

Toronto Hardware Prices.

The last week in March has undoubtedly been its best, and naturally so, as it ushers into stock the goods for which orders have been solicited throughout the month. Business becomes a matter of present importance among retailers more than it was. A lively trade has consequently been done during the week just closed. Fairly good roads in the country and exceptionally fine weather ministered to this improvement. Wire, chains, green wire cloth, harvest goods, spades, shovels, cordage, nails, chain, are active lines, lines which are rapidly running their course, and of which nothing will be heard soon but what 's to be reported of the sorting-up trade. The market is generally otherwise unchanged, and a record of its movements does not furnish many incidents of note. The wire men have made some changes; the nail men meet to-morrow, some cutting is reported in barb wire; heavy hinges are being sold at prices that jobbers refuse to meet, chain is scarce; tinware is very active. Future delivery business is good.

Barb wire.—The demand is quite strong but irregular. Importations of United States wire are disturbing prices, it is said, in some localities, and 4½c is reported to be the quotation in a few instances. If it is a fact that sales are made at this quotation there will likely be trouble, and it is reported that the matter is being looked into. It means the forfeit of a rebate, if proven.

Bolts.—An active demand is maintained without any variation from prices established last week. The discount remains at 70 and 10 per cent. from the list for carriage bolts.

Builders' hardware.—The trade looks up, a rather spirited demand from outside points being one of the agreeable features of the week. A better local trade than was experienced last week is also observed. Some very good specifications are receiving attention.

Chain.—Jobbers who placed orders so long ago as last December are advised that the makers can only partially fill those on hand. The recent strike in England is assigned as a cause of the delay. Meanwhile the trade demand is very active.

Cordage.—Inquiries are received almost daily for binder twine, but manufacturers have not yet begun to quote. Uncertainty as to the result of the agitation both in the United States and Canada for the removal of the duty is holding business in check. Cordage sells well upon the following prices: Manila 12½c, Sisal 10½c, tarred lath yarn 8½c.

Horse nails.—Are quiet and unchanged at 50 and 5 to 60 per cent. from the list.

Horse Shoes.—The price gravitates more generally towards \$3.60 on account of the reduction in freights. The range quoted remains, however, \$3.60 to \$3.70.

Nails.—The manufacturers meet to-morrow. There may be some change in prices, but it is unlikely that it will be downward if there is. Lower freights obtain now, of course, but practically that will not affect the price, as nearly all sales that have been made since the advance in January have been for delivery in April, after summer freights begin. Large purchases made before that advance have kept stocks pretty well supplied since.

Wire.—The weeks' sales are of about average volume for the time of year. The strong competition of United States tinned wire is forcing down prices here, and a new list for brass, copper and tinned steel wire has just been adopted by the Dominion Wire Manufacturing Company. The discount at present at 12½ per cent. of new list for tinned wire, and 15 per cent. off for brass and copper wire.

Metals.—The market for metals has undergone but little development. Business is only beginning to be signified on anything of a large scale, the fluctuations of the week have been inconsiderable, and stocks on spot are ample for requirements. It is clear that manufacturers' wants are opening out more freely, as orders for forward shipment are coming in fairly well. Tin is always more or less active, the price out-

side is stronger. Copper shows no change, but the indications are in favor of a continuance of strength. Lead is easy. Antimony firm but listless.

Antimony.—The English and United States markets show steady strength, but there is not much doing locally. Prices are firm at 14½c for Cookson's and 13½c for other brands, with ½c higher for small lots.

Canada Plates.—Are nominal.

Copper.—The market retains its strength, but there appears to be misgivings among buyers as to its stability and business is by no means large. Values on spot remain at 14½c, with an upward tendency in this quotation.

Lead.—The price of lead is no lower, the demand is fairly good, at ¾c for domestic pig and ¾c for imported.

Sheet zinc.—Prices are steady on this market and trade is light. Casts are 6½c, broken lots 6½c.

Spelter.—A moderate demand fails to strengthen prices, which are dull in sympathy with outside markets. The price is 50c for domestic and 60c for imported.

Terne plates.—Are nominal.

Tin.—A steady demand is to be chronicled. A good strong market is reported from outside. Straits pig is worth 23 to 24c. Strips are 24 to 25c.

Tin plate.—A very good trade is beginning to be done. Future orders are now beginning to come in for filling, some of which are supplied from stock. Shipments are now on the way to this market. Prices are unchanged.

Iron and Steel.—The business in Scotch pig iron for the week just closed bespeaks improvement in the demand. The sales for the week have been large and at well maintained prices. Among them are to be noted the following transactions in No. 1 iron: A lot of 400 tons of Summerlee at \$20.75 Toronto, 125 tons of Cambro, 50 tons of Govan. Prices vary slightly according to point of shipment. Low prices are ruling at the Scotch furnaces, and that fact influences trade favorably for Scotch brands here. The market appears to be taking a turn here in favor of British brands just now. The Canada iron Furnace Co. at Radnor, Quebec, whose new furnace was blown in a short time ago, is turning out a very fine grade of charcoal iron. Several cars have been placed on this market. Bar iron has had a fair week of it. The run of orders is not yet overtaken by the supply. Prices are steady at \$1.10 to \$1.15. Steel is in some request at quotations given in prices Current. A very good state of inquiry for steel boiler plate is reported, and some fair-sized sales have been made.

Paints, oils and colors.—The paint trade has not moved forward much this week. An average spring business has been experienced. Staples are rather neglected, while house lines continue to sell reasonably well. The prices of linseed oil adopted by the forming of the association are: Raw—1 to 3 bbls, 58c; 4 to 9 bbls, 57½c; 10 bbls and over, 56½c. Boiled, 1 to 3 bbls, 61c; 4 to 9 bbls, 60½c; 10 bbls and over, 59½c. These prices are for Toronto, London, Hamilton and Guelph. Outside of these 2c more is added. Turpentine is scarce and firm at 57 to 59c. There is no change in white lead, which is dull at 5½ to 5½c.

Glass.—Now shipments via Boston are now to hand. A fair demand is reported at unchanged prices, the basis being \$1.40.

Old Material.—The trade has been good during the past week and prices are firm. The demand from the foundries is brisk at present. Prices as follows: No. 1 heavy cast scrap, 65 to 70c per 100 pounds; stove cast scrap, 40 to 45c; No. 1 wrought scrap, 60 to 65; No. 2, including sheet iron, hoop iron and mixed steel, 20 to 30c; new light scrap copper, 8½c; heavy scrap copper, 9½c; old copper bottoms, 8c; light scrap brass, 5½c; heavy yellow scrap brass, 7½c; heavy red scrap brass 8½ to 8½c; scrap lead, 2c; scrap zinc, 2½ to 2½c; scrap rubber, 2½ to 2½c; country mixed rags, 80 to 85c per 100 pounds; clean dry bones, 50 to 60c per 100 pounds; plough

shares, 60 to 65c; burnt cast scrap, 15 to 20c; railroad iron, 65 to 75c; malleable scrap, 2½c. —Hartleware.

Pacific Coast Fisheries.

A late Census Bulletin reports that our fisheries on the Pacific coast employed 13,850 persons in various capacities in the last federal census year, that had \$6,408,239 invested in them, and that the products were valued at \$6,397,803.

An examination of the tables shows the fisheries of California are more important than those of either Oregon or Washington. It is announced, also, that 5,338 of those engaged in the fisheries are from California, 38.5 per cent.; that \$2,084,210, or 41.3 per cent. of the capital invested represent California interests, and that \$1,403,309, or 69.8 per cent., of the value of the products are credited to that state.

The fisheries of Oregon, which rank next to those of California, employ 4,682 persons, 33.8 per cent. of the whole number employed in the three states; the capital invested there is \$2,298,632, or 33.3 per cent., and the proportion of products credited to Oregon is 16.1 per cent., the value being \$1,033,574.

There were engaged in the industry in Washington 3,830 persons, or 27.6 per cent. of the aggregate number of employees in the Pacific fisheries. The amount of investment was \$1,517,397, or 23.3 per cent. The value of the catch was \$890,860, or 13.9 per cent.

The canning of salmon is the most important fishery industry in the Pacific states, and the capture of salmon in many places is wholly dependent on and tributary to the canning business. Of the 63 factories 8 were located in California, 34 in Oregon and 21 in Washington. The quantity of fresh salmon utilized in the preparation of the canned product was 41,632,223 pounds, for which the fishermen received \$1,782,227. The canned goods consisted of 622,037 cases, worth \$3,703,833 at the ruling market prices.

Compared with 1880, the fisheries of this region have, as a whole, greatly advanced, although a few special branches show a decline. The increase in persons employed has been 28 per cent., in capital invested 182 per cent., and in value of products 50 per cent. California has advanced 72 per cent. in persons employed, 136 per cent. in the amount of investment and 38 per cent. in the value of catch. Oregon has declined 12 per cent. in the number of fishery employees, but has advanced 176 and 69 per cent., respectively, in the items of capital invested and value of products. Washington exhibits a large increase in personnel, capital and results, amounting to 71, 359 and 113 per cent., respectively.

Among the causes which may be mentioned as having contributed to this great advance in the fisheries of the Pacific states are the rapid growth of the country, the natural abundance of fish in the rivers and adjacent to the shores, and the decreased supply of mackerel, whales, etc., on the Atlantic coast. Especially worthy of note is the great increase in the whale fleet of this coast, and the maintenance of the extensive salmon fisheries in the face of the enormous yearly drain on the species. —Bradstreet's.

The lake steamer City of Detroit, from Detroit, which was reported to have passed Colchester, Ont., at 7.30 a.m. March 29, was the first vessel of the season to pass out of the Detroit river into Lake Erie, and it may be considered the opening of navigation. The weather was clear and mild, and there was no ice in sight.

SPRINGUE—"I took two ladies into the stock exchange, and I expected to hear them complain that there was so much noise that they couldn't hear themselves think; but they didn't seem to notice it at all. I don't understand it."

Kingsbury—"On, that's all right. Those ladies are members of the sewing circle in our parish."