

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Aug. 28th, 1902.

Chemicals and Drugs.—The drug business seems to be holding the position which has obtained for some time past. Prices hold their own well, and trade is normally active. In New York, little more than routine business is being carried on. In quinine, however, there is a considerable increase in the demand by consumers. The transfer of several weak lots at 20 cents has cleared the atmosphere. If the report that the monthly auction sales of Java quinine in Batavia are to be discontinued is true it may

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have a beneficial effect upon the general situation. In place of the auctions, the report states, the quinine is to be disposed of by tenders on the day following the monthly bark sale in Amsterdam, the price on the salt being fixed in accordance with the result of that sale. The Java manufacturers, it is understood, have been induced to adopt this course by the very unsatisfactory results of the auctions. Opium remains dull, but the market is steady. Stronger cable advices have caused a firmer feeling in the market for ergot without causing an advance in prices.

Dry Goods.—An atmosphere of bustle and expectation prevails in the wholesale dry goods houses, in readiness for the Exhibition and millinery openings next week, when large numbers of visitors are expected. Prices continue very firm, but there is nothing very new to say.

Flour and Meal.—A steady market prevails for flour, and 90 per cent. patents have sold this week for \$2.70 in buyers' covers, fancy grades being a little higher. Bran and shorts have made no great change in price, and are somewhat on the quiet side. Oatmeal continues steady.

Grain.—There is no old wheat now on the market, and what there is of the new, which is not coming forward very quickly, is not selling very freely. Prices are steady. The only demand is from the millers, quotations being still too high from an export basis. The Ontario wheat has turned out to be of better quality than was anticipated, it only having been injured by adverse weather conditions in certain locations. Oats are in fair demand at 30 to 31c. Peas and barley are steady, while corn and rye are a little firmer.

Fruits.—Great activity has prevailed in the wholesale fruit warehouses lately. A little while ago it was remarked that the feature of the present year was abundance of California fruits on this market, which was greater than in any previous year. This has been driven out of the market, however, to a great extent, by the large quantities of domestic fruits now coming forward. Prices are quoted as follows: California grapes, 4-basket crates, \$2.25 to \$3; California peaches, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; Bartlett pears, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per box; plums, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; bananas, \$1.50 to \$1.85 per large bunch; late Valencia oranges, \$6 per box; Sorrento, \$4; lemons, Majori, \$4 to \$4.50; Verdilli, \$2.75 per box; limes, \$2.50 per box; watermelons, 20c. to 30c each; Canadian peaches, 20c. to \$1, according to grade and variety; cante-loupes, 40c. to 60c.; Lawton berries, 6c. to 7c.; blueberries, \$1.75 to \$2 per box; Canadian tomatoes, 40c. to 60c.; potatoes, 45 to 55c. per bushel; cabbage, \$1.25 per bbl.; apples, early, 20c. to 30c. per basket, \$1.50 per bbl.; cukes, 30 to 40c. per 12-quart basket; green corn, 8c. to 10c. per doz.; Jamaica cocoanuts, \$3.50 per sack.

Hardware.—Harvest tools are in good demand, also binder twine and rope. Portland cement has advanced 15c. per bbl. Cast-iron fittings have been fixed

at a discount of 50 and 10 per cent., and the discount on malleable changed from 35 to 30 per cent. Most lines of shelf hardware are on the quiet side, as is usual at this period of the year. For metals the demand is good, and prices reign firm. Canada plates are quiet with a downward tendency. Lead is strong while zinc scrap is easy.

Hides and Skins.—Receipts of hides are somewhat light, and there is no accumulation of stocks. The demand, however, is not very brisk, as the tanners do not appear prepared to give the prices at present in vogue. Lamb and calfskins are steady, with a good demand. Tallow is quite firm. In Chicago business during the week in market for city slaughter hides was at a standstill, there being an absence of offerings. Buyers, however, gave close attention to the situation, and at the close it was reported that the United Dressed Beef Company sold about 2,400 branded hides at about 13¼c. for butt brands and side brands. Country hides and calfskins were firm.

Groceries.—Sugars continue at the same prices as have been quoted for some time past. General trade continues rather dull. Canned salmon and canned fruits are very firm. Tomatoes especially are hard to get, and canners are offering almost unprecedented prices. With regard to teas, some difference of opinion exists as to the prices likely to prevail for Japans. Cable advices from Colombo report prices higher on green teas as the result of large buying on Russian account. The quantity sent to Russia during that period was 106,435 lbs. During the same period in 1901 no green tea was sent to Russia from Ceylon.

Live Stock.—Considerable dullness prevailed in the Toronto cattle market this week, and drovers were far from pleased at the prices obtaining. Lots of cattle failed to sell at all, and this will help buyers at future markets. The export cattle offered were of pretty good quality, and this kept most of them not far below previous quotations. Sheep sold, comparatively speaking, better than cattle, and lambs advanced a little.

Leather.—A steadier feeling has prevailed in the leather market this week, and the local and export demands have both been heavier. Prices are distinctly firmer, in sympathy with recent advances in the United States and in the local market for raw material.

Provisions.—The butter market is weaker, and a considerable portion of the arrivals show poor quality. The market is pretty well glutted with bakers' stock. Cheese is quiet and steady. Eggs are about the same, at 15c. to 16c. A good trade is passing in smoked meats at unchanged quotations.

Wool.—A fair movement is in process with regard to this year's clip of wool. Local dealers are the chief buyers, although some largish lots have gone to the States. A pretty good enquiry is noted for fleece, and prices are about the same.