Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, July 28th, 1898.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—For nice fresh goods there is an improved demand in the dairy butter trade. Anything inferior in quality is hard to move. Creamery tubs are selling at 16c. while prints bring 17½ to 18c. per lb. Cheese is quiet and in the local trade it is none too active. Eggs are received somewhat more freely; for anything under strictly new laid the demand at quotations is not brisk, while eggs of the best quality are not moving very briskly. Merchants quote 11c. per dozen. Retailers are selling eggs guaranteed strictly new laid at 20 to 22c. per dozen.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—Although transactions are reported in the flour market the trade is depressed. The value of Ontario flour has fallen about 15c. per barrel, during the week. Manitoba is as yet unchanged, but we may not unreasonably expect a decline with the first offerings of the new crop. One merchant says he expects a decline of a dollar a barrel in the course of the next few weeks. Bran is quiet and unchanged; shorts remain high in price.

GRAIN.—The interest of the market naturally centres on wheat. Throughout the province the harvest is now about ended. Threshing is taking place in many districts and the results so far have been very encouraging. The first new wheat of the season reached the Toronto market on Tuesday and was a fine sample. It weighed an average of 62¾ lbs. to the bus., and brought a fancy price, 75c. Spring wheat is not looking as well as fall and shows the lack of rain. Barley is going to be a good crop. Oats make rather a poor showing in the field; they advanced 2 cents per bushel this week. Peas, it is said, will be a light crop.

VISIBLE SUPPLY.

	July 23, 1898.	July 24, 1897.
Wheat, bush	9,382,000	16,001,000
Corn, bush	18,679,000	16,179,000
Oats, bush	4,272,000	6,671,000
Rye, bush	481,000	1,771,000
Barley, bush	345,000	954,000

GROCERIES.—A brisk July trade is being done. For all seasonable commodities the demand is good. Sugars are strong and an advance of 1-16c. per lb. has taken place since our last report. Canned goods are attracting some interest. Tomatoes are firm and prices are tending higher. A packer's salesman informs us that he has been instructed to withdraw from the market for the present. Lack of rain is alleged to have caused serious injury to the growing plant. Strawberries are firm; although a good pack was made, the scarcity of other fruit has kept the price steady. The market is now supplied with the new pack of lobster. New canned salmon is ready for the market on the Coast, but has not arrived here yet. Cable advices received from Japan show a hardening market for teas the past few days, but advices received from China continued to report a quiet market, buyers holding back, they being unwilling to operate on as high a basis as last year.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Quiet and steady rules the hide market. Merchants are still paying 9c. per lb. to butchers for green cow hides, No. 1 Toronto inspected. The last sales of cured that we have knowledge of were made at 9⅝c. per lb. Stocks are not accumulating. Shearlings and lambskins are quiet with 40c quoted. From Chicago, July 26.—Packer hides had only a limited sale, as tanners, as a rule, had supplied their wants for the present and the few purchases made were confined to peddling lots, closing at 12 to 12¼c. for native steers, 11¼ to 11½c. for Texas, 10¼c. for butt brands, 9½ to 9¾c. for Colorados, 10¼c. for branded cows, 11c. for heavy native cows and 11⅛ to 11¼c. for light do.

LEATHER.—We have found trade during the week very quiet. The movement to boot and shoe manufacturers is dragging and supplies are of a hand-to-mouth character. For the spring tanners of colored leather predict that a light tan and a tobacco brown will occupy the field to the exclusion of other shades. If it were not for certain specialties a number of the larger tanners would find it impossible to keep up their output.

PROVISIONS.—There is no change in the trade situation. The same healthy demand for stock that has characterized the market for some months past continues. Prices are firmer. Dealers expect that when the new winter pack commences the market will be in a strong position.

WOOL.—Trade so far as Toronto merchants are concerned is very quiet. Only nominal shipments of new fleece are coming forward when the season of the year is taken into account. Quotations remain unchanged. A slight improvement is reported in United States markets, but it has not affected this market.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 27th July, 1898.

ASHES.—Quotations are more or less nominal at $3.65 to $3.75 for first quality of pots, $3.35 to $3.40 for second pots, and about $4.75 for pearls. The demand is light, and stocks small, there being in store only about 15 brls. of pearls, and 50 brls. of pots.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The receipts are nil of cements for the week ending today, but some further large lots are reported close at hand by vessels from German and Belgian ports. Stocks on spot are low, owing to late large deliveries on Government account. Present business is very fair for season, there being a moderate aggregate of small orders. Quotations are steady at $2.25 to $2.35 for British, and $1.80 to $1.90 for Belgian. Receipts of firebricks for the week were only 8,000; prices range from $16 to $21 as to quality.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Last week there was shipped to London over 40,000 boxes of cheese, to Liverpool 21,000 boxes, to Bristol 20,000 boxes, and smaller lots to Manchester, Glasgow, and Leith. In all exports for the week were large, footing up to 93,519 boxes, some 21,000 boxes ahead of the same week last year. The market has made some further slight gain during the week, and present quotations are about 7⅜ to 7½c. for Eastern, and 7⅞ to 8c. for Western. For butter there is a rather better demand than a week ago, and prices range from 16 to 16½c. for creamery. Last week's exports show up well, being given as 9,800 pckgs., as against 2,803 for corresponding week of 1897.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	July 16. Bushels.	July 25. Bushels.
Wheat	9,500	80,055
Corn	139,488	68,838
Oats	1,086,895	912,154
Rye	13,376	16,649
Peas	218,033	235,421
Barley	28,032	28,186
Total grain	1,495,324	1,341,303
Oatmeal	333	322
Flour	2,258	21,261
Buckwheat	40,012	27,378

GROCERIES.—Sugar refiners report an unaccountable falling off in the demand this week, though the fruit preserving season is supposed to be at its height. The London market for raws is also reported dull. Notwithstanding the lessened activity the local market is stronger by a sixteenth than a week ago, and the factory quotation for standard granulated is now 4⅜c., Dutch granulated 4¼c., and Austrian 4 3-16c. Only one of the local refineries is now making the two last named grades, owing to a scarcity of the required low grade of raw beet sugar. Yellows range now from 3 9-16c. to 4c. Molasses is inactive at the moment, no sales being reported between importers and jobbers; card prices to retailers continue at 30 to 31c. per gal. for Barbadoes, of Porto Rico and Antigua goods there seems to be no stock available on spot. Most of the leading western packers of vegetables are reported to have withdrawn quotations until it is more definitely known what the crop will be, there having been unfavorable reports as to tomatoes, etc., from some sections. Some canners who are reported to have booked orders for tomatoes at 65 to 67½c., and corn and peas at 55c., are now said to be very anxious to hedge. We hear of one or two large packers who will book tomatoes at 80c., but only with privilege of the 60 per cent. clause. The arrival of a steamship cargo of 40,000 bags of Burmah rice in the husk, for the milling company, has relieved the scarcity in this article, and some further fair lots are due during the season. The market tends to firmness; the opening of Santiago to trade is said to have created an active demand in New York, and the amount of stock in the East, suitable for American trade, is said to be smaller than usual. We quote jobbing prices as follows: Standard B., $3.75 to $4; India, bright, $4 to $4.25; Patna, $4.25 to $5; Japan, $5 to $5.50. A cable just received to-day from Japan reports tea settlements 31,000 piculs short of this date last year, and the market retains all the features of firmness recently noted. From a leading commission house in constant communication with all Mediterranean points, we obtain the following general information with regard to the outlook in dried fruits: Valencia raisins are reported a fairly good crop, and the market will open on about the same level as last year, but first shipments will not be made before the 12th of August, a date nearly three weeks later than last year. Sultanas will also be later; the crop is estimated as 10 per cent. better than last year, but no quotations have yet been made. Currants will open somewhat below the very high figures of last year, and the crop is reported a good one. A cable received yesterday reports the fig crop short; opening prices are expected to range about 45 shillings as compared with 37 shillings last year. Walnuts are reported a poor crop, and late. Almonds, which have been very high in price, 26 to 27c. being lately asked for