

Common paper, by a simple process, may be converted into a substance as strong as parchment, by means of sulphuric acid. The paper is simply dipped in the acid; but the acid must be of an exactly determined strength, and mixed with half its bulk of water. A sheet of paper dipped in the liquid is almost instantaneously changed in character. It becomes tough, hard, and fibrous, but its weight is not increased and it is far better for writing purposes than animal parchment. It can be rubbed better than paper, and almost as well as sheepskin; and it serves for vellum in bookbinding, and all legal purposes, as well as animal parchment, for strong binding, and as a substitute for bladders to cover pickle and jam jars; and any paper that has even been printed on may be converted, by means of sulphuric acid, into vegetable parchment. Paper can be made waterproof without giving it the character of parchment by dissolving 24 oz. of alum and 4 oz. of white soap in 2 lbs. of water; also 2 oz. of gum arabic and 6 oz. of glue in 2 lbs. of water; the two solutions are to be mixed, and the sheets of paper dipped into the mixture while warm. They are then to be hung up to dry, and pressed. This paper is very useful for packages exposed to the damp, or for any purpose connected with the preservation of articles from moisture.—*Cassell's "Household Guide."*

CIRCULAR

OF THE HOUSE OF

ROBERT WILKES,

TORONTO AND MONTREAL.

To the Merchants of the Dominion:

In a market such as the Dominion of Canada where general dealers keep a larger assortment of Goods than in any other part of the world, it becomes of the utmost importance to the trade to secure the services of a reliable House that can supply all that infinite variety outside of mere staples, known as *Sundries*. It includes important departments of the Shelf Hardware trade, considerable lines in the Drug trade, Fancy Goods of every variety, and Watches, Clocks and Jewellery of all descriptions, as well as a number of articles usually sold by Dry Goods dealers. To supply such a large variety right, any house must do a large trade, and must virtually control the manufacture of the principle articles. It must also be satisfied with a moderate profit, so as to have no danger from competition attempted. Above all, to create and extend such a trade, a reputation for integrity and fair dealing must be deserved, and the quality of guaranteed goods must be reliable. No house can ever establish a good reputation by venting inferior goods, no matter how cheaply sold. By observance of these rules and principles we have endeavoured to meet the requirements of the trade, and to establish a House that would command the support of merchants in all sections of the Dominion. The development and success of our trade since its establishment many years ago, and its position in the two leading cities—Montreal and Toronto—must be the answer to those who enquire if we have succeeded in our endeavours.

For the present season we are prepared to execute the orders of our friends, in all departments, in the most satisfactory manner. To secure prompt delivery for the Fall trade, we respectfully request that orders shall be placed as early as possible. In PLATE, CUTLERY, NICKELITE, and many other staples the demand is generally in advance of our utmost producing power; orders have, therefore, to be supplied according to date of receipt—with good houses we have less regard for mere time than that orders should be delivered in good season. Soliciting the increased patronage of reliable merchants in all parts of the Dominion, we assure them of no pains being spared to give satisfaction.—Advt.

Boots and Shoes.

Men's French Calf Boots \$3 62 to 4 00; Men's Grain K. Boots, tap 0 00 to \$3 85; Men's Riding Boots, tap 0 00 to \$4 00; Men's Stogas, bts, ex, & tap 0 00 \$3 00; Men's Stogas, No. 1, 0 00 to \$2 75; Men's Stogas, No. 2, ex. & tap, \$2 20 to 2 50; Men's Stogas, No. 3, ex. & tap, 0 00 to \$1 99; Men's Kip Boots, Tap, \$2 45 to 3 26; Men's Kip Boots, D sole, \$3 35 to 3 10; Men's Felt Cong. MS. to G, 0 00 to 0 00; Men's D. S. Buff Fox Bal 0 00 to \$2 40; Men's D. S. Buff Congs, \$1 75 to 2 00; Men's Buff plain \$1 60 to 2 15; Men's Kip Cob & bunkums \$1 60 to 1 70; Men's Split \$1 20 to 1 60; Boys' No. 1 ex Stoga Boots, 0 00 to \$1 70; Bunkums & Bats, \$1 00 to 1 0.

Women's D. S. Calf Bats 0 00 to \$1 50; Split & Buff Bats \$1 00 to 1 40; Peb & Buff Bal \$1 15 to 1 60; Buff Cong 0 00 to \$1 60; M S Pel Bats \$1 20 to 2 00; M S Pel Cong 0 00 to 0 00.

Misses' Split & Buff Bats 0 80 to \$1 65; Peb & Buff Bats 0 95 to \$1 30; M S Peb & Buff Bats 0 00 to \$1 50.

Childs' Split & Buff Bats \$1 63 to 0 75; Peb, Buff Bats 0 90 to 1 05; Turned Cacks 0 95 to \$1 15.

Groceries.

PRICES CURRENT.

TEAF.—Young Hyson, common to fair 0 31 to 0 35; Medium to good 0 35 to 60; Fine to finest 0 65 to 0 82½; Gunpowder, good to fine, 0 35 to 0 60; Finest to choice 0 70 to 0 80; Imperial, fair to good, 0 30 to 0 45; Fine to finest 0 60 to 0 80; Japan, fair to finest, 0 35 to 0 65; Congou & Souchong, fair to good, 0 28 to 0 40; Fine to finest 0 40 to 0 70.

COFFEES.—Rio Green 0 24 to 0 27; Java Green 0 29 to 0 33.

SUGARS.—Redpath, refined 0 08 to 0 09½; do. Low A Crushed 0 09½ to 0 10; Scotch and English, refined, 0 08½ to 0 09½; Dry crushed and ground 0 10½ to 0 10½.

FRUIT.—Raisins, Lays, \$2 75 to \$3 00; Valencia 0 12½ to 0 13; Sultana 0 12 to 0 14; Seedless 0 11 to 1½; Currants, new 0 06 to 0 07; do. old, 0 05½ to 0 05½; Raisins 0 10½ to 0 12½; Almonds, soft shell, 0 15 to 0 16.

RICE.—Arracan \$1 65 to \$5 25; Rangoon \$4 60 to \$4 75.

FISH.—Codfish \$4 75 to \$5 00; Herrings \$3 25 to \$7 00; Smoked Herrings 0 32½ to 0 35.

SARDINES.—Half Tins 0 11 to 0 12½; Quarter Tins 0 23 to 0 24.

SYRUPS.—Golden 0 48 to 0 50; Extra Golden 0 50 to 0 54; Amber 0 70 to 0 75.

TOBACCOS.—10's, 0 40 to 0 45; Pocketpieces 4s. 6s. and 8s. 0 40 to 0 65; Solace 0 40 to 0 52½.

LIQUORS.—Best Old Rye 0 90 to 0 93; Malt 0 90 to 0 93; Toddy 0 90 to 0 93; Pure Spirits 25 up 0 80 to 0 88; Rum, Jamaica \$2 25 to \$2 50; Demerara \$1 80 to \$2 25; Gin, Red Cases, \$7 75 to \$8 00; do. Green Cases \$4 25 to \$4 50; Wines, Port and Sherry, common \$1 00 to \$1 25; Good \$1 50 to \$4 00; Champagne \$9 00 to \$21 00 per case; Brandy in Wood, \$2 50 to \$3 00; do. in case, Hennessey, \$9 00 to \$9 50; Martell's \$8 50 to \$9 00; Jules Robin \$7 75 to \$8 25.

Hides & Skins, per lb.

Green, No. 1, 0 00 to 0 07½; Green, No. 2, 0 00 to 0 06½; Cured and inspected 0 08 to 0 08½; Calfskins, green, 0 00 to 0 10; Calfskins, cured, 0 11½ to 0 12; Sheepskins, 0 00 to 0 20; Lambskins, 0 00 to 0 30.

Oils.

Cod Oil, 65c, 70c; Lard, extra, 85c, 88c; do. No. 1, 78c, 80c; do. No. 2, 72c, 72½c; Duncan-Clark & Co's., 45c; Linsced raw, 75c, 80c; do. boiled 80c, 8½c; Machinery, 30c, 40c; Olive, common, per gill, 95c, \$1; do. salad, \$1 80, \$2 30; do. salad, in bottles, qut., per case, \$3 30, \$3 50; Seal, pale, 72c, 75c; Spirits Turpentine, 58c, 65c; Whale, regned, 60c.

Hardware.

TIN (FOUR MONTHS).—Block, per lb 0 28 to 0 30; Grain, 0 30 to 0 32.

COPPER.—Pig, 0 22 to 0 24; Sheet 0 27 to 0 31.

CUT NAILS.—3 inch to 6 inch, \$4 17 to 4 25; 2½ inch to 2½ inch, \$4 42 to 4 50; Shingle, \$4 92 to 5 00; Lathe \$5 67 to 5 75.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Best, No. 12, 0 09 to 0 08½; Best, No. 24, 0 09 to 0 09½; Best No. 26, 0 09½ to 0 10; Best, No. 28, 0 10 to 0 10½.

HORSE NAILS.—Guest's or Griffin's assorted sizes, 0 00 to 0 00; E. T. to W. assorted sizes, 0 19 to 0 20; Patent Hammered do. 0 00 to 0 17.

IRON (at 6 months).—Pig.—Gartsherrie No. 1, 0 00 to 0 00; Eglington No. 1, 0 00 to 0 00; Eglington No. 3, 0 00 to 0 00; Other Brands, No. 1, 0 00 to \$32 50; Other Brands, No. 2, 0 00 to 0 00; Bar—Scotch, per 100 lb. \$3 00 to 3 25; Refined, 0 00 to 0 00; Swedes \$7 25 to 7 50; Hoops—Coopers \$3 75 to 4 00; Hoops—Band \$3 75 to 4 40; Boiler plates \$4 50 to 4 75. Canada Plates: Hutton \$6 00 to 6 50; Arrow & Glamorgan \$6 50 to 6 75; Swansea, \$6 50 to 6 75.

LEAD (at 4 months).—Bar per 100 lbs 0 06½ to 0 07; Sheet 6½ to 7; Shot 7 to 0 7½.

IRON WIRE (4 months).—No. 6 per bundle \$3 25 to 3 35; No. 8, per bundle, \$3 55 to 3 65; No. 12, per bundle \$3 85 to 3 95; No. 16, per bundle, \$4 25 to 4 35.

POWDER.—Blasting Canada, \$4 00 to 0 00; FF Canada \$5 00 to 0 00; FFF Canada, \$5 25 to 0 00; Blasting, English, 0 00 to 0 00; FF English, loose, \$5 00 to 5 50; FFF English, \$5 50 to 6 00.

PRESSED SPIKES (4 months).—Regular sizes, 100, \$5 50 to 6 00; Extra sizes, \$6 50 to 7 50.

TIN PLATE (4 months).—IC Coke \$10 00 to \$10 25; IC Charcoal, \$11 00 to 11 25; IX Charcoal, \$13 00 to 13 25; IXX Charcoal \$15 00 to 15 25; DC Charcoal \$10 00.

Produce.

Grain: Wheat, Spring, 60 lb, \$1 20, \$1 23; do. Fall, 60 lb, \$1 30, \$1 35; Barley, 48 lb, 75c; Peas, 60 lb, 72½, 76c; Oats, 34 lb, 51c, 53c; Rye, 56 lb, 80c. Seeds: Clover, choice, 100 lb, \$9 65, \$10 25; Timothy, choice, 100 lb, \$6 25, \$7 25. Flour (per brl.).—Superior extra, \$5 75, \$5 80; Extra, \$5 50, \$5 60; Spring extra, \$5 05 to \$5 15; Superfine, \$4 80, \$4 90; Oatmeal, per brl, \$5 60, \$5 80.

Provisions.

Butter, choice, per lb, 18c, 19c; do. ordinary, 15c, 16c; Cheese, 12½, 13½; Pork, mess, new, \$19, \$19 25; Bacon, Cumberland cut, 9c, 9½c; do. smoked, 11½, 12½; Hams, smoked, 12c, 12½c; do. canvassed, 12½, 13c; Lard, 11c, 11½c; Eggs, 12½c; Tallow, 5c, 5½.

Salt, etc.

Liverpool coarse, \$1, \$1 10; Goderich, \$1 30.

Paints, &c.

White Lead, genuine, in Oil, per 25 lbs, \$2 25, \$2 50; do. No. 1, \$2, \$2 25; do. 2, \$1 80, \$2; do. 3, \$1 60, \$1 75; White Lead, 7½c, 8c; Red Lead, 6½, 7c; Venetian R-d, English, 2c, 3c; Yellow Ochre, French, 2, 3; Whiting, 85c, \$1.

Dyestuffs.

Annatto, 35c to 60c. Aniline, Magenta, cryst, 2 50 to 2 80; do. liquid, 2 00. Argols, ground, 15c to 25c. Blue Vitriol, pure, 9½ to 10c. Camwood, 6c to 9c. Copperas, Green, 1½ to 2½. Cudbear, 16c to 25c. Fustic, Cuban, 2½ to 4c. Indigo, Bengal, 2 40 to 2 50; do. Extract, 30c to 35c. Japonica, 7½ to 8c. Lacrye, powdered, 35c to 38c. Logwood, 2½ to 3c; do. Camp, 2½ to 3½; do. Extract, 10c to 16c. Mad-dier, best Dutch, 12c to 14c. Quercitron, 3c to 5c. Sumac, 6c to 8c. Tin, Muriste, 10½ to 12½. Redwood, 5c to 6c.