

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Sept. 29th, 1898.

DRUGS.—Business is generally good, and the movement is quite satisfactory to the wholesale trade. Ontario druggists have been doing a better trade this year than for some time past. Collections show improvement in most districts, although some of the Western business is reported as unsettled. Changes in prices for some months have been very moderate. Staple commodities, such as quinine, are steady and lack speculative interest.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The butter trade is without change from last week. Medium to poor dairy is plentiful, while real choice is scarce and brings a good price. Creamery is steady. Cheese is, in the local market, on a fairly steady basis, dealers jobbing at 8½ to 9c. per lb. Strictly fresh eggs are in demand, but the supply of inferior quality is in excess of the demand.

FLOUR AND FEED.—Both on export and local account there has been a good demand for flour. Ontario millers have made fair shipments to Eastern Canada, while some large transactions are said to have taken place with the United Kingdom. Values remain unchanged. Mill feed is steady, with shorts quoted \$11 to \$11.50 per ton.

GRAIN.—Values of wheat in the local market stand where they were a week ago. Although there has been a fluctuation in the feeling as to the strength of the position, and fractional changes in prices quoted, the market has been very steady. Deliveries at different Ontario points are much less than they were a year ago. This is to be explained largely by the different quality of the wheat then and now. After the harvest of 1897, the farmer was only too anxious to get into the market with his partly sprouted wheat knowing that the chances were that much of it would spoil upon his hands. This year there is not the same inducement to sell quickly, while the more or less unsettled condition of political affairs has led farmers to hold on to supplies in the chance of war. Oats are firm. Barley is in good demand with prices unchanged. The rye market is steady and without change.

GROCERIES.—Most of the houses are apparently satisfied with the opening of autumn business, and report that future prospects are excellent. Values of staples in the local market are steady and unchanged. Sugar has been selling seasonably well without alteration in price. Currants of the new crop are coming to hand, as are Filiatra raisins. Advices from California confirm previous reports of damage to the drying crop by rain. In raisins, from the Continent, while the market is firm, there seems to be little doing for either prompt or future delivery. Currants are very firm in sympathy with advices from primary sources of supply. The local tea market is without features of special interest, while foreign advices from primary points report dullness.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—A fair movement is taking place in this trade. So far as hardware and tinware specialties are concerned, the bulk of the autumn movement is over, the goods have been shipped to their destination, and are now beginning to go into consumption. The metal trade is steady; prices are firm, and many commodities show an upward tendency. The zinc market is strong, while copper is also firm. In galvanized iron there has been good healthy movement for some time, and stocks are reduced. The renewal of reports of a combination of American manufacturers had a visible effect upon the American market. The sensational nature of the stories floated was so obvious, in fact, that they attracted attention only within the trade.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The hide market remains without marked change. Dealers are paying 8½c. per lb., and quote cured

at 9¼c. Tanners maintain that they are securing supplies at 9c. per lb., but the tendency, the past few days, has been fractionally higher. Calfskins are without charge, and for green skins dealers are paying 10c. Tallow is dull. In another column we refer at length to the course of hide prices in this market for a number of years. From Chicago, Sept. 27th.—A quiet market was reported for packer hides. Buyers, as a rule, were not anxious for supplies; still, as there was no attempt on the part of packers to force sales, values were well maintained at 11½ to 12c. for native steers, 10½ to 11c. for Texas, 10¼c. for butt brands, 9½ to 9¾c. for Colorados, 9¼ to 9¾c. for branded cows, 11¼c. for heavy native cows, and 11¾c. for light do.

SEEDS.—There is little red clover in the market, but alsike is coming in quite freely. For alsike \$5 to \$7.50 per 100 lbs., is quoted, according to quality, and timothy at \$2.25 to \$3.75 per 100 lbs.

WOOL.—The market is quiet and without change. A few lots of fleece have been purchased by city dealers, but there is an entire absence of anything like energy in the market. The London wool sales are progressing well with a good attendance of buyers, and most lots sold under keen competition.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 28th Sept., 1898.

ASHES.—Some little enquiry has developed from English dealers, with whom stocks seem pretty well run down, and as supplies on spot are a mere bagatelle, only about 30 barrels of pots, and 20 of pearls being reported in store here, values have stiffened somewhat, and we quote No. 1 pots at \$3.95 to \$4.10 per cental; seconds, \$3.70 to \$3.80. Pearls are also in more request, and might be quoted at \$4.90 to \$5. It is likely these higher prices may induce some of the country makers, who have dropped out of the business of late, to start up again.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—Business has been good in cements during the past fortnight, Western demand being quite active, and one sale of 8,000 barrels being reported. Receipts have been pretty large, 30,745 barrels of Belgian and German, and 850 barrels of English being reported the week before last, and for the week ending to-day, 2,500 barrels of English, and 7,722 barrels of Belgian. Most of this goes immediately forward to fill Government contracts for canal works, and general orders already booked, and the available stock on spot is really small. Prices are firm at \$1.90 to \$2.05 for Belgian, \$2.25 to \$2.35 for English, and \$2.40 to \$2.45 for German, in some cases 5c. a barrel higher being exacted for immediate delivery. There is also a good demand for firebricks, which are quoted at \$16 to \$21 per thousand.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

| | Bushels. Sept. 19. | Bushels. Sept. 26. |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Wheat | 56,768 | 43,405 |
| Corn | 4,071 | 11,841 |
| Oats | 272,946 | 364,309 |
| Rye | 20,715 | 23,539 |
| Peas | 32,976 | 46,973 |
| Barley | 5,614 | 6,461 |
| Total grain | 393,090 | 496,528 |
| Oatmeal | 299 | 237 |
| Flour | 14,499 | 13,783 |
| Buckwheat | 213 | |

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The trend of local values in cheese has continued steadily upward, and the cable quotation has advanced another shilling for both white and colored, but is still considerably below the figures being paid in Canada. Fine Western goods are bringing 9½c., with some holders indifferent sellers at this figure, and fine Eastern Septembers are quoted at 9½ to 9¼c., which shows

a gain of from ½ to ¾c. for the week. Exports last week show up well, the figures being 85,071 boxes, some 34,000 boxes ahead of the same week last year. Butter shipments were also large, reaching to 23,971 packages, and the market may be called a firm one, from 19½ to 20c. being the range for fine creamery in boxes, and 19¼ to 19½c. in tubs; dairy makes from 14 to 15½c. per pound.

GROCERIES.—New dried fruits continue to engage the main attention of the trade at the moment, and the tendency of primary markets is towards firmness in all lines. Some moderate supplies of new currants are now unloading from the "Dominion," via Liverpool, principally fine Filiatras, which will probably be jobbed at about 5¼c. A cable to-day from Patras quotes an advance of from sixpence to a shilling. The market for Valencia raisins is very steady; supplies as yet are small, but the "Escalona," which left Denia on the 17th inst., is reported full to the hatches, and could not accept all the freight offering. Some new Sultananas are now unloading ex "Numidian," but are mostly for the Toronto trade.

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