
COMMERCIAL SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

REVIEW OF THE TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, March 30th, 1859.

The heaviness and dullness of business is everywhere its chief feature at the present moment ; not that there has been any marked difference in the past month than in the two preceding months of the year, but there has nevertheless been an improvement. There are of course many reasons why there should be little actual business transacted during this month. The last before the opening of the navigation, it may be said to terminate the winter, although it does not fairly usher in the spring season ; consequently there is that necessary extra stagnation during this month that will always be found at the point of transition. While this, however, may exert a momentary additional influence in increasing the general depression, the primary cause is deeper and broader.

There would nevertheless appear to be some considerable hopes of a revival in various quarters. The importations of the last two months have been comparatively large, and the preparations making for the navigation in the approaching season, although evincing considerable caution, are by no means the most meagre. It is true the emptiness of our merchants' shelves may have induced the increase of importations to some extent ; but this consideration alone, without some reasonable prospect, or at least the hope of a market, would not have warranted the large increase that we observe. The growing wheat so far is looking well and encouraging, and if we reap the harvest of present prospects we shall experience a change that will go far to lift us out of our present depression. If Providence should favour us we may soon find ourselves once more on the road of prosperity ; but should our crops again fail, we must prepare for even greater and more durable calamities than we have already experienced.

The produce market has been uniformly dull throughout the month. The breaking up of the roads, added to the extreme scarcity of all descriptions of produce has rendered the supplies excessively meagre, and destroyed every thing like activity in the market.

Prices have varied very slightly during the whole month. The demand has generally been good, owing to the tardiness with which the supplies have come in. There has been a falling off, however, during the past week, and the month closes without any appearances of a revival.