranging between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

Simpson & Williams, who formerly kept general stores at Queen-street west, and at 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 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