

Carolina to New York and other points in northern and north-eastern States were unjust and unreasonable. It appeared that the rates were lower than those in force between the same points on cotton and general merchandise, although greater speed and some other exceptional facilities are involved in the transportation of melons from South Carolina; and that the rates per ton per mile afforded by the melon rates ranged from 7.6 mills to 1.1 cents, and for most of the defendant roads were less than the average receipts per ton per mile from all freight. The evidence was insufficient to warrant an estimate of the cost of production or the results of sales during the shipping season. The Commissioner decides that the rates complained of were not shown to be unreasonable or unjust, and that the petitions should be dismissed without prejudice.

HUMORS OF THE POST OFFICE.

When a letter came to the General Post Office addressed, "An Honest Man, Melbourne," it was returned through the Dead Letter Office, endorsed by a tacetious postman, "Not known here. Try Heaven," says the Argus of that Australian city. Mr. Duffy, the postmaster-general, would probably not be severe upon the letter-carrier who failed to deliver that letter; but while he makes it his boast that his staff can work wonders in the delivery of letters insufficiently or badly addressed, it must be humiliating to him to know that a letter sent to himself was returned recently marked "Not known." The letter was addressed "P.M.G., Melbourne," and the sorter, thinking it was intended for somebody with those initials, placed it among the letters to be delivered when called for. Of course, it was not claimed, and in due time went to the dead-letter office, whence it was forwarded to the sender, who despatched it once again to Mr. Duffy, with the endorsement, "I thought that at least your department would know its own chief." Mr. Duffy is still smiling.

"Our friend Miller would have run through his property in a year if it hadn't been for his wife." "Why, what did she do?" "She ran through it herself."—*Fliegende Blätter*.

INDIAN GOODS IN CHINA.

Indian cotton goods continue to make headway in China, says the Bombay Gazette, and it is encouraging to find from the latest reports to hand that the opportunities for the sale of cotton goods in West China are practically limitless, as its many millions of inhabitants are almost entirely clothed in garments made from cotton. The quality of the goods varies according to the districts and class of inhabitants. The farmers, laboring classes, and inhabitants of the remoter districts wear the coarse materials spun from Suchuan and Hupeh raw cotton; but the dwellers in the large towns and across the rivers are more in touch with the outer world, and wear clothes made from imported yarns. Even in the provinces of Kuei Chou and Yunnan, where no cotton is grown, the inhabitants are clothed in cotton raiment. Indian-yarn has obtained a firm footing in these markets, and the importations, in spite of the increased out-put of Chinese and Japanese yarns, are larger now than they have ever been.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, July 7th, 1898.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—July is never an active month in the provision trade. With an abundance of green fruit, the demand for dairy products is limited. The feeling in dairy butter is easier, tubs

being quoted at 12 to 13c. per lb. Creamery prints are quoted 16½ to 17c. and tubs 16 to 16½c.; special well-known brands bringing a fraction more. Cheese in the local market finds only a quiet movement. For eggs at 11 to 11½c. per dozen there is fair demand. It is difficult to explain the long-continued strength of the egg market. Merchants have been predicting each week that the following week would witness a decline in price. But the expected fall in value cannot be long delayed now, as the weather is becoming too hot for safe handling, and stocks will soon show a large percentage of loss. Country merchants should make a point of shipping very promptly.

DRY GOODS.—The present movement is largely an assorting one, and this branch of trade is quite satisfactory. Orders for next autumn continue to come forward, while manufacturers are being canvassed for spring business. Values are steady. News from abroad is only of moderate interest. Bradford manufacturers say that some of the shrewdest exporters of dress goods to America have placed very considerable orders for plain alpacas and mohair glaces, in readiness for the next spring trade in that country, so that more than a normal trade may be looked for in plain bright fabrics. Referring to the exclusion of the Dominion by Germany from the most favored nation clause, the Draper's Record says: "Some of the German dress and silk houses may suffer from the action of the Berlin Government. There is a fairly considerable trade in certain classes of textiles between the Fatherland and Canada, and for some time past the larger Canadian buyers have regularly visited the Continent, Gera, Greiz, Chemnitz, Crefeld, Barmen, and other cities having benefited."

GRAIN.—The wheat market continues to show a marked decline in values. The liquidation of the Leiter wheat is the bear influence in the United States market which accounts for the continued falling off in quotations. Wheat crop statisticians in the United States, have modified somewhat their previous very sanguine reports as to the new crop. Instead of a 700-million crop, they are now looking for a 600-million bushel yield of wheat next fall. Price Current admits that 611,000,000 is now all that can be expected, even should the spring crop maintain its present supposed almost perfect condition, which is hardly likely, when the same cause of the heavy reduction in winter wheat yield has affected spring as well as to date, namely, an unusually wet season, which produces a great growth of straw at the expense of the grain. It is this that deceived the crop report makers into estimates of a 700-million crop or over. This change in estimates is not idle guesswork, but is based upon the results of the threshing machine, as in the Western States the harvest is already being reaped. The crop prospects in Ontario and the Eastern townships of Quebec are brilliant, and authorities say they were never better. Within ten days' time wheat harvest will be opened and about the first of August we may expect the first arrivals of new wheat. It is the general opinion of the trade that marketing will take place slowly this year, both as a result of the war conditions which exercise considerable weight with the farmers and the record of last year, when prices almost steadily advanced from the opening of the season to its close. Oats are dull and low with a decline of 1c. to 2c. per bus. Peas remain quiet and are not wanted even at 1c. per bus. less than last week's quotation. Barley is nominal. Rye shows no change.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Values in the hide market are firm and green cows' No. 1, Toronto, inspected, command 9c. per lb. The situation is elsewhere reviewed. We have the following: Chicago, July 5th.—The demand for packer hides was quiet, as tanners continued to hold back await-

ing developments. Packers, however, showed no disposition to hurry business and values were well maintained, closing at 12 to 12½c. for native steers; 11¼ to 11¾c. for Texas; 10¼ to 10½c. for butt brands; 9¼ to 10c. for Colorados; 10¼ for branded cows; 11¼c. for heavy native cows, and 11½c. for light do." Lamb-skins are now quoted at 35c. in the local market while snearlings bring 25c. Receipts of calfskins are falling off and the season may be considered about over. Tallow is quiet.

PAINTS AND OILS.—Trade is seasonably good. Values in most lines are firm and in some advancing. Window glass is higher. White lead is said to be showing an upward tendency. Linseed oil is very steady. Turpentine remains low. The Savannah Morning News of July 2nd says: "The total receipts for the past week were 13,157 casks turpentine, and 26,371 barrels of resin. The exports were 10,217 casks spirits turpentine and 10,149 barrels resin."

PROVISIONS.—Market conditions remain almost without change. There is a good firm demand for all descriptions of pork meats and prices are steady. Dressed hogs are selling on the street at \$6.25 to \$6.50, but are in limited supply.

WOOL.—The market, as we note in another column of this issue, is quiet. Some buyers say they are out of the market at the present range of quotations, as buying prices do not leave them any room in which to operate. The market depends largely upon the turn of events in the United States. The N.Y. Journal and Bulletin says: "The presence of a number of representatives of leading mills is taken as a good sign and leads dealers to believe that the market is surely working into better shape. Manufacturers, too, are taking a more hopeful view of the outlook, and they are backing this up by locating desirable lots of wool, and in some instances they show a disposition to trade, but more with the idea of feeling sellers than toward securing the wool, as in most instances their offers are too low for sellers' acceptance. Dealers fail to see the feasibility of parting with old wools at less prices than they can obtain new wools, and are consequently not exerting themselves to locate buyers."

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 6th July, 1898.

ASHES.—The market is a shade firmer, and \$3.80 has been paid for some small lots of good tares of No. 1 sorts, but the demand is still very slack. We quote first quality of pots \$3.75 to \$3.80, seconds, \$3.35 to \$3.40; pearls, \$4.75 to \$4.90 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—A fair demand continues for cements at steady prices, namely, \$2.20 to \$2.30 for British, Belgian, \$1.80 to \$1.90. Firebricks are quoted at \$16 to \$21 per thousand. Receipts for the week are 2,200 brls. of British cement; Belgian nil; 37,000 firebricks.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The cheese market is barely as strong as last noted. The Liverpool cable has dropped a sixpence, and the local market seems in somewhat uncertain shape. About 7c. seems the figure for Eastern makes, and 7¼c. for fine Western. The exports last week were again a little larger than the corresponding week last year, being 66,122 boxes, as against 64,524 boxes a year ago. Butter shipments are well maintained, having been last week 6,700 packages, as compared with 6,522 boxes for the same week of 1897. In this latter line the market is hardly so strong, and though holders still ask 17c. for fine creamery, buyers are hardly disposed to accord beyond 16½c. per pound.

DRY GOODS.—All the wholesale houses in this line closed from Thursday to Mon-