AMERICAN WHISKEY COMBINE.

For a number of weeks the American distillers of rye whiskey have been negotiating to form a consolidation. A few days ago they completed their organization. The representatives of the companies have been in conference in Chicago. The consolidation will be composed of American Spirits Manufacturing Association, controlling the spirit wine distillers; the Kentucky Distilling and Warehouse Association, manufacturers of whiskey; the Rice Distillers' Association, and the Standard Distilling and Distributing Association. The combined capital of the four companies will aggregate $1,500,000.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, May 3rd, 1899.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Closing Prices. Sellers.	Closing Prices. Buyers.	Average, same date 1898.
Montreal	250	250	48	....	250	240
Ontario	....	....	....	....	124	103
Molsons	198	198	15	....	....	200
Toronto	247½	245	17	....	....	225
Merchants	170	170	32	174	170	174
Commerce	152	151	134	....	152½	137½
Union	....	....	....	....	....	105
M. Telegraph	175	174¾	355	175	173	179
R. & O. Nav.	114½	109	1930	114¼	113½	94¾
Street Ry.	337	330½	1599	336⅛	335	249
do. New	324	330	405	333⅛	333	....
Gas	206¼	203	1479	205	202¾	184
C.P.R.	99½	93½	24545	98⅝	98⅜	83
Land Grant bds.	....	....	....	....	....	....
N. W. Land pfd.	....	....	....	....	....	....
Bell Tele.	....	....	6	180	178	....
do. New	....	....	....	....	....	....
Mont. 4% stock	....	....	....	....	....	....

—It is stated by the Tweed News that on May 1st iron mining operations will be begun on the Ledyard property, adjoining the Belmont gold mine, in Hastings County, Ontario. One hundred tons of ore will be shipped in barrels to England to be tested, after which the ore will be shipped to Hamilton.

—The Coast Railway, of Nova Scotia, is making progress steadily. In addition to what we have already noted, as to the construction going on with masonry work and teams hauling, ties are provided in various parts of Shelburne County, and the fencing and station-building are being proceeded with.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, May 4th, 1899.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The butter trade is in a very depressed and unsatisfactory condition. There are large quantities of both dairy and creamery coming forward, and prices have declined, as will be seen from our Prices Current. Stocks have accumulated and with warm weather some deterioration is bound to take place. Cheese is quiet and prices are slightly easier. In eggs there has been little or no change. Supplies are sufficient to meet the demand, and prices remain steady at 11½c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—The wholesale houses are doing a good "between seasons" trade. The demand for cotton fabrics, such as zephyr, ginghams, and madrasses, is reported as of good proportions, when the lateness of the season is considered. Retailers are distributing larger quantities of these goods for waists and full costumes. Colored piques in fancy woven styles are in demand, but white piques continue to hold their own in popular favor. The assorting business is showing such continued activity that the undue haste to canvass the retail trade for autumn business that has shown itself the past several seasons, has not been exhibited. As a consequence, it is likely that the trade for that season will be in a more than usually satisfactory condition. Values are steady, and in domestic goods no changes have taken place in either cottons or woolens.

GRAIN.—There has been a quiet, but steady wheat market during the week, and prices are practically unchanged. Peas are quiet. There is no change in oats, quotations ruling at 32 to 33c. per bushel. Rye remains quiet. Barley is dull and depressed. All supplies of buckwheat coming forward are rapidly taken at quotations. Reports from Ontario points show that the growing crops are not in good condition, and warm rains are badly needed.

Visible supply in the United States and Canada:

Bushels.	April 29, 1899.	April 30, 1898.
Wheat	28,144,000	23,263,000
Corn	25,886,000	27,044,000
Oats	9,577,000	11,218,000
Rye	1,197,000	2,830,000
Barley	1,673,000	851,000

The world's wheat export from the principal countries:

Bushels.	Last week.	Last year.
United States	3,988,238	4,160,998
Argentine	2,352,000	936,000
Russia	Not in.	3,286,000
India	888,000	632,000
Danubian	136,000	104,000
Australia	368,000	....
Total	7,732,238	9,118,998

GREEN FRUITS.—There has been considerable activity in the fruit trade the past week. Oranges find ready sale. We quote: California Mediterranean sweets, 126's, 150's, 176's, 200's, 216's, $3.50; California Mediterranean sweets, 250's, $3.25; California seedlings, 96's, 126's, 150's, 176's, 200's, 216's, 250's, $3.25. In the lemon trade interest is centred on the Montreal sales, the first of which is held Friday, May 5th, and it is understood other sales will be held the 10th and 12th inst. Some direct importations are expected here, but have not at the time of writing come to hand. We quote: Extra fancy St. Nicholas brand, 360's, $2.75; fancy 300's, $2.50 to $2.75; extra choice, 300's, 360's, $2.25 to $2.50. Trade in bananas is good with prices ranging $1.50 to $2 per bunch. Pineapples are coming forward freely, and are quoted 12½ to 20c. each.

LIVE STOCK.—The total amount of animals received for the week ending April 29th, was: Cattle, 1,843; sheep and lambs, 314, and hogs, 3,807. The receipts of cattle at the Western Cattle Yards on Tuesday were much heavier than anticipated, there being 65 carloads, including about 50 sheep and lambs, 1,400 hogs, 100 calves, and 50 milch cows. Export cattle were not briskly competed for, and were quoted, heavy $4.75 to $4.80 per cwt., and light $4 to $4.50 per cwt. Butchers' cattle sold readily with choice bringing $4.40 to $4.65 per cwt., and common, $3 to $4 per cwt. We quote feeders, $4.25 to $4.65 per cwt.; bulls, $3.50 to $4 per cwt.; milk cows, $25 to $40 each, and calves, $2 to $7 each. There was little trading in sheep and lambs, with the former quoted $5 to $5.60 per cwt., and the latter, $2 to $5 each. Trade in hogs was steady, and prices have not fluctuated during the week. We quote: Selections, $4.50 per cwt., and heavy, $3.75 per cwt.

PROVISIONS.—There has been considerable activity in the hog product trade. For some time provisions have been selling at very low prices, and it now looks as if these sales had been mistaken policy. The opening of navigation has brought the usual large offers from Upper Lake points, and shipments are being freely made. The prospects for the summer trade are now excellent.

SEEDS.—There is only a moderate business being done in the seed trade. Prices are steady and unchanged. We quote: Red clover, $3 to $3.40; alsike, $3 to $4 per bushel, and timothy $1.30 to $2 per bushel.

WOOL.—There has been practically no change in the local wool situation. For the few lots of unwashed wool offering 8 to 8½c. per cwt. is being paid. At the auctions of colonial wools in London, which opened Wednesday, buyers were very numerous from all quarters and competition brisk. Prices for crossbreds were 7 to 10 per cent., and for merinos fully 15 per cent. higher than last auction's closing rates. On the second day of the wool series, the offerings numbered 13,523 bales. Scoured merinos and fine crossbreds showed a hardening tendency, the French buyers taking the majority offered. Merinos and fine crossbreds showed animation, with Yorkshire paying five per cent. above the prices realized yesterday. The Continental buyers purchased a large number of merinos.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, May 3rd, 1899.

ASHES.—English orders are still reported few. About 100 barrels are being shipped by first out-going ocean steamers this week, and this will comprise about two-thirds of the present stock in store, but it is understood that part of these are on consignment. Values have not undergone any change, and from $4.15 to $4.20 is given by some dealers as a full quotation for first pots, seconds, $3.85 to $3.90; pearls, nominal, at about $4.75. Receipts are still limited, but some fair lots are expected by first river boats from the West.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The butter market is a weak one, and some grades are hard to move, rolls especially being not in demand at all. Dairy makes range from 13 to 15c. per lb., and fine creamery quotes at 16½ to 17c. The cheese market is quiet, and few transactions are reported. The local figures for fodders are about 9¾ to 10c. The present spot stock is stated at only about 17,000 boxes. Last week's shipments of cheese were 3,885 boxes, and of butter, 1,631 packages.

DRY GOODS.—Collections have rather improved since the opening of May; a fair aggregate of payments fall due tomorrow, and leading houses report but few applications for renewals. Sorting business is fair in amount, though a return to cooler weather in the last few days probably checks retail sales a little. The upward trend in values continues to be strongly in evidence. Priestleys, the large dress goods manufacturers, cable some of their principal customers here to-day that the London wool sales, which opened yesterday, show a very strong advance, stated at 15 per cent., and there is the natural expectation of higher prices for the manufactured stuffs. Advices from the United States indicate a firmer market for cotton goods, notably printed goods, some mills declining repeat oders at the old figures.

FURS.—Some moderate mixed lots are still coming in, mainly from distant interior points, for which following prices, as lately revised, are being paid: Mink, dark, $2 to $2.50; pale, $1 to $1.25; marten, large, $3 to $3.50; dark, from $4 to $6; fisher, $4 to $6.50; lynx, large, $2.50; small, $1.50 to $2; otter, $8 to $13; large red fox, $2; small, $1.80; cross fox, $3 to $7; silver fox, $20 to $75; choice bear, $12 to $18; medium, $10 to $14; small, $5 to $9; skunk, 20c., 40c., 60c., and 90c.;