

preferring to wait till later in the fall as freights are very high on account of contracts for carrying grain. Cord wood low, in little demand, with full supply.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—A fair business is reported, giving rise to no features of special interest. Prices are generally unchanged, but a slight reduction has been made in Quinine from \$4.25, the ruling price heretofore, to \$4.15 to \$4.25, the present quotation, as shown by our *Prices Current*.

**DRY GOODS.**—The movement in this trade is certainly uneven. Some of our largest houses report business very dull, and cannot be brought to admit that there is either improvement or evidence of its imminence, while others declare that both sales and remittances are fair and satisfactory. As compared with last week, the orders filled are lighter on the whole, a circumstance that may be in part accounted for by the diversion of travel occasioned by the Toronto Exhibition. Excursion rates have brought some country merchants to town, but not so many as might have been expected. As compared with the corresponding season last year, our canvass of the market inclines us to the belief that business is at least slightly better, notwithstanding the opinion of some few of our foremost wholesale dealers to the contrary. Orders just at this juncture are light, but this is quite natural since it is yet too early to feel the effects of the harvesting now going on. The trade is really in a state of expectancy, with the balance of probabilities favoring the realization of hopeful anticipations. Another fortnight or so should do much to determine the character of business for the fall, and in the meantime it is perhaps unprofitable to indulge in conjecture, but we fail to perceive any elements properly belonging to the problem that justify gloomy predictions. We call attention to our prices current, revised and corrected to date, by changes in the following named goods: Hochelaga Brown Cottons, "M drilling," 10½c; Dundas Mills' Grey Domestic, "36 inch A," 8½c; 36 inch A X full, 10c; Plain Sheetings, 72 inch No. 18, 22½c; Tickings, 30 inch, C, 14c; 33 inch A, 20c; Denims, Blue, C, 14c; Brown, C, 14c; Bags, 3 ply, 17 oz., \$29.50 per bale; Grey Yarns, \$52 per bale; Colored, \$72 per bale; White Carpet Warp, \$54 per bale; Colored, \$74 per bale.

**FLOUR AND GRAIN.**—The local market for wheat, if in the absence of business we may cite wide quotations as a market, is unchanged since last report. Canada Spring is variously quoted from day to day either \$1.00 to \$1.02 or \$1.00 to \$1.03 and Red Winter at \$1.07 to \$1.08 or \$1.08½. These prices are purely nominal, and are based on estimated valuation, not upon actual bids and offers. On Tuesday last a sale of 17,000 and odd bushels of Toledo Red Winter was made in this market at \$1.08½, and to-day we learn of the sale of a cargo of No. 1 White Winter at \$1.08½, these being the only transactions for shipment of which we are informed. This inattention must now shortly disappear as the crop comes forward, and it is gratifying to note indications that the actual prices soon to be established cannot well be below the nominal ones now ruling. The Chicago market has gone up since a week ago a clear 3½c per bushel, and the character of the rise day by day has been of the most reliable description; that is gradual, uniform, steady, continuous. The price for September delivery was on Thursday last 85½c; Friday, 86½c; Saturday, 87c; Monday, 87½c; Tuesday, 88½c and Wednesday, 89c. To-day a still further rise of 2½c is reported by wire, the price in Chicago at 1.04 p.m., being 91½c for September, and 92½c for October. Advances of this nature are rarely, if ever, brought about by speculative dealings, though every movement one way or the other has a tendency to engender purely venturesome transactions, and probably the special rise noted on Tuesday, as well as that reported to-day, may properly be attributed to buying of that kind, but the general movement is undoubtedly the outgrowth of continued heavy shipments abroad, and of a legitimate export and consumptive demand. The accounts

from England have continued of the most unfavorable character with regard to harvesting weather, and the question that seems most to interest grain dealers now is not how much Europe will want, but how much she will be able to pay for. In coarse grains, the special feature has been the free offering of new peas, which have been tendered as low as 72½c in car lots. A good active business is reported at constantly changing prices, the majority of transactions centering about 73c for car lots. Cargoes are done at 74c to 75c. Oats are offering at 31c to arrive, and Corn is quoted 45½c to 46c in bond. The market for flour is more animated, and the volume of transactions reported is larger than last week, and the prices made generally higher. Spring extra is rather scarce and in sharp demand at about 15c advance. Superior Extra is also in request at 10c advance. Ontario bags and City bags have moved up 5c each, and other grades are hardening in price, and acting in sympathy with those named. Free sales are reported at the following prices: Superior Extra, \$5.95, \$5.00, \$5.05 and \$5.10; Spring Extra, \$1.80, \$1.77½, \$1.75, \$1.85 and \$1.90; City bags, \$2.45, \$2.50, \$2.42½, \$2.45, \$2.50. Other sales are: Strong Bakers, \$5.10; Superfine, \$1.00; Extra, \$4.95; Ontario bags, \$2.35, and Oatmeal, \$4.75 and \$4.80. We quote: Superior Extra, \$5.10 to \$5.15; Extra Superfine, \$5.00 to \$5.05; Spring Extra, \$1.90 to \$1.95; Superfine, \$1.60 to \$1.65; Strong Bakers, \$5.10 to \$5.25; Fine, \$4.10 to \$4.20; Ontario bags, \$2.35 to \$2.40, and City bags, \$2.50 to \$2.55.

**FRUITS.**—One week with another, business in this market is exceedingly variable. Last Thursday we were able to report a good business and fairly active condition of trade, to-day we have to quote the demand slow and the market lifeless. The receipts of apples, grapes and pears have been quite free, and the quality of fruit arriving is now very good, but orders both from jobbers and fruiterers have fallen off considerably, and consignees find themselves rather overstocked. The fruit product of Montreal Island has been unusually large and fine this year, and farmers have been supplying the market very freely by direct sale. In this way the local demand, as shown by the business of wholesale dealers, may have somewhat diminished, but it does not follow, nor is there any reason to believe, that the actual demand for consumption is less than usual at this season. We quote apples, \$1.50 to \$2 per bbl.; pears, Bartlett's, \$5 to \$6 per bbl.; peaches, \$1.25 per basket; grapes, 5c. per lb; and lemons, \$6 per case.

**FREIGHTS.**—Rates are slightly lower, and a decided change has taken place in the tendency of the market, which is now downward. We hear of the charter of one vessel for grain for the continent, direct port, with U. K. option, at 6s. 6d., and another at 6s. 3d. A single vessel has been fixed at \$16 for the River Platte. Generally speaking, more tonnage continues offering than there is any demand for. Rates here have simply moved in conformity with changes reported in the New York market, where a good inquiry still obtains, but is more than fully met by offerings on easier terms. We quote for this port per steamer to Liverpool 5s 6d to 5s 9d, and 5s 6d to 6s to Glasgow.

**GROCERIES.—Sugars.**—The operations have not been much beyond requirements for current business, and on basis of about previous prices for all kinds. The second refinery for sugars will be in active operation immediately, and Halifax people are moving to get their building begun, while the Eastern Townships show enterprise in the way of starting beet-root refining, to which is attached a considerable bonus by Quebec Government, so that in the line of sugars there is action. It is to be hoped all will prove ultimately profitable to all and beneficial to the country. Barbadoes sugars steady, 6½c to 6¾c; Porto Rico, 6½c to 7¾c; Yellow Refined, casks, British, 6½c to 8c; Montreal, 7c to 8½c, bbls; Granulated, 8½c to 9c. *Teas.*—Our staple

Japan tea is firm at all points, and cable advices now at hand from Yokohama show a still further advance, making prices higher than for years past. In sympathy with the firm markets in Japan, prices are firm and there is disposition to bring suitable teas to hold. Young Hysons firm; low grades are advanced about 1d sterling in Britain and finer qualities in active demand. Advance of about 2c for the month may be reported here. Black teas quiet. Molasses held higher for good Barbadoes, say 28c to 31c as to quality. Syrups quiet. *Coffees*, light trade; market steady. Pity our people do not use more of the genuine article. *Rice*, \$1.05 to \$1.35. *Chemicals.*—Very little change for all goods; business doing is only moderate. *Spices.*—Advices note firmness in pepper, cloves and nutmegs. With us demand is not very active and as before reported. *Fruits.*—New Valentias are in market, held for first arrival about 7½c to 8c. To arrive, about 7c for quantity would be taken. Larger raisins, no new crop expected for some time yet; season rather late. Old crop, nominally as before, although to sell lots some reduction would have to be made. Currants firm. *Salt.*—Market not active, 46c to 49c for 11 to ton, and 50c to 53c for 10; factory-filled dull.

**HARDWARE.**—General business still continues fair, with possibly a slightly lessened demand from that last reported. The fall trade proper has not yet opened, although what might be termed premonitory buying has already set in. The American market is constantly reported active with advancing prices, and favorable accounts from across the Atlantic, before referred to, are not qualified by later advices. A singular and eccentric move has taken place in this market in that cut nails have been reduced 25c. per keg in the face of conditions all pointing the other way. The reduction is supposed to owe its origin to some dissatisfaction on the part of the large rolling mills of this city with the distribution of orders in the particular line of goods named, and the object in view would appear to be to crowd cut competition. This is certainly perfectly legitimate from a business point of view, but its wisdom can only be determined by the results attained. We find in it only an occasion to caution country merchants against being deceived as to the general character and tendency of the market by arbitrary action, growing out of the personal jealousy or rivalry of manufacturers and wholesale dealers. The prices at which cut nails are now offered is very close upon first cost, and with the manifest tendency of the iron trade in England and the United States towards still further improvement and enhancement of values, we make bold to urge upon all dealers the advisability of taking advantage of this local feel, and supplying their wants freely while yet so good an opportunity remains. How long the present circular prices will be kept in force is, of course, altogether uncertain, but unless some quite unforeseen change should come upon the world-wide iron market, it is safe to predict that the changes now noted are not of a permanent nature. The general tendency of prices is shown by the following changes in pig iron: Gartsherrie No. 1, advanced from \$17.50 to \$18; Eglington No. 1, advanced from \$16 to \$16.50; and Summerlee, advanced from \$17 to \$17.50. On the other hand our price list for cut nails is reduced 25c. all round, as already indicated in this report.

**HAY AND STRAW.**—About 300 loads of hay and straw have been sold this week. Feed of all kinds is expected as soon as the farmers get in their harvests. Prices are as follows: Best Timothy, \$7.50 per 100 bundles of 15 lbs each; common hay, \$6.00 to \$6.75; straw nominal at about \$4 to \$5; pressed hay, \$8 to \$9 per ton; pressed straw, \$5 to \$6.

**HIDES.**—Those who are interested in this market will recall that a fortnight ago a concerted effort was made to bring down prices, and that the effort failed completely. It seems now to