

has been no shipping demand, and sales have only been to meet the wants of the city retail trade, fall prices being paid for desirable butter, say from 22 to 25c. *Cheese*—There has been a pretty heavy shipment of this article, amounting to 10,360 boxes, being lots bought in the west. The demand here at present is small, and prices are firm but unchanged at 14 to 15c. *Pork*—Receipts 290 brls.; shipments 65 brls.; market dull and drooping. Mess Pork \$19 to 19.50; Thin Mess \$17.50 to 18.00. *Lard* is quiet at 11 to 12½c. *Tallow* unchanged and nominal.

SALT.—Market very quiet, few sales transpiring. Coarse 60c; factory filled \$1.35 to \$1.40.

WOOL.—There is a decidedly improved demand for wool, but there is very little held here at present. When stocks get a little replenished, a pretty active business is expected. We quote pulled wool, white, 28 to 30c; black 26 to 27c.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, March. 8, 1877

During February we were told in many quarters that the 1st to the 4th of March this year would be found to be a crucial period for our country dealers. That not one note in three would be paid, that there was no money in the country, and that the pressure on our wholesalers to take up their customers' notes would border on a panic.

Hearing all this, we have taken some pains to learn how our wholesale houses have been paid, and we find such fears as we have named by no means borne out. Since the adoption by a number of our dry goods houses of altered terms of credit, and the abandonment of dating forward, there is not the bulk of paper maturing on the 1st which characterized former years; but the proportionate payment of bills in this line has been at least up to 1876, and in some cases better, while the additional fact is apparent of a decrease in indebtedness in the country. The response of two of our leading banks to an enquiry as to pressure for discounts, has been exceptionally favourable with respect to the date under notice. Among boot and shoe manufacturers the payments of one house on 1st and 4th of March amounted to seventy per cent. of the amount due, while in February the payments were even larger. Another house had sixty-six per cent. paid in February, but not so much in March. The proportion of payment in a third case was sixty-five per cent. in March, and nearly eighty per cent. in the month of February.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The business doing is moderate, and mainly confined to the filling of orders formerly taken. These orders indeed are filled in proportion as the payments of their givers are satisfactory or otherwise; and not much hesitancy is felt in "cutting down" an order where a man's account is behind. There are fewer American goods brought in, since the production this season, by at least one leading house, of styles that replace the American, at prices which insure the retention of the orders at home. In women's kid, laced and buttoned, this is an especially noticeable feature, and one which we welcome. Retail shoe stores complain of slackness in trade at the present time, as well in the city as the country.

CATTLE.—There is no activity shown at present. In *beef* no sales of firsts have taken place except a few broken lots. It is noticeable however that the quality of the animals offering shows some signs of improvement, firsts although in good demand are by no means numerous \$5.00 is readily paid. Some are expected from the Guelph and Elora fairs which take place on the first Wednesday in each month. Seconds bring from \$4.25 to 4.50 and thirds from \$3.75 to 4.00 these are abundant. *Sheep* are worth \$4.00 to 5.00 and are also scarce, *Calves* are very scarce and wanted, first class are worth \$10.00 to 15.00; second class \$8.00 to 10.00; third class \$4.00 to 6.00 all grades are in request. *Dressed Hogs* fell during last week, but have recovered, and prices are now for butchers, light hogs \$5.75 to 6.00 and even 6.25 have been paid for plump light weights heavy hogs for mess pork bring \$6.00 to 6.30.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—*Flour* stocks in store on 5th inst., 7590 bbls. against 7790 last week and 19,972 bbls. on like date last year. The trade is very quiet, and prices are weaker. Foreign market have shown some fluctuation. There is little or none coming in and there is almost no demand. Superior extra is unchanged, Extra dull at \$6.30 to 6.40, Fancy is easier and sales are reported at \$6.15 and at 6.10. Holders of spring wheat extra ask \$6.00; but there have been no sales at over 5.90. Superfine we quote 5.40 *Oatmeal* has declined somewhat, and \$5.10 to 5.20 will represent values, cornmeal steady at quotations.

GRAIN.—*Wheat*.—Fall, stocks in store March 5th, 76,451 bush. against 74,600 bush. last week and 294,173 on corresponding week last year, a decline of seventy-four per cent. as compared with a twelvemonth ago. But little has come forward, and there are no large transactions taking place. Liverpool declined from 1d. to 2d., and Chicago and Milwaukee declined yesterday from 2c to 4c, but recovered. The market here is unusually quiet for this time of year, and prices in white wheat are purely nominal in the absence of transactions. We do not alter quotations. Car lots of No. 1 spring have sold at \$1.38, and more offer at same figure. The stocks in store of spring are 153,665 bush. against 146,857 bush. last week, and 492,017 bush. at same date last year, a decline of sixty-six per cent. There were sales of No. 2 *Barley* on Tuesday at 57c. There is no movement in No. 1, which is nominally 75c and 76c. The stocks in store are 301,339 bush. *Oats*.—Stocks in store, 28,502 bush. against 26,032 bush. last week, and 6,734 bush. last year. Prices are 45 to 46c for Canadian, and 40 to 41c for American with sales at 40c. *Pea* have declined to 72 to 75c; stock in store, 52,977 bush.

GROCERIES.—Trade is dull, and in the opinion of some houses the general condition unsatisfactory. Quite a number of country dealers are still in the throes of uncertainty about their affairs and must either be carried by their principal creditors, or have their assets jeopardized by the expensive methods of the assignees. *Coffees* are unchanged in price. *Fish* have declined, Lent having so far advanced; Labrador herring, we quote: \$5.50 to 6.37; scaled 25 to 26c; Whitefish \$2.90 to 3.00; Trout \$2.50 to 2.60; Dry cod \$5.00. *Fruit* is very dull and easier, old Valentias can be bought at 4 to 4½c; and new at 6½ to 7c. *Molasses* and *Syrups* show a decline; clayed is now quoted at 31 to 34c; golden syrup 48 to 50c. *Rice* continues firm; Spices unaltered. *Sugars* are firm and steady in this market, yesterday's advices from Liverpool indicate an advance of 6d. In *Teas* there is scarcely any movement, and no change in last weeks quotations. *Tobaccos*.—Black are easier, McDonald having reduced his prices 1c

per lb.; bright sorts are as quoted; solace 33 to 47c; *Brandies* are firm and without change; DeKuyper's gin, Green cases are a shade lower, we quote \$4.25 to 4.50. Gooderham's 5 and 7 year old rye are respectively as quoted.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The market is extremely quiet. Green Nor command 7c. No2 cuts being 6c. and No2 Grubs 5c. and No3 4c. per lb., Nor cured and inspected have been offered as low as 7½c. and round lots could be bought at 7½c. *Calfskins* green 8 to 11c. and cured 13c. *Sheepskins* \$1.25 to 1.75, according to quality occasional choice skins being above the latter figures.

HARDWARE.—Payments to houses in this line 1st. to 4th. March have been tolerably good, the amount of trade doing is not large, as the business of the spring season has not yet begun. *Cut nails* move steadily at quotations. In *Spikes* we note a fall of 50c. in the regular sizes, within the month, and in *Boiler plate* the cheaper brands have declined from \$3.00 to 2.75 *Block tin* we quote 20 to 23c. *English Horse nails* are now but rarely sold, so entirely have they been superseded by Canadian makers which are not only cheaper, but better. We hear of an instance of a Toronto house negotiating for the shipment back to England of a large lot to be exchanged for other goods.

LEATHER.—There is no animation in this line, and consequently not so great firmness a good buyer will find prices markedly in his favor. The general disposition appears to be especially in the country, to buy "from hand to mouth" orders are generally small, and remittances frequently backward. There is no marked feature in spanish or slaughter *Sole Harness* is in moderate supply. French and Canadian *Calf* steady. Most lines are well assorted. *Materials* are steady and unchanged. There is no money for Tanners in hides at present relative prices, and the hide market is looking downward.

PROVISIONS.—The market is quiet, but prices are firm, and holders look for better figures. Stocks are not generally large in the city, but a good deal is held in the country of mess pork. *Butter*.—Choice is scarce and in good demand for retail trade at 21 to 23; large rolls, 19 to 21c; ordinary is plentiful both in city and country, and to be had at our quotations. *Cheese*.—A really choice article is scarce, and held firmly at 15 to 15½c; inferior are held at 10½ to 12c. *Pork*.—Mess, stocks in city are light and have generally been so since before the decline in the Chicago market. Western we quote in car lots at \$17.50; Canadian, \$18.00 to 18.50. *Bacon*.—The demand is light. Long clear is scarce. Cumberland can be brought in lots of 1,000 sides at 8c; smaller lots bring 8½ to 9c; smoked, 10 to 10½c with but slender demand. *Lard*.—We quote as before, 12 to 13c. Lots of 100 tubs can be had at 11 to 11½c. *Eggs* were lower some days since, but are now firmer, and are worth 14 to 17c as quoted last week.

Forty-five thousand bushels of clover seed were shipped from the State of Michigan during January and February. The shipment of Canadian in the same period amounted to seventy-five cars, and the average value per car is stated at \$3.80.

PETROLEUM.—The market is still unsettled. There are lots of very indifferent oil selling at very low figures. Prices here for a first-class article are in car lots 16c; ten to twenty barrels 17 to 17½c; single barrels 18 to 19c.

SHOEFINDINGS.—There is a slight improvement in demand noticeable within the past fortnight, and payments are somewhat better. Values are generally greater in this line. In *Prunellas* there is at present no change, the bulk of purchases for the season have been already made. Goods into the composition of which