

Some new figs are also to hand, and are very high in price, cost being figured at from 14 to 18c. as to quality. No price has yet been established for new dates, but as near as can be calculated the market will open about 17s. 6d. Almonds are very strong, and a cable to-day quotes an advance of 4s. to 5s. on figures at which orders for Tarragonas were booked a fortnight ago. First shipments of California raisins are expected here about the 10th or 12th of October, recent rains at Fresno have delayed despatch. Opening prices in California were 2¼c. for two-crown, 4c. for three-crown, and 4¾c. for four-crown, but it is said these figures are bound to advance, and any orders being placed now are only conditional, and at prices to be named at the next meeting of the Combination, which is to be held on the 8th prox. It is figured that it costs ¼c. to lay California raisins down in car lots, or half a cent more for broken lots, so that jobbing prices will likely rule higher than last year. Dried Californian peaches, pears and apricots will be high, the crop not being estimated at 20 per cent. of last year, and of nectarines there are hardly any. California prunes will be in fair supply, and will be due in Canada about the end of October. The larger sizes are not so plentiful as last year. Sugars are steady at 4½c. for standard granulated, yellows from 3 11-16c. to 4¾c. As regards teas, the situation is just about the same as noted last week.

HIDES.—A somewhat better demand is reported for hides, with fair sales being made to tanners at 10c. per lb.; dealers continue to buy on basis of 9c. for No. 1, Calfskins are dull at old prices. There will hardly be the usual monthly advance in lambskins next week, because the prices at present being paid, namely 50 to 70c. each, are said to be higher than circumstances warrant.

HOPS.—As yet really few transactions have passed in new hops, only a few small parcels having apparently been sold on this market on private terms, said to be rather higher than last year, and no regular quotations have been established as yet.

LEATHER.—Some of the boot and shoe manufacturers now report the receipt of first spring orders, but there will be no cutting of leather for these goods for some little time yet, and leather dealers do not report any active demand. Some moderate trading is reported in sole, dongolas and colored leathers, but in other lines there is comparative dullness. Prices rule steady. We quote: Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do., No. 2, 22½ to 23½c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 23 to 24c.; No. 2, 20 to 21c.; No. 1 slaughter, 26 to 28c.; No. 2, do., 24 to 25c.; common, 20 to 21c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 30 to 35c.; do., heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 32 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; Western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec, do., 18 to 20c.; juniors, 18 to 20c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calfskins, (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 24c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskins linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 13 to 15c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebble cow, 13 to 13½c.; polished buff, 12 to 13c.; glove-grain, 12 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—No special features are notable in these lines. Some small sales of Summerlee pig iron are reported at \$18 ex yard, and of Hamilton iron at \$16, ex-store, but fair lots can be done at better figures. Iron piping continues somewhat scarce, but the Hodgson mill, which has been idle for the past four or five years, is to be started up shortly, by a new company, now forming, when there likely will be a superabundance of stock for Canadian wants. Galvanized iron is stiffening, though there has not yet been any advance established.

The Elephant and the Toad



ONCE upon a time a tiny little toad met his friend, the elephant, on a foraging expedition. Noticing the disparity of sizes between him and the giant of the forest, he resolved to rectify what his extraordinary conceit taught him to be a mistake of nature. Bringing his lungs into play he inhaled all the air his loose skin would allow him to accommodate. After a few hours of the most assiduous labors he FELT nearly half as big as the elephant. Encouraged by his success, he kept pumping and pumping in air until, at last, he thought he was as big as the elephant, but, oh, horror of horrors! a bird of prey, called "Winnipeg," that had been watching the performance from the top of a tall tree, pounced upon him, and in a fraction of a minute nothing was left of Mr. Toad but his four points of Bearings. Poor fellow!

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"The Courts Decide that we can Ride."

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