

COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

The state of the stock markets in Canada is apparently to some extent due to the determination of the bankers to devote all their funds to business and industrial purposes. The supply of money even for the purposes seems to be restricted; there is no doubt that trade is being carried on this fall in a much more conservative manner than for some time past. Hitherto, this year, merchants generally have not been compelled to write off any very large proportion of their sales as losses, but, as before announced in these columns, a somewhat uneasy feeling exists in certain quarters as to the outcome of attempts to make collections during the coming six months. As the year advances collections are becoming much more difficult to make. Notwithstanding this, very few complaints are heard respecting the volume of trade.

Dry goods are moving out satisfactorily, and the cold snap has greatly increased the demand for woollens and heavy goods in the retail trade.

The supply of sugar is light and the market is firm, while molasses have been moving out freely.

The metal market is uncertain. The situation is rather weak. It is a question whether or not the market will decline further or recover again after the turn of the year. Taking the metal market as a trade barometer, lower prices for commodities should rule during 1908.

Dairy products continue a sensational feature. The supplies appear to be nearly exhausted, while the demand is enormous. The supplies are only about a quarter of the usual. This is caused by the high price which farmers have to pay for feed. Many are selling their cattle, thus reducing the dairy output.

MONTREAL.

Montreal, October 24th.

Butter.—Country prices have shown little change. On spot holders are asking and receiving 28½ to 29c. for fresh receipts in large sized packages, and 30c. for small. The outlook continues very firm.

Cheese.—The market is easier. Prices are for October makes, which are inferior to the Septembers quoted last week. We quote: Quebec, 12½c.; Townships, 12½ to 13c.; Ontario, 13½c.

Eggs.—Prices have advanced considerably. For fresh receipts, 25c. is being freely paid for goods as they arrive. No. 1 candled sell at 24c. and selects, according to selection, range all the way from 30 to 35c. and occasionally 40c.

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Hides.—During the week an advance of 1c. a pound has taken place in the price of beef hides. Dealers are now paying 7, 8, and 9c. per pound for No. 3, 2, and 1, respectively, and selling to tanners at ½c. in advance. Lambskins are becoming larger and dealers are now paying 80 to 85c. each for them. For No. 2 calfskins 8c. per pound is being paid and for No. 1 calf 10c. is paid. The demand shows some improvement.

TORONTO.

Toronto, October 24th.

Fruit.—The first car of Florida oranges and grape fruit arrived this week. There is a good demand for all fruits. Cranberries are likely to be in evidence for Thanksgiving trade; this market is strong and there are no prospects of a decline in price. We quote: Oranges, Florida, \$4.50 per box; Jamaica, \$5.50 per barrel; Florida grape fruit, \$5.50; dates, Hollawees, 6¼ to 6½c.; Sairs, 5¼c., and Fard dates, 8c. per pound; cranberries, barrels, \$11, cases, \$3.75.

Groceries.—Canned goods are very firm, although not many are moving yet; prices are high. Business generally is good.

Hides.—Prices are steady and lower figures may be looked for. We quote: Inspected, No. 1, 7½c., No. 2, 6½c., No. 3, 5½c.; country, 6 to 7c.; calf skins, city, 12c.; country, 10 and 11c.

Provisions.—Supplies are scarce, and the demand very strong. We quote: Creamery prints, 31 to 33c.; creamery solids, 30c.; dairy prints, 27 to 28c.; dairy solids, 26 to 27c.; selected eggs, 26 to 27c.; fresh eggs, 24c.; pickled, 24c.

Tallow.—The market is firm and the prices ruling are 5½ to 6¼c.

Wool.—This market is inactive, and prices continue unchanged. We quote: Unwashed, 12 to 13c.; washed 22 to 23c.; rejects, 16c.

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