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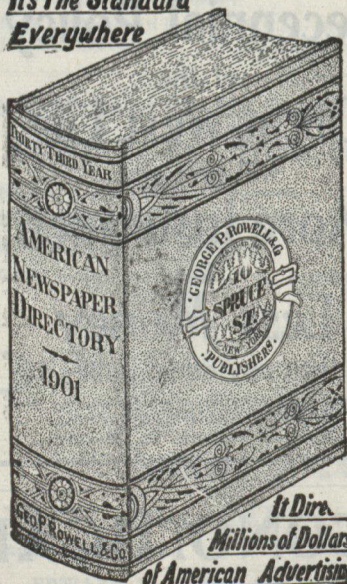
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## TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, 26th March, 1903.

**Dry Goods.**—The recent advance in wrapperettes, as was foreshadowed, has been offset by a drop, and the price is now again at 8c. The price will remain however, at 6¾c. until the 18th of April, after which wholesalers will have to give 8c. again. Great firmness prevails in all lines of staple goods. Business continues very active, and travellers are sending in good orders from country points, where they almost uniformly report satisfactory trade conditions.

**Flour and Grain.**—Quietness prevails in the flour market, and no more than \$2.65 can be obtained for 90 per cent. patents, this being in buyers' bags, middle freights. Manitoba flour is steady. Shorts are selling at \$17.50 to \$18.50, and bran at \$16.50 to \$17, in bulk. Oatmeal remains unchanged. Wheat is dull and has dropped about 1c. Barley is unchanged. Oats have gone down about 1c. Peas are 1c. lower, and dull at the decline. Rye, corn and buckwheat are unchanged. Little or nothing is doing. Nothing is coming in from the country, the roads being badly broken up.

**Fruits, Vegetables, Etc.**—There is a brisk feeling visible in the fruit markets, and the demand for oranges is good. Florida tomatoes are making their appearance in larger quantities, the price being about \$5 per crate for fancy. Other prices may be placed as follows: Oranges, California, navels, \$2.75 to \$3.50, as to quality; Mexicans, \$2.50; Valencias, \$3.50 to \$4.50; bananas, \$1.50 to \$2.50; lemons, \$2.35 to \$3; Almeria grapes, \$5.50 to \$8 per keg; beans, Canadian white, \$2.15 per bushel; Lima, 7c. per pound; onions, Canadian, 50c. per bag; Spanish, 85c.

**Hardware.**—All the wholesale hardware merchants are more than usually active for this time of the year. All sorts of shelf hardware is being ordered in fair quantities, and the coming general opening of navigation will stimulate this state of things. The metals are good sellers, too, just now. Prices in all lines are practically unchanged; in most, they are very firm. Glasgow, Scotland, reports speak of an easier market for pig iron. Cleveland warrants have fluctuated considerably of late, but net prices remain very much the same. A fair business is being done with Scotch hematite.

**Hides and Skins.**—The market for hides is not brisk, but prices keep pretty steady. Calfskins are firm, as also are sheepskins. Tallow remains without change.

**Leather.**—The general outlook in the leather trade is bright. Prices are quite steady, and business is opening up well though full early. Country orders are coming in fast.

**Live Stock.**—Live hogs were a feature of the cattle market trade this week, the price having gone up 12½c. per hundred. Export cattle were in good demand and prices were raised in several instances. Trade in butchers' cattle was also brisker, though prices remained the same. Stockers of good quality were in demand. Sheep and lambs were in request, but the supply was short.

**Provisions.**—Some degree of scarcity exists in good qualities of butter, and prices have an upward tendency. Poor grades drag. Cheese has made an advance of about ¼ to ½c., owing to large purchases for export. Live hogs have made an advance of 12½c. per cwt., and a strong, sympathetic feeling is manifest in the products, though so far prices for the latter remain the same. Eggs are plentiful and prices are easy.

**Wool.**—Though steady, the market for fleece is quiet, the quantity for sale being very small. Pulled wools are dull, and holders are scarcely so strong in their views as they were a few weeks ago. The second series of London wool auction sales closed on the 24th inst. When the sales opened business was brisk and merinos ruled unchanged from the January series. Later they strengthened and gradually scored a 3 per cent. advance. Greasy merinos showed greater firmness at times. Scoureds advanced to 5 per cent. above the opening rate. Fine crossbreds were unchanged from the first series. Coarse grades of crossbreds declined ½d. to ¾d., but improved slightly near the close of the series. Cape of Good Hope and Natal prices were barely maintained at the commencement, but strengthened and closed unchanged. Of the offerings, 11,906 bales were withdrawn and 73,000 were taken by the home trade.

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