

duced, and it remains to be seen what success will attend the travellers just gone out. Prices remain steady, but it is not improbable that higher figures will be asked for the fall goods, owing to the increased cost of labor, which is becoming quite scarce, hence higher wages are being asked. Payments good, and improving. A prominent manufacturing firm report that they recently purchased a round lot of *Sole* leather from a so-called respectable leather house in the city, and discovered after the stock had been delivered and exposed to the sun that it had contained nearly 10 per cent. of water on comparison of the weights. The Inspector's stamp not appearing on this lot, as usual, and from handling samples, the buyer's suspicions were aroused, and of course the stock was returned; but, as to how often this trick may have been practised on him in the past, he is unable to tell. There are those who undertake to defend it as being a common means resorted to for protection against shabby customers; but even if this weak argument were admissible, the dishonorable practice is evidently not confined to such cases—vide the present instance,—and it is surely an outrage upon the poor but honest manufacturer who, with his eyes wide open, may not always be able to accept the alternative. Whatever may be said in favor of the practice the principle is wrong,—demoralizing and injurious.

CATTLE.—Transactions in the shipping cattle on the local markets last Monday were quite limited. The offerings comprised 526 head cattle, 85 sheep and 122 hogs, and prices ranged from 5½c to 6¼c per lb. live weight for choice heaves, 5½c to 5¾c for good to fair butchers' cattle, while lean and coarser grades brought 4c to 4¼c. The local demand was good, and high prices ruled, although the average quality of stock was only medium. About 100 *Calves* were offered, and sales were effected at from \$1.50 to \$3.50 for small, \$4.50 for good to fair, and \$9 to \$10 each for choice. About 60 *Lambs* and *Sheep* were sold at from \$6.50 to \$11 each for the former, and \$4 to \$6 for the latter. *Hogs* were scarce and dear, selling at from \$6.25 to \$8.35 per 100 lbs.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—The British wheat markets have ruled firm this week, with little fluctuation in values. Imports in the United Kingdom for the week show a decrease of 298,000 qrs. wheat, and 90,000 brls. flour, and an increase of 10,000 qrs. corn, as compared with the week previous. To-day the English breadstuffs markets were cabled quiet but steady. The fluctuations in Chicago wheat market have not been numerous during the week; but yesterday a firm feeling was followed by an advance of 1c to 1½c per bush for June and July wheat; there was a reaction to-day, however, and prices were easier, and a fraction lower. Corn was stronger, advancing ¼c for May. The local grain market has continued inactive, owing partly to the delay in the arrival of ocean tonnage and partly to the disparity in the views of buyers and sellers. There has been scarcely any business done in wheats and in course grains, oats have sold in cargo lots at 43c in the country, and are worth 42½c to 43c on spot. Pears steady at \$1 to \$1.01; other grains nominal, with prices, however, tending downward. The local *flour* market has been weak the last few days, and values show an average decline of 5c to 10c compared with a week ago. Transactions have been quite limited; under a light demand and increasing receipts, concessions are necessary to effect sales of round lots, but holders seem confident of the near future.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Receipts of new *Butter* have continued liberal during the week, and with a quiet market for both new and old values have further receded; latest sales include choice new Townships at 23c,—which is about the tip-top figure obtainable—and other

makes, chiefly Brockville and Morrisburg, at from 19c to 22c, as to quality. There has been considerable complaint concerning the pale color of many of the shipments from Brockville and Morrisburg districts, and the bulk of these offerings has been sold at 20c. We hear of fine New Townships being offered in the country at 18 to 19c. In old stock there has been little business done; Lower ports shippers seem to be slow in filling their orders if they have any. One or two lots of inferior old Western have been bought for the Quebec market at 13c to 14c, but values for all kinds of old stock remain nominal and unchanged. In *Cheese* business has been of a retail character; the new make has been enquired for at 10c to 10½c, but factory men ask more money. The new Ingersoll cheese has been offered in Toronto at 10½c. Operations in nearly all the factories have been commenced, and we understand a large make is going on in some districts; new goods will likely be offered here by the 15th inst., meanwhile we quote prices for new at 10 to 11c, and for old at 12½c to 13c for finest. In Liverpool an advance of 1s. per cwt. was established last Saturday; now quoted there at 64s to 66s. At Little Falls on Monday the market was dull; 4,100 boxes of factory were sold, 3,000 on commission; 700 were sold at 7c to 12c; 400 boxes farm dairy, 6c to 11c; 250 packages butter, 24c to 26c. In New York sellers of butter retain the advantage, as the market has so far been kept well cleared of receipts, but there are indications of a larger supply. *Cheese* there has generally favored the buyer, holders offering old stock voluntarily on easier terms, and shippers demanding concessions on new as the only basis for operations, prices therefore somewhat unsettled. Of butter the *Bulletin* says:—In lines 28c can be made without difficulty, and there is enough selling at 29c to establish the latter figure, while for some Delaware County selections holders want 1c per lb. higher. Creamery shows about old features, the really choice and fancy parcels commanding outside quotations, but a large proportion running poor, and commanding very little in excess of State dairy. Old butter continues to be held steady.

DRY GOODS.—Purchases at this advanced stage of the season are naturally small, and of a light, sorting-up character, but the backward chilly weather this spring has retarded retail trade all over the country, consequently orders received per travellers now out on their sorting trip are by no means numerous, and are generally smaller than usual. The city wholesale warehouses have been busier this last week, however, supplying a number of small buyers from ports down the river as far as Quebec, and west as far as Kingston; also a few from the Ottawa district and from the Lower Provinces. These are always expected at the opening of navigation, and as stocks at wholesale are still quite complete, a large number of intending buyers can yet be accommodated. There are exceptions to every rule, and those we have now to note are the reports of two country merchants—one in the Eastern townships, and the other at Plantagenet, Ont.—that business with them this Spring has been better than in any previous year. Payments are generally reported good this week, a considerable improvement on last month's experience having been noted. No scarcity of any line of goods is advised; on the contrary, even Canadian Cottons are coming forward much more freely now, enabling some houses who have got behind with their orders, to supply all demands for the next three or four weeks. The prospects are that there will not be such a dearth of cottons next Fall as in the past; white Cottons, though, will likely continue scarce until the goods of the new mill started here can be delivered. Canadian tweeds are said to be easier, some of the agents offering goods at lower prices.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Without any particular change to note in values we have to report a busy week in the way of filling back orders taken for shipment on opening of navigation. Stocks of goods are running low, and the

arrivals of the English steamers are anxiously looked-for. The English markets are quiet but firm, and the probabilities are that prices will be fully maintained.

FRUITS.—Trade reported dull, for all kinds. Owing to the non-arrival of steamers expected at this port, there have been no receipts of *Oranges* during the week, and there are no stocks here in first hands. The demand for *Lemons* has been checked somewhat by the cold weather, and prices remain steady at \$5.50 to \$6, for cases. *Apples*.—A fair jobbing demand continues to be experienced and fine to fancy stocks brings from \$4 to \$5.50 per brl., while common varieties are sold at \$2 to \$3. *Bananas* quiet at \$2 to \$3 per bunch, and *Pineapples* selling slowly at \$3 to \$5 per doz.

GROCERIES.—*Sugars*, not active, Granulated is about ½c lower, as also *Yellows*. In Raw *Sugars* sales have been made to a pretty fair extent at 7½c and 8c, mostly at 7½c to 7¾c in quantity. Foreign advices note dullness. *Teas*.—The season opened at Japan at full prices, and about the same as last year. The quality is expected to be good. Opening prices \$45 to \$55 the picul. With us good *Teas* are steady, and increased sales of low sweet qualities are reported at some advance. The New York market is stronger. *Molasses*, firm for Barbadoes; business doing is not great. *Syrups* steady. *Coffees*—firm for Mocha; other kinds quiet. *Rice*—inactive at about former prices. *Spices*.—Pepper keeps pretty well up. White Pepper is very scarce. Supplies are, however, soon expected. *Nutmegs* firm. *Fruits*.—Valencia Raisins maintain extreme prices, and sales to a large extent are still being reported in New York. The stock is light here, and firm in price. Malaga Raisins are rather more asked for, and for old fruit the market is almost cleared. *Pigs* dull. *Currants* not active. Almonds, a little easier to arrive.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The market continues to be fairly supplied with native *Hides*, which are taken from the local butchers at \$8, \$7, and \$6.50 per 100 lbs., respectively for Nos. 1, 2 and 3. *Sheepskins* continue scarce, and worth \$1.25 to \$1.75 each, as to size and quality. *Calfskins* in tolerably good supply for the time of year, and values remain firm at 14c to 15c, the inside being the ruling figure. *Dry Hides* in New York are reported considerably firmer this week.

LUMBER.—Prospects are that there will be a larger production than for many years. The logs from the North Shore of the Ottawa are coming down freely, but very few have yet been got out on the south side. Rain is much wanted to swell the streams. Speculators have bought very largely of this season's cut at high prices, and some of them are looking around to unload themselves. The extra demand has been largely of a speculative nature. Stocks will, to all appearances, be sufficient for all requirements, and prices will probably be moderate. Local trade brisk.

LEATHER.—As is usual at this period—between seasons with manufacturers—there is no activity in the market, business being almost confined to supplying small sorting-up orders. Good plump Spanish and Slaughter *Sole* leather are in continued good request, and the production of these descriptions is sold ahead, at full prices. In black leather a considerable quantity of waxed *Upper* has changed hands during the last week or two, manufacturers having bought several round lots, (in anticipation of a rise in prices) at from 30c to 33c, but sales have since been reported of lots of from 200 up to 300 sides each at 37c. *Pebble* sells fairly well, but prices are low; and, except for prime stock, concessions are easily obtained. *Splits* leather also easy and unchanged. The leading manufacturers will soon commence to take stock, and little activity is expected during the next fortnight. The reprehensible practice of watering stocks of *Sole* leather, of