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The Metropolitan Fire Insurance Company

CASH-MUTUAL and STOCK
HEAD OFFICE, - TORONTO
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each. Everything in the way of sheep and lambs sold well, as was also the case, to some degree, for calves. Live hogs have declined 10 to 15c. per hundred weight, and the demand is poor.

Provisions.—Little is being done in butter. Stocks are large both in hands of dealers and, it is believed, in the country. Cheese is much firmer in tone, owing to reports from the Old Country. A fractional advance is quoted. Eggs continue quite firm, but no advance is registered, there being large stocks of stored stock in hand, though few fresh are coming forward. Spring chickens sell at 11 to 12c. Wild duck is not coming forward freely, perhaps owing to the mild weather. Hog products are quite firm with only light stocks in hand. Lard is particularly strong. Packing operations have been delayed by the slow coming to maturity of hogs this season.

Wool.—While prices are held quite firmly, not much business is passing, the mills holding off.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 19th Oct., 1904.

Ashes.—Owing to the great scarcity of supply, as high as \$6 per cental has been paid within the last few days for a lot of No. 1 pots, of good tares, but this is an extreme figure, about \$5.90 would be about a general quotation; seconds, \$5.40 to \$5.45. In pearls there is still an entire absence of business.

Boots and Shoes.—Fall deliveries of boots and shoes are for the most part completed, and commercial travellers are devoting all their attention to the securing of spring orders, which are being booked in fair volume. So far as can

be learned, there are no very large orders for leather being placed by our manufacturers of footwear at present.

Dairy Products.—The steadier tone in the cheese market referred to last week, actually developed into an advance, which has been fairly sustained on spot, though British buyers seem indisposed to accept the higher prices. Finest Ontarios are quoted on spot at 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ to 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ c.; Townships, 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ to 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; Quebecs, 9 to 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. per lb. these figures being for fall goods. The conditions in the butter market are in buyers' favor. Present quotations are 19 to 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for fine creamery; dairy, 15 to 16c. The shipments of cheese from this port last week reached the very fair figures of 94,643 boxes, but there is still a shortage of over 364,000 boxes as compared with the figures at this date in 1903. Of butter there were shipped last week 18,151 packages, which is 6,372 more than for the same period of last year, and for the season to date the total increase is 136,196 packages.

Dry Goods.—The weather has been too bright and summery since last writing to meet the wishes of dry goods retailers who expect to sell fall and winter goods, and wholesale dealers, in some cases, find sorting business slower; but a fair proportion of business in spring orders is being done. Collections are hardly as good as in September. Foreign advices denote no striking change in the markets abroad, and in domestic textiles no recent fluctuations of price are to be noted.

Groceries.—The Mediterranean steamer, "Escalona" is now in port and her manifest shows 72,433 half-boxes of Valencia raisins, 600 quarters, and 1,200 eighths. Her quota of currants comprises 1,020 cases, 13,380 halves, 1,349 quarters, and 25 barrels. The fruit is said to be opening up well. The second direct boat, the "Jacona," left Cadiz, her last port of call, yesterday. The market for Valencias at Denia is reported slightly easier; currants are, if anything, a little firmer at Patras. The feature of the week is a decline of 10 cents a cental in all grades of refined sugars, making the present factory price for standard granulated \$4.55. This decline is due to competition between New York refiners, resulting in a cut there, and is not borne out by the statistical position of the raw sugar market. Molasses continues to rule very firm. The stiffness in canned goods is fully sustained, and the pack of corn is estimated at about 75 per cent. of an average, and of tomatoes only 55 per cent.

Hides.—Dealers report a fair volume of business at unchanged figures. They are buying No. 1 beef hides at 9c. per lb. and selling them at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Lambskins are unchanged at 80c. each.

Leather.—There is nothing startling to report in this market. Apparently the boot and shoe travellers are looking sharp after spring orders. Manufacturers here are not placing any large orders for leather just now, but sole leather tanners are so busy filling British orders, that some local dealers complain they cannot get all the stock they want. Values are all steady.

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Metals and Hardware.—In general hardware business is only moderate, and while the demand for heavy metals may be called fair, it is considerably short of what prevailed at this time a year ago. Ingot tin keeps on stiffening, and 32c. per lb. is now quoted as the lowest figure in an ordinary way; copper is again stronger at 14 to 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ c., and lead at \$3.30; spelter, \$5.75; antimony, 7 to 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. Galvanized sheets are easy at \$4 to \$4.25, as to brand, and some cutting is reported in galvanized Canadas, sales being reported at something under \$3.80 for fifty-twos, though the general quotation is \$3.90. Ordinary Canada plates have also been sold at cut rates, as low, it is said, as \$2.15 for fifty-twos of 28 gauge, and \$2 for 24 gauge, but it is a question if these figures could be duplicated, and \$2.25 to \$2.30 is the general price in an ordinary way for the former kind. Some sales of low grade Sydney iron are reported at \$16, but general pig iron quotations are as given last week. Domestic bars are still quoted at \$1.70, and bar steel at \$1.80 to \$1.90.

Oils, Paints and Glass.—Of business there is a moderate volume passing, but owing to the low prices of oil, leads, etc., the aggregate in value looks small as compared with last year. Linseed oil is, if anything, easier, with sales in fair quantity at 42c. per gallon for raw, but the general quotation for jobbing lots is 43 and 46c. for raw and boiled, respectively. Fish oils are little asked for, and are unchanged in price. Turpentine is also stationary at 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per gallon in single barrels. Leads continue to be sold at cut rates, and while \$4.50 is the nominal figure for pure, \$4.25 or even lower is taken, it is said, rather than an order should go to a competitor. Glass is very firm at the advance quoted last week, and any further supplies of Belgian glass will be very hard to get until the labor situation be relieved.