TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, March 21st, 1901.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—What we have continued to say for some weeks past under this head remains good now; trade is in a very fair condition, with no changes of price or other special feature worth noting. Across the line, normal activity prevails with prices fairly firm, though resublimed iodine is a shade lower. The outside quinine market, according to late cables, is reported weaker. Some of the great opium-producing fields in Turkey have been badly damaged by frost, and if it were not for the fact of the large surplus crop last year, the price would probably go up with a jump.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—Flour from Manitoba wheat has gone up a little. There has been a fair sale of 90 per cent. patents during the week at $2.57½ to $2.60, in buyers' covers at main line points. Bran is extremely scarce, and in good demand. Oatmeal keeps pretty steady.

GRAIN.—There is not much change in the situation to report this week. Winter wheat is about 1c. higher owing to the increased demand for export, while spring wheat remains unchanged. Oats are ½c. higher. Peas, rye, corn and buckwheat all remain unchanged. Receipts in the country are still light.

GREEN FRUIT.—Not very much is being done by the fruit dealers just now, and for the next two or three weeks a general slack time must be anticipated. Oranges, however, are still coming forward in considerable quantities. Apple shipments are almost finished. We quote prices as follows: Lemons, new Messina, fancy, $2.75 to $3.25 per box; oranges, California navels, $2.75 to $3 per box; Valencia, $5 per case; marmalade, $3 to $3.25 per box; grape fruits, $3.50 to $3.75; bananas, $1.50 to $2 per bunch; Canadian onions, $1.25 per bag.

GROCERIES.—Very slight changes are to be recorded in prices this week. Business continues in an almost stagnant condition, with but very little movement visible, except perhaps in sugars. These are beginning to move a little more freely at the decline recorded last week. For teas there is comparatively little enquiry. Canned goods of all sorts are very quiet, stocks being quite large in retailers' hands. An improvement in general business conditions is looked for shortly.

DRY GOODS.—There has hardly been so much activity this week in the wholesale houses as distinguished them a short while since. At the same time, many travellers, who remained in town during the millinery openings, hardly got well started again at their work, so perhaps this fact accounts for some of the comparative paucity of orders. Prospects are highly favorable for the sorting trade. Staple goods continue extremely firm with no prospect for a decline, and this is rendering retailers less cautious in making their purchases. In cotton goods also prices quoted by the Canadian mills show no fall in values. Some orders for fall and winter underwear are coming forward. Woolen goods would appear to give indications of enhancing values, probably owing to the firmer feeling in the recent London sales.

HIDES AND SKINS.—No improvement is visible in this market, and prices are still being marked further down. In Chicago, offerings of packer hides, particularly native stock, continue fairly free, packers have large supplies on hand. Demand shows no improvement, the large buyers holding aloof; prices quoted are 11 to 11¼c. for native steers; 11½ to 11¾c. for heavy Texas; 10½c. for butt brands; 10¼c. for Colorados; 10c. for native cows, and 9½c. for branded cows. Country hides are dull at 7¾c. for No. 1 buffs.