

## TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, January 18th, 1900.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—Independent of the stiffening in prices that follows the close of navigation, there are advances in all heavy chemicals. Chloride of lime is 20 to 25 per cent. higher to-day than the average of the past two years; caustic soda, used extensively by soap men, is also 20 per cent. higher. The war has also affected the market materially. Camphor used in the manufacture of explosives shows a further advance, while carbolic acid, the disinfectant used in army hospitals, is up again, and will go yet higher. Opium and morphia, and indeed all opium products, are higher; morphia has made a decided advance. Paris green is about three cents per lb. higher here, and manufacturers do not guarantee that price for any period. Quinine, which has long been tending upward, shows an advance of 3c. per oz. this week. Tartaric and citric acid are both a little higher. We quote elsewhere an English price current of chemicals.

**DRY GOODS.**—House trade is dull, but for the spring, dress goods are selling freely, as are also prints and carpets, and some staple textiles, mainly, of course, through travellers' orders. These orders appear to be generally larger this year than they have been for many years. This points to an active and considerable spring trade, which is also prefigured in the minds of retail dealers throughout the country. Values in textiles generally are firm and looking upward. Goods are scarce in many lines of both cotton and woolen and it is not easy to get forward quotations.

**FLOUR AND MEAL.**—Quietude seems to reign. Flour quotations are unchanged, and there are no transactions to report; as the wheat markets are low, there is almost nothing doing in flour. Bran is scarce and higher, simply because little is being produced; we quote \$14 at the mills; shorts also scarce and wanted, at \$14 to \$15 according to grade. Oatmeal is quiet.

**GRAIN.**—The market continues very dull; 64c. is asked for No. 1 wheat, but this is higher than buyers want to pay; prices are a cent lower all round, and dull at that. As to oats, there is some demand for export, as there has been all through this season. The same may be said of peas, and these are the only grains that Europe has seemed to want, except an occasional car or two of spring wheat. Peas are not in any demand locally. Some corn is moving at quotations, for feeding purposes. Buckwheat and rye both dull and nearly nominal.

**HIDES.**—Unusual conditions exist in the local market, and dealers in some instances are paying 10¼c. for green and selling at the same price. But outside this flurry hides are weaker. They are down in Chicago, and are ¼d. lower in London; tanners are not buying therefore, and business is dull for this season of the year. Green calf skins are 11c. for No. 1, and 10c. for No. 2, with very few offering, but they will be more plentiful in another month. All sheepskins offering are readily taken at quotations.

**HOPS.**—The market is quiet and steady; small lots selling at 14 to 16c. for new; it is difficult to give a price for yearlings, though perhaps 10c. is about the figure. Brewers are holding off and don't offer more than 15c. at present, though they may have to pay more eventually.

**LUMBER.**—As we stated last week there is much activity in pine lumber, and prices are higher and very firm. We have revised prices current and advanced the figures \$2 per thousand feet in most lines of pine. These figures were prepared for last week, as we stated on page 907, but through an error did not get into their

proper place in the prices current page. We now quote 1-inch pine and thicker, \$28 to \$30; 1¼-inch, \$33 to \$35; and so on, advancing each of the seven succeeding lines \$2 per thousand; mills, culls, and cull scantling are away up; spruce culls are worth \$11 to \$12. Shingles and lath share in the advance especially lath. XXX shingles, we quote, \$2.75 to \$3; XX., \$2 to \$2.50; Lath No. 1, \$3.50 to \$4; No. 2, are \$2.75 to \$3.

**METALS AND HARDWARE.**—This being a quiet season in these goods, there is no great activity. Stocks are fairly well assorted. There are some advances in quotations: Pig iron is higher; coopers' hoops are quoted at \$3.20; galvanized iron, 18 to 24c.; \$4.55, etc.; case lots, less 10c. per 100 lbs; brass wire, 45 and 45; copper wire, 35 and 40 per cent.; galvanized wire, \$4.40 to \$5.65; barbed wire, \$3.72½; cut nails, 30 to 60 dy., \$2.85, and so on down the list. Rope is firm, and lath yarn quotes now at 11c. At the end of the month a rise in screws will take place; the American list is to be adopted, which means 33 1-3 per cent. advance; and on small sizes even a greater advance. Window glass was held in primary markets at the beginning of the year at a distinct advance and jobbers here may have to raise quotations.

**PAINTS AND OILS.**—As was to be expected, an advance has taken place in white lead, pure in oil being quoted here at \$6.87½; dry white lead sells at \$5.75; genuine red lead, \$5.25 to \$5.50. Turpentine is higher; we quote now 75c. to 80c., and varnish also goes correspondingly up. Putty, \$1.90 to \$2.30; whiting, 55 to 65c.

**PROVISIONS.**—Butter still continues scarce in all qualities, though prices are unchanged, except in prints and rolls. Cheese is quiet and steady without accumulation of stock. Dried apples are ½c. lower. There is a firm feeling in hog products, owing to the advance in the price of dressed hogs, but there is not much actual business doing; we do not change prices. Eggs are easy, the continued mild weather affecting the production. In the United States, the market for eggs is in very poor shape, owing to an over-stock of cold storage eggs, which will likely have to be slaughtered.

**WOOL.**—The London wool market on the first day, Wednesday 17th, was 5 per cent. lower, and lots of Cape wools were withdrawn from sale. Domestic wool being practically gone from this market, the small lots offering are got at 20c. The mills appear well filled up with foreign wools, and are ordering but rarely.

## STEEL-MAKING FOR INDIA.

Major R. H. Mahon, superintendent of the Government ordnance factories at Cassipore, India, has reported to the Under Secretary of State for India, the results of investigations made by him as to the adaptability of India as a steel manufacturing country. These investigations were started by reason of an extensive railroad scheme now in course of execution in India, for which large quantities of steel rails and other railroad material have been sent from the United States and Europe. Major Mahon is of the opinion that, with cheap and manageable labor in India, it is possible to successfully compete with countries in which the iron and steel industry is firmly established. Iron ore deposits of a large scale are to be found in Madras and Bengal; coal can be mined cheaply in the Jherria district, and limestone can be imported at small cost from the Burmese coast. To be successful, however, Major Mahon says work would have to be planned on a scale equal to the output of 300,000 or 400,000 tons, and he suggests that a site near Calcutta be chosen for such an enterprise.

## OIL FUEL IN STEAMERS.

During last month some interesting fuel tests were made upon the new steamer "Syrian" in England. The coal trials were very successful, the speed obtained being nearly a knot in excess of the guarantee. The result obtained from oil fuel was still more satisfactory. On running the measured distance, the speed was 11½ knots, or nearly a knot more than was the case with the Scotch coal. The number of revolutions was seven to eight more per minute, and the horse power 200 more than at the coal trial, while the steam pressure of 180 lbs. was obtained with ease, notwithstanding that all the auxiliary machinery was running the whole time. The consumption of oil at the trial was found to be 25 per cent. less per horse power than the consumption of the coal.

—Mr. Tucker.—"I think I shall give up my business, my dear. I might as well have some good out of my money." Mrs. Tucker.—"Oh, not yet, Samuel! But when one of us dies, I shall give up house-keeping, and see a little of the world."—Brooklyn Life.

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