

Temple Bldg., Bay St., TORONTO. Tel. 2309. C S SCOTT, Resident Agent, HAMILTON, Ont Groceries.—Dullness still characterizes the wholesale grocery trade. Prices remain practically the same in all lines. Pepper is very firm, however. There is a scarcity on this market for Mediterranean fruits, though some shipments are expected this week. Stocks of canned vegetables are running light, and prices are, if anything, firmer. Canned salmon and other fish are experiencing a fait movement. A pretty good trade is being done in teas for this time of the year, especially in mediums. Mail advices from London report that sales of Indian teas were rather heavy at the auction, and a further decline took place in all grades. Common teas were ¼d. lower, and medium descriptions about ¼d. The average price at the sales for the week was 7 2-3d., against 6¾. last year. There was an easier tone in regard to Ceylon teas, medium grades falling ¼d to ¼d. per lb., and common grades were also weaker. The average price was 0.59d. against 7.31d., the same week a year ago. Since the above was set, all grades of sugar have declined 5c.

Hardware.—No special feature calls for comment in the shelf hardware trade, conditions remaining practically unchanged from those obtaining last week. The movement in metals has been brisk, and prices are firm and in many cases quite strong. In Great Britain there has been much activity in the metal markets. Enquiries for pig iron have been coming to hand from the United States and from the Continent, but so far no great amount of business has been arranged for those places; values have, however, been affected, and the advancing market has brought forward buyers, with the result of forcing up prices further, the total advance during last month being 4s. Iod. per ton in Scotch iron, and 3s. 6d. per ton in Cleveland. The advance, however, would appear to be out of proportion to actual business done, and there is now some disposition to hold off and wait the course of events. The higher priced metals have been moving well. Tin has advanced some £6 15s per ton, but is now easing. Copper has about maintained the considerable advance made in the last week of January. Spelter has advanced 7s. 6d. per ton, and is firm. Lead is some Ios. per ton dearer, but is at present easing.

Hides, Skins and Leather.—One or two unimportant changes in prices will be found in our hide quotations this week. Offerings have been somewhat more liberal. Tallow is steady. The demand for leather is steady, and prices are firm. Live Stock.—Prices at the cattle market this week were easier owing to the very liberal offerings, though export cattle sold pretty freely. Butchers' cattle fell off some Ioc. per cwt. Feeders and stockers remained about steady, as also did sheep and lambs.

Provisions.—Eggs have come down during the week with a slump. They are now selling at 21c., and the prospects point to a still further rapid decline. Butter is quiet and unchanged. Cheese is steady. In hog products only a moderate business is being done. Prices are unchanged. Lard is in good request. Dressed hogs are being offered in carload lots at \$7.50, delivered.

Wool.—The demand for export is very slow, and what sales have been made have been practically without profit. However, the aggregates of these sales during the past several weeks is fairly large, and has resulted in a considerable lightening of stock, so that prices are likely soon to have the desired advancing tendency. Stocks in the States are reported as being somewhat heavier than at this time of last year, but at the same time it should be stated that requirements by the mills are heavier also.

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