

towards the close of last week, has continued, and quite a number of small buyers from Brockville and Ottawa districts, the Eastern Townships, and Prince Edward Island, have been in the market; and the market boats having commenced to run again, country merchants near at hand have been visiting some of our wholesale houses in larger numbers this week. With the exception, however, of a few late buyers of Spring stocks, their purchases have been of a small sorting-up character. Travellers are leaving almost daily on their sorting-up trip; those in Western Ontario for the past week have been forwarding fair-sized orders, with reports that the country trade thus far has been somewhat backward, owing to the unfavorable weather. East of Montreal, Spring stocks are reported to be almost intact, and therefore little business can be done yet by the traveller. Fancy goods scarce and wanted; silks still selling fairly well, and millinery in better request. Remittances generally reported satisfactory, although a couple of houses qualify this by replying "only fair, not so good as in the beginning of the month."

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There is a little more animation in this line with slightly easier prices for Sal Soda, Bicarb Soda and Bleaching Powder. Purchases are not very heavy, however, buyers generally preferring to wait arrival of Spring importations. In England considerable business has been done since last report, buyers having been tempted by the low prices to make heavy purchases in some lines, mostly in Soda Ash, Caustic Soda and Bleaching Powder.

FREIGHTS.—Not much doing yet in ocean freights. A vessel is reported to have been taken within the week for grain to U. K. ports at 5s, and another steamer is said to have been engaged for heavy grain to Liverpool at 3s 6d per qr. A steamer has also been taken for coal from Sydney to this port at \$1.35.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—The firm, strong tone of the English breadstuffs markets, noticed at our last reference, has given way this week to a decidedly easier feeling, and the markets are reported quiet, with a decline in values for Spring wheat, also red winter wheat off coast. The reaction is attributed to the more favorable condition of the growing crops on both sides of the Atlantic. The imports of breadstuffs in the United Kingdom for the week show an increase of 95,000 quarters wheat, 155,000 quarters corn, and 35,000 barrels flour, as compared with those for the week previous. In the West the warm Spring weather, under which the growing crops have made rapid progress, has counteracted the influence which the big "short" interest was expected to have on the market, and prices have suffered a decline instead of an advance. In Chicago the feeling in grain is weak; for to-day's closing prices, see "American Markets" in another column. In the local market there has been more disposition to do business manifested this week by our grain merchants, and sales of American wheat have taken place; several cargoes of No. 1 White Michigan have changed hands at \$1.20 to \$1.20 1/2 May, and business has been done in No. 2 Chicago Spring at \$1.19, and No. 2 Toledo red winter at \$1.23, May delivery. Canada red winter is quoted at \$1.22 to \$1.25, as to quality. Cargo lots of oats have sold at 37 1/2c, May; a fair demand exists at this figure. Rye easy, at \$1.05 to \$1.07; corn quiet and steady at 58c in bond, and peas held at 90c with 89 1/2c bid, all for May. In the early part of the week, a decided improvement was experienced in the demand for flour, with a firmer tone to the market and some advance in values for some grades; one lot of 800 barrels Superior Extra sold on Monday at \$3.40. Another lot brought \$5.45. During the past couple of days, however, buyers were holding off for a possible decline, in sympathy with English advices, but it has not occurred, and at the close the feeling is firmer, with prices for lead-

ing grades slightly higher. Spring Extra has sold this week at \$5.25, and is scarce and wanted at that figure. Strong Bakers' also in demand at \$5.75 to \$6.10, with \$6.20 asked for some brands.

GROCERIES.—Navigation of the river and canal is fairly open, and trade prospects are moderate. In groceries the week's changes may be concentrated into a firmer and somewhat advanced Sugar market. *Teas.*—In higher grades of Japans there is firmness, while in low qualities dullness is the rule. Prices may be practically continued as before. In Young Hysons, Gunpowders, and Black Teas not much doing. *Sugars.*—An active demand for Yellow Refined, with heavy sales at an advance of from 1/4th to 1/2c. In low grades there is quite a scarcity. Granulated is firm, but not higher. Barbados and Porto Rico Sugars are held about 1/4th to 1/2c higher. West India advices still run in the way of reported shortness; drought is the chief cause. *Molasses.*—Little business doing. Firm at Barbados at late date, Syrups steady. *Coffees.*—Mocha scarce; other kinds in moderate demand. *Rice* continues dull. *Spices.*—Pepper remains firm, other Spices unchanged. *Fruits.*—For Valentin Raisins there is a moderate enquiry; prices steady, Malaga Fruit dull. Sales of old loose Muscatis in quantity at about \$1.17 to \$1.20; held in small lots at \$1.30 to \$1.40. Currants steady; some to arrive sold at about 6 1/2c. Figs scarce. Nuts and Almonds dull.

HARDWARE AND IRON.—Trade continues brisk; during the week there have been a good many country buyers in the market, and orders per travellers have been fairly numerous, but dealers still complain of the low prices which yield little or no profit. Owing to the keen competition, values are kept remarkably close and steady. *Bar Iron* is moving off steadily in small lots at unchanged quotations, \$1.30 to \$1.35; several round lots also of Staffordshire iron are reported sold at \$1.70 to \$1.75. The decline recently reported in England for South Staffordshire was fully discounted by the trade previously; the iron was of that class not suited to this market, but for the American markets. The demand for *Tin Plates* has continued fair, at \$3.50 for 1 c. charcoal, and \$4.50 to \$5 for coke. Canada plates selling at \$3.25 for Penn. In England the late advance for Canada and tin plates has been fairly well maintained, under a moderate business. In *Pig Iron* business continues inactive, in fact dull; large consumers positively refuse to stock up for the future, so confident are they of lower prices still. And they are apparently not alone in this opinion, for it is reported that several short sales have been made between dealers for future delivery. Sales for the week, however, are few, and comprise only one or two round lots of leading brands at prices ranging from \$18 to \$19.50. Cable advices quote Scotch warrants at 48s. The production in Scotland continues unabated, and the stocks in store are accumulating rapidly. At the last quarterly meeting of the English iron makers on April 14th inst., prices for all kinds except Hematite, which is somewhat higher, were reduced, and still lower quotations seem not improbable. In New York also the market is weak, and concessions have to be made on all large sales.

HEMLOCK BARK.—A steady consumptive demand is reported, and shipments are made regularly from the various points in the Eastern Townships to the American markets. In Boston prices are unchanged, quoted at \$10 to \$11 per cord.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The situation is practically as stated in our last report. The bold bidding up of prices between a new and an old dealer continues; accordingly, the advance for *hides*, noted last week, has been maintained, and one of the contestants for the control of butchers' offerings, which are not heavy by any means, stated yesterday that he had just paid 9 1/2c and would pay 10c for No 1, if necessary in

order to get them. This sort of competition, together with the lax system prevalent of advancing money to butchers and extending credits, is doing much to injure the trade; for late advices from Quebec confirm the doubt expressed in our last report, that tanners would be willing to follow the advance. The majority of them are tolerably well-stocked for the time of year, and are determined to wait for a favorable turn in the market. Of course *first-class* green hides will readily command a good price, but so few of these are offering. Receipts of Western hides are light, and the quality is reported poor; desirable stock is in good demand at firm, advancing figures—car lots having sold this week at 10 1/2c. *Lambskins* bring 20c to 25c each, as to size and quality, and *Calfskins* 11c per lb.

LEATHER.—On the whole market remains quiet, with full supply of nearly all kinds, and prices, especially for *Splits* and *Upper*, continue to rule decidedly in buyers' favor. In some cases dealers have been unable to effect sales, even at concessions. *Sole* leather unchanged; demand from manufacturers for the week light, but purchases for Fall work are expected to be freer after the 1st May. *Slaughter Sole* scarce and firm. Black leathers generally quiet and steady; for *Splits* leather buyers are indifferent, and loth to take hold unless they can secure a good bargain. Sales, therefore, generally of small lots, but two large transactions have been reported—one of eight tons Quebec *Splits*, good stock, at 25c; and the other a mixed lot amounting to about eight tons at an average of 25c. The figures being alike suggests the possibility of two dealers having reported one and the same sale. A lot of 400 sides choice light *Upper* changed hands during the week at 42c. A fair enquiry experienced for *Buff*, but not much doing in *Pebble*.

OILS.—The demand for cod oil has continued active, resulting in sales at full prices. These include a lot of 200 brls. Newfoundland at 48c; another of 100 brls. do at 48 1/2c, wine measure, and some 300 brls. to arrive, at 5 1/2 to 5 3/4c. Imperial. Stocks reported light, and, under a good consumptive demand, values indicate an upward tendency. *Lined* also in limited supply, and prices rule very firm at last week's quotations, viz., 70c to 72c for raw, and 74c to 76c Imp. for boiled, jobbing lots having been sold at within these figures. *Steam refined seal* remains firm, with prospects of higher prices, although some holders, it is stated, are prepared to sell at present rates. Latest advices from the fisheries report the arrival at Harbor Grace of 50,000 seals, and it is thought that the catch this season will probably reach 300,000, while the average catch is 400,000. The Dundee Company's steamers brought in about 85,000 seals, valued at \$170,000. *Straw seal* is in small supply, and held at 58c to 60c, as to quantity. *Turpentine* in light supply, and prices rule steady and firm at the advance noted last week. It is believed that values for *rosin*, *pine* and *tar pitch* will rule lower this season; nothing of importance doing yet.

PETROLEUM.—Prices remain unchanged; though buyers are holding off until Summer rates of freight commence. Crude remains firm at \$1.70 f.o.b. and although drilling is very active all over the territory, no big strikes are reported.

PROVISIONS.—Chicago provision market, although quoted some 50c per barrel higher for pork and about 20c higher for lard than last Thursday, has shown a downward tendency this week, and yesterday prices declined 5c to 10c for pork, closing at \$17.50 June, and \$17.55 July. Lard ruled steady, at \$11.32 1/2 June, \$11.40 July. The Cincinnati *Price Current*, a universally recognized authority, says the number of hogs packed in Canada during the past winter was 156,763, against 157,932 for the season of 1879-80. The average weight was 192.70 lbs, against 200.50 lbs last season, and the yield of lard 18.25 lbs, against 21.10 lbs the previous season.