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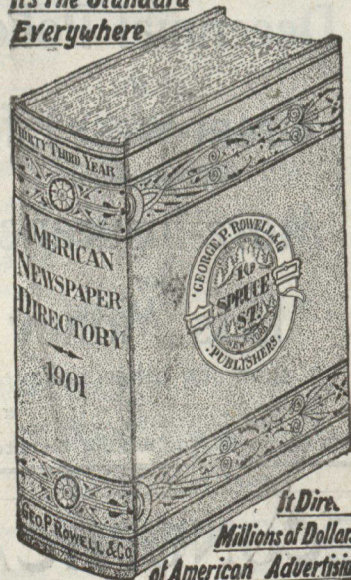
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TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Feb. 26th, 1903.

Chemicals, Drugs, Etc.—While no appreciable changes in the price of drugs have been made, yet there are several which are manifesting an upward tendency. Opium especially is quite strong. In quinine a certain amount of easiness prevails. The volume of trade going on at present is fairly satisfactory.

Dry Goods.—During the last few days, while no complaint can be made as to business conditions in the dry goods trade, it cannot be said to have been particularly active. Some buyers are in the market but many more will no doubt be here next week when the spring millinery openings take place. All staple goods remain very firm, and, while we have heard of no fresh advances, such are possible any day.

Flour and Grain.—A steady market prevails for flour. Ninety per cent. patents are quoted at \$2.65 to \$2.70 in buyers' bags, east or middle freights. Manitoba flour is fairly firm. Bran and shorts are without change. Oatmeal is steady. Trading in wheat is dull, and there is an easier tendency visible, though quotations remain the same as last week. The demand is very light.

Fruit.—A somewhat better demand has been experienced for oranges, with good supplies coming forward. Prices are quoted as follows: California navels, \$2.75 to \$3.25 per box; Marmalade, \$2.50; Mexican, \$2.50; Messina lemons, \$2.35 to \$2.50; bananas, fancy, \$1.25 to \$1.75 per bunch; Jumbo, \$2.25 to 2.50; coconuts, \$3.50 to \$3.75 per sack; Onions, 50 cents per bag; Almeria grapes, \$5.50 to \$6.00 per bbl.; California celery, \$4.50 per case; pineapple, \$3.50 per case; Spanish onions, 70c. per case; Liverpool advices report an active British demand for apples. Baldwins and Spies are quoted at 16s. to 20s.; Russets, 17 to 21s. seconds 6s. less.

Hardware.—A good volume of business is being transacted and the outlook for the coming season is more than promising, especially in the Northwest. United States manufacturers have raised the price of augers and bits. Some brands of rope are about a cent cheaper. The heavy metals are moving briskly, and steel and iron are strong. Stocks of iron piping are light. Tin and copper have advanced a fraction; from Glasgow a quiet market for pig-iron is reported, with only a limited turn-over. Fresh business with home consumer's has been restricted, but deliveries against current contracts are heavy.

Hides and Skins.—Receipts of hides are fairly liberal but with a fair demand, prices remain steady. Sheep skins are in good demand, while calfskins are quiet. Tallow keeps steady.

Groceries.—Sugars remain at their old quotations though prices are easy, while in New York they are by no means steady yet. Japan rice has advanced half a cent or more, last season's crop hav-

ing proved a comparative failure. California prunes, large size, are scarce and have advanced; others are plentiful and values are easy. Some spices, notably cinnamon and nutmegs have gone up about 20 per cent. Canned peas are advancing.

Live Stock.—While no great briskness could be noted at the cattle market this week, prices kept up to a pretty good standard. Dealers are of opinion that drovers throughout the country have been giving too much for the animals offered. Export cattle went slowly, but not much vessel space is offering now. Butchers' cattle showed a little improvement, and all offerings sold early. Quality was about the average. For high-grade milch cows there would be a really good demand, but such appear to be scarce. The same applies to sheep and lambs.

Paints and Oils.—Business in these lines has been quite active lately. The feature still is turpentine, which in one-barrel lots still sell for 95c to \$1.00. Most oils are high owing partly to the scarcity of crude petroleum.

Wool.—Prices for fleece are nominally the same, though stocks are practically exhausted. Pulled wools are in fair demand and are selling at unchanged prices.

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