

TORONTO WHOLESALE MARKETS.

(By Telegraph from our Special Correspondent.)
TORONTO, Jan. 6th, 1881.

Since telegraphing last week, the state of the wholesale trade has been quiet, and merchants are taking advantage of it in making preparations for an active trade in Spring goods, the prospects of which are bright. Taken altogether, the trade of 1880 has been most satisfactory. There has been a continuous demand, in small quantities, for all descriptions of dry goods and hardware. There has been a safer business done, and consequently margins have been small. It is, however, owing to the few bad debts incurred that the greatest prosperity of the year is attributed. Merchants generally enter the new year with every prospect of doing a large trade. In dry goods the movement just now is inactive. Travellers are going out with samples of Spring goods, and an active demand for prints is expected. Stocks are said to be small. There are no special features to note in prices, and with the exception of spool cotton, they are firmly maintained. Singularly enough prices of the goods mentioned are reduced, while other descriptions of cotton goods are firm both here and in the States. The wholesale hardware trade is fairly active for the season, and groceries show a slight improvement as compared with last week. The money market is quiet and rates unchanged. Discounts are little called for, and are steady at 6 to 7 per cent., the former figure for large amounts of prime paper. Call loans rule at 4 to 4½ per cent., and time loans, on good collateral, at 5 to 5½ per cent. Sterling exchange is easier the past day or two, 60-day bills being now quoted at 108½ to 108¾ over the counter, and demand bills at 108½ to 109. Since the opening of the stock market on Monday, there has been an unusually large demand for banks, and prices show a material advance. Sales of Montreal were made at 171½, 174 and 176, Merchants at 118½, 119 and 120, Ontario at 99 and 100, Commerce at 138½, 139 and 139½, Hamilton preferred at 118½, Dominion at 147 and 148, Standard at 102½ and 102¾, Imperial at 118½ and 119, and Federal at 138. Loan and miscellaneous shares have been firm in sympathy. There were sales of Canada Landed Credit Company at 134½, London and Canadian at 148, Building and Loan at 97, Union at 148½, Imperial Savings at 120, British American at 154, Consumers Gas at 146, 147 and 148, and Dominion Telegraph at 89½ and 90.

The following are to-day's bids for banks and the leading loan companies as compared with last Thursday.

Banks.	Bid Jan. 6.	Bid Dec. 30.	Loan Cos.	Bid Jan. 6.	Bid Dec. 30.
Montreal.	176½	183	Can. Permanent	195	193
Toronto.	144	140	Freehold.	157	157
Ontario.	99½	97½	Western Can.	160	162
Merchants	119	116	Bldg. & Loan.	96½	97
Commerce	140	138½	Imp. Savings.	120	116
Dominion	146	142½	Farmers' Loan.	122	122
Hamilton	119½	118½	Land & Cav'dn	148	148
Standard.	102½	101½	Huron & Erie.	142	143
Federal.	137	136½	Dom. Savings.	138	138
Imperial.	119	117	Ontario Loan.	130	128
Molson's	106	103	Hamilton Prov.	120	121

BOOTS AND SHOES.—No change in values. Travellers are about starting out again, and factories are working up old stocks of leather.

COAL.—Trade continues fairly active, and there is every likelihood of it keeping so as long as the cold weather continues. The demand is chiefly for small lots at \$7.50 a ton for egg, stove, grate and chestnut. The best soft coal is \$6.50, and second quality \$6.

COAL OIL.—The movement has been small, and prices somewhat unsettled; sales chiefly for limited quantities at 24½ to 25c per Imperial gallon.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.—Apples.—The demand moderate and prices firm. A number of shipments to Britain have been made lately. Car lots of choice sell at \$1.75 to \$2 per barrel, and ordinary at \$1.25 to \$1.50. Beans are unchanged at \$1.20 to \$1.25 for common and \$1.45 for hand-picked. The ordinary run of country lots are worth about \$1.15. Country Lard is coming in slowly and unchanged in price at 9c to 10c. City rendered in pails 11½c. Eggs are firm at 19c to 20c per dozen for fresh in case lots and 17c to 18c for limed. Hogs are coming in slowly; holders ask \$3.10 for averages of 200 lbs. and over, but dealers are not paying over \$6. Hops are without change, prices being for the most part nominal. Choice lots are worth 22c, and good to fair, 16c to 20. Onions are quiet and firm; large lots are worth from \$2.75 to \$3 a barrel. Potatoes are dull and unchanged at 35c to 38c per bag in car lots. Poultry quiet and easy; boxed lots of geese, 4c to 5c per lb., and turkeys 7c to 9c. Tallow is quiet and firm, with sales of rendered at 6½c and 6¾c; dealers are paying 3½c for rough and 6c for rendered.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—A fair demand continues. Stock taking is nearly over, and dealers anticipate a good Spring trade. No quotable change in prices, for which see previous issue. Chemicals moving slowly at steady prices.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—Show but little change. Enquiry unusually small, but dealers expect a change soon. No transactions reported till Tuesday, when 125 barrels superior extra were sold at \$4.90. Spring extra is also worth that price, and extra nominal, \$4.80 to \$4.85. No change yesterday. Market unchanged to-day with sellers of Superior extra asking \$4.80 and no buyers. Oatmeal steady, and offering at \$4.10 on track with sales at \$4. Small lots sell at \$4.25 to \$4.50. Cornmeal is unchanged at \$2.90 to \$3. Bran easier this week, with sales of few cars at \$12.50 on track. Ton lots sell at \$13.50 to \$14.

WHEAT.—But few transactions the current week, notwithstanding some enquiry. Buyers and sellers apart owing to wide difference in prices. Sale of No. 1 Spring on Friday at \$1.16 and five cars of No. 3 Spring sold on Monday at \$1.10. No. 2 was wanted at \$1.11 and \$1.12, holders asking \$1.14. No. 2 Fall is worth \$1.09 to \$1.10, with offerings at \$1.11. No. 2 Fall was offered to-day at \$1.10; No. 3 at \$1.07. No. 1 Spring was wanted at \$1.15 but no sales transpired.

COARSE GRAINS.—Barley. Trade quiet during week, with little offering. Some enquiry exists, and prices firm, although showing little or no advance on last week's quotations. On Friday No. 3 extra sold at 87c on track and No. 2 at 92c. No. 3 sold at 80c on Monday, and several cars of No. 2 brought 83c on Tuesday. No. 1 offered yesterday at \$1.03, with 98c bid; No. 2 choice is worth about 98c. No. 2 sold at 92c and No. 3 extra at 88c. Market quiet with a moderate inquiry. No. 3 extra sold at 88c. Peas dull and nominal; no sales reported. No. 1 worth about 68c and No. 2 67c. Oats quiet and unchanged at 33c on track. Demand small and offerings limited. Rye dull and easier; few buyers in market; cars not worth over 82c on track, but some buyers not offering more than 80c. Corn quiet and unchanged at 57c to 58c on track.

FREIGHTS.—A good demand at unchanged rates. Flour to Belleville, by Grand Trunk, is \$24c; to Montreal, 40c; to Quebec, 60c; to Halifax, Truro and Pictou, 80c; and to St. John, N.B., 75c. To Liverpool, via Portland, \$1.18 per barrel for flour and oatmeal; 70c per cental for clover seed; \$1.33 per barrel for apples; and 73c per 100 lbs. for butter and cheese.

GROCERIES.—The year has opened with a moderate amount of business, and prospects are very encouraging. Orders from the country are coming in freely, and payments are satisfactory. The only changes to note during the week are lower prices of syrups. There is no special cause for this, but it may be attributed to large stocks, and to the fact that prices were maintained while sugars depreciated. Common is now quoted at 58c per Imperial gallon, amber at 62c to 70c, and choice amber at 75c to 78c. Fish in fair demand and steady at last week's quotations. The same may also be said of Fruit. Teas are firm and unchanged at 37c to 40c for common Young Hyson, 40c to 50c for medium, and 60c to 65c for fine. Common Congou, 30c to 40c; fine, 60c to 70c. Sugars firm at 10½c to 10¾c for granulated, 7½c to 8½c for low yellow and 8½c to 9½c for bright.

HARDWARE AND IRON.—Business during the past week has been fairly active. Orders come in freely from the country districts, and there is evidence of the continuance of the improved trade. There are no changes to report in prices, which are steady at our quotations of a week ago. The retail trade of the city, shows a falling off, which was looked for at this season. At present there are no signs of higher prices.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Hides quiet and steady since our last, with a few sales of inspected at 9½c. Dealers pay butchers 9c. for cows and 9½c. for steers. Calfskins quiet and firm at 16c. to 17c. Sheepskins firm and unchanged; offerings moderate. Prices of green rule at \$1.35 to \$1.60, and of dry at 90c. to \$1.50.

LEATHER.—Business quiet. Dealers, however, look for an active demand from manufacturers in the course of a week or two. Country orders just now appear to be the most numerous. In prices there are no changes from our quotations of last week.

LIVE STOCK.—Cattle.—A better demand for butchers cattle at the local market this week. The receipts, however, were very small, and prices consequently a shade higher. Only nine car loads received, of which seven came in on Tuesday. Twenty-two head, averaging 1,000 lbs. each, sold at \$35 a piece; three loads, averaging 1,100 lbs., sold at 4½c per lb., and two loads, averaging 1,150 lbs., at 4½c per lb. There are no buyers at present for the export trade. Sheep in fair demand and steady, but offerings small; several lots sold at 3½c to 4c per lb. Lambs firm, with sales at 4½c per lb. for those weighing from 90 to 100 lbs. Calves are not offering freely, and are steady at \$5 to \$15 each. Hogs are quiet and nominally unchanged at 4½c to 5c per lb. None offered during the week.

PROVISIONS.—Butter.—Very inactive, lacking export demand. Selections worth from 17c to 18c in country. Choice dairy, to city trade, steady at 20c to 21c, ordinary lots at 16c to 18c. Bacon dull and easy; car lots of long clear are worth 8½c to 8¾c; boxed, 9c. Cumberland cut, 7½c to 8c. Ham unchanged at 10½c for smoked. Pork also dull and easy at \$15.75 to \$16 for car lots of old. Lard is fairly active and steady at 10c in tierces, 10½c in tinnetts, and 11c in pails for large quantities; small lots ½c more. Cheese in moderate demand and firm at 13c to 13½c per lb. Dried apples continue to offer freely at 3½c to 4c for loose lots; barreled lots of selected are worth 4½c.