LEATHER.

The market for raw hides continues to advance steadily, a total gain of 5 cents being noted in one week's time, according to advices recently received from Argentina. This strength in the markets for the raw material is reflected in the quotations on all grades of leather which have advanced during the last two weeks in practically every case. Atlantic rates on marine insurance fluctuated widely with news of submarine activity. On December 12 rates went up to 10 per cent to 15 per cent, but during the week they dropped again to 7 per cent on more reassuring information. These conditions make it difficult to arrive at the actual value of imported hides and tanning materials. Importing firms are experiencing some difficulty in obtaining any but light leathers not required for military purposes, and it is uncertain as to whether licenses will be granted to ship heavy and sole leather. Deliveries on all orders placed for British manufactured leather are subject to the obtaining of Government licenses and permits to ship. Shoe factories are very busy, proving that the demand is excellent. Possibly people are more anxious to place orders and are purchasing in anticipation of a higher range of prices.

The following extract from last week's issue of the Weekly Bulyletin of Leather and Shoe News, Boston, is of interest to Canadian leather merchants, as our market is more or less a reflection of the larger market in the United States.

"The leather market is very firm. Buyers as a whole have not been as active this week. Most manufacturers report that the bulk of the wants have been filled during the past few weeks. Glazed kid is very firm. Some lines have advanced to 65c for table run. The patent colt and kid market is firm and higher, as the new prices on these lines went into effect on December first. In patent sides there is a fair volume of new business, but the high prices are tending to check the demand. Chrome sides went down. Reports are that tan sides sold at 62c for top grade. The general demand is not quite as acti e. Tanners continue from holders. quite as active. Tanners continue firm holders. of further advances on bark sides, but admit the demand has not been quite as active this week There has been a good demand for sheep sk[illegible] all grades and weights. Colors are selling freely. Stocks are small. Best productions of white chrome sheep are quoted at 35c to 40c. Finished splits continue more active. English buyers have been operating. It is reported that this buying is speculative on the part of buyers as they are said to have no immediate use for the supplies."

Selling prices at wholesale houses of a few standard lines follow:

	Per Pound. No 1	No.2
Sole Leather:		
Spanish sides	0.58	0.56
Oak Sides, Canadian	0.60	0.58
Do., foundry hides	0.62	0.60
Oak backs	0.68	0.65
Oak bends	0.78	0.76
	—per ft.—	
Sheep skins, linings	0.18	0.19
Do., toppings..	0.20	0.25
Chrome tongue, splits	....	0.15
Kid, glazed table run	....	0.60
Do., from dry hides	0.62	0.60
Upper Leather:	Per lb.	
Gun Metal Sides	0.44	0.50
Chrome Box Sides	0.44	0.48
Matt Sides	....	0.44
Patent Chrome	0.48	0.54
Kangaroo Grain	....	0.42
Russett Oil Grain	....	0.42
Elk	....	0.48
Splits Wax	0.36	0.40
Automobile, Carriage, and Furniture Leather:		
Spanish funiture	0.37	0.38
Hand buffed	0.35	0.36
Machine buffed	....	0.32
Deep buffed	0.19	0.20
Split	....	0.16
Belting Leather:		
Belting butts, shoulders.. on	....	1.40
Belting butts, shoulders off	....	1.60
Harness	0.62	0.65
Skirting	0.35	0.37

JUTE AND HEMP.

According to advice received from Dundee under date of November 29th, the market for jute at that time was unusually active. Difficulty in obtaining freight was a bull factor and dealers evidently made the most of a strong situation. Prices were rising several times in one day. The amount of Hessian cloth booked seemed to be quite capable of taking care of prices in the manufacturing section. War orders for the early months of the year added strength to the market.

According to the latest New York reports the strength of the local hemp market continues, and business would be active provided the offerings were larger. There is a marked scarcity of the better grades of Manila due to the fact that the navy is buying in the primary market as well as the Japanese, who use the fibre for the manufacture of hemp braid. Incidentally, the production is smaller. Good current is nominally held at 20c and 25 per cent over fair current at 16½c. Fair current is still 13½c. Sisal is not offered by the regulating committee. Istle is dull at quotations.

Jute is nominally unchanged in default of active offerings from the primary market. There is some business being done on a f.o.b. Calcutta basis.

Current prices in the New York market are as follows:

Manila Hemp, fair current spot	14	
Manila shipment	13½	
Manila Good Current shipment	20	
Istle Hemp, Palma	4	
Istle Hemp, Tula	4	
Istle Hemp, Jaumauve	5¼	
New Zealand shipment	11⅝	
Jute, Spot	8½	8¼

GROCERIES.

The market for sugar is easier having declined 10 cents a 100 lbs. during the week, in sympathy with the New York market. Sugar is dull at present owing to the holiday season. The canned goods market is uncertain and prices are difficult to quote. The demand fell off materially with the high prices on the new goods and consequently dealers are not adhering very strictly to listed prices when dealing with their regular customers. Corn on the cob in gallons increased 25c, bringing it to $5.75 per dozen. Cohoes and Red Springs are out of stock, in tinned salmon. Molasses is still scarce and firm. The outlook for the sugar crop in Barbadoes is excellent so far, the canes being already well forward. Future values of fancy grade molasses depend to a great extent on the sugar market, as growers are in a position to make crystal sugar unless they get a parity value for their fancy molasses. Tapioca is firm with prospects of an advance on account of the difficulty of obtaining supplies. Beans are very dear, some lines are almost off the market. There is no change in cocoa and chocolate, but the outlook is f[illegible] prices owing to the higher values on many raw materials entering the manufacture. Spices are strong in an active market.

Sugar quotations are as follows:

	100 lbs.
Atlantic, St. Lawrence and Canada Sugar Companies, extra granulated sugars.. ..	7.70
Acadia Sugar Refinery, extra granulated.. ..	7.60
Yellow, No. 1	7.30
Special icing, barrels	7.90
Powdered, barrels	7.80
Paris, lumps, barrels	8.30
Crystal Diamonds, barrels	8.30
Assorted tea cubes, boxes	8.30

PERSONALS MARKETS.

Mr. W. W. Hutchison of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co., sailed for England last week. During his stay in the Old Country Mr. Hutchison will acquire concrete information as to the policy adopted by the British Government regarding the quality of flour to be milled. Mr. Hutchison will spend Christmas with his son, Lieut. Paul Hutchison who was recently wounded at the front and is now convalescing in England.

SHIPPING PARAGRAPHS.

William Petersen & Co., Ltd., of London, Eng., have taken over the management of the Calliope Steamship Company, Ltd., and the London Marine Steamship Company, Ltd., whose fleets comprise four useful cargo steamers. This addition to the ships controlled by Petersen & Co., Ltd., brings their fleet up to approximately 100,000 tons deadweight.

David and William Henderson & Co., Ltd., Meadowside Shipyard, Glasgow, have acquired an interest in the business of A. & J. Inglis, Ltd., who occupy the adjoining yard at Pointhouse. There will be no change in the management of the two concerns. As the two shipyards concerned are the furthest up the Clyde, on the north side of the river, the association should strengthen their position in Clyde shipbuilding.

GRAIN ACREAGES OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1916.

According to a preliminary statement just issued by the Census and Statistics Office based on the returns of the census taken last summer, the acreage sown to wheat in Manitoba last year amounted to 2,695,389 acres, compared with 3,094,573 acres in 1911, in Saskatchewan, 8,532,838 acres against 5,225,914 acres in 1911, and in Alberta 2,571,670 acres, as compared with 1,639,974 acres in 1911. The following table shows the total acreages sown to the principal field crops in the three provinces:

Field Crops.	Census Years. 1906.	1911.	1916.
Three Provinces:	acres.	acres.	acres.
Fall Wheat	85,199	321,727	155,966
Spring Wheat ..	4,977,294	9,668,734	13,643,931
All Wheat	5,062,493	9,990,461	13,799,897
Barley..	522,734	886,225	1,334,189
Oats	2,309,439	4,861,453	6,976,160
Rye..	14,496	21,439	67,905
Flax	131,819	1,340,899	636,440

The Census obtained the acreages and yields of the crops of 1915 as well as the acres of the 1916 crop. These will be published as soon as available. The 1915 figures for acreages as compiled to date are somewhat higher than those of 1916 in the older sections of these provinces, but are lower in the northern and more recently settled districts. The total area under spring wheat in Manitoba in 1915 was 2,748,921, compared with 2,687,439 in 1916. In Saskatchewan the acreage under spring wheat showed little change between 1915 and 1916, being 8,425,632 in the former year and 8,427,060 in the latter. In Alberta an increase from 2,112,912 acres under spring wheat in 1915 to 2,529,432 in 1916 is shown.

The total acreage under these five crops in all three provinces was 8,040,981 in 1906, 17,100,477 in 1911 and 22,814,591 in 1916. Thus there was a gain of 9,059,496 acres between 1906 and 1911 and of 5,714,114 acres during the past five years.

MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

Receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past two weeks follow:

	Week Ending Dec. 16.	Week Ending Dec. 9.
Wheat, bushels	260,256	[illegible]
Oats, bushels..	491,154	695,566
Barley, bushels	38,771	14,990
Flour, barrels	22,475	23,076
Eggs, cases..	421	1,568
Butter, packages	3,341	3,988
Cheese, boxes	5,874	12,080
Potatoes, bags..	14	1,766
Hay, bales	40,876	42,858

RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheese and eggs in Montreal for the week ended December 16th, 1916, with comparisons:

	Butter, pkgs.	Cheese, boxes.	Eggs cases.
Week ended Dec. 16, 1916	3,341	5,874	421
Week ended Dec. 9, 1916	3,988	12,080	3,949
Week ended Dec. 18, 1915	3,343	5,855	3,479
Total receipts May 1 to date, season 1916.	486,589	2,200,647	621,981
Total receipts May 1 to date, season 1915.	387,076	1,976,972	508,020

THE LOWER ST. LAWRENCE ROUTE.

For the first time during the last sixty-two years not a single accident to a seagoing vessel occurred during the past year in the River St. Lawrence between Quebec and Father Point. A letter has been received by the Minister of Marine, Hon. J. D. Hazen, from Lloyd's Canadian Agent, Henry Fry and Company, of Quebec, which calls attention to this fact and compliments the department.

THE U. S. COTTON CROP.

Cotton production in the United States for the season 1916-17 will amount to 11,511,000 equivalent 500-pound bales according to an announcement made by the Department of Agriculture.

Last year 11,191,820 equivalent 500,pound bales were grown and during the five years. 1910 to 1914, the average was 14,259,231 bales.

The record crop was grown in 1914 when 16,134,930 bales were produced.