TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, March 1st, 1900.

DRUGS.—The drug market appears to have struck its level, and although there are one or two minor changes in prices, it is, on the whole, practically the same as it has been for a week or two past. Potash iodide shows a slight advance, and is now quoted \$3.75 to \$4, and citric acid is up to 60c. and 62c. Other prices remain unchanged. Business is reported good.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—The drop in wheat has had a weakening effect on the flour market, and though prices are unchanged, there are few sales taking place. Shorts and bran are scarce, and are firm at the advance noted last week. Oatmeal is firmer under a better export movement, and much better local demand. There is no change in prices, however.

GRAIN.—A weaker Chicago market has caused wheat to drop 1c. a bushel, all round, and winter is quoted 64 to 65c.; spring, 64 to 65c.; and Manitoba, No. 1, hard, 77 to 78c. In coarse grains the market is steady; barley is firm and in good demand at last week's figures; oats are a little easier, and peas are weaker, but prices are unchanged. Corn is steady at 32c., and buckwheat unchanged, at 49 to 50c.

HAY AND STRAW.—Timothy hay is in good supply and steady, at \$10 to \$11.50. No mixed is coming in. Straw is plentiful, and the price remains at from \$7 to \$8.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The hide market is very quiet, and owing to a falling off in demand and rather free receipts, prices are down all round. Cows, green, are 9c. per lb.; steers, 9½c. per lb., and cured and inspected, 9¾ to 10¾c. Sheepskins find ready sale at \$1 to \$1.25. Calfskins are in good demand, but quotations are unchanged. Prime tallow is somewhat scarce locally, but prices remain the same as last week.

HOPS.—The market is in a very unsatisfactory condition, and no large sales are being made. Some small lots bring as high as 15 to 16c., but for larger lots, no such price could be obtained. The quotations given are 13 to 15c., but these figures are largely nominal, for the brewers are supplied, and will not buy except when "snaps" offer. Just when a change will take place is hard to predict, but probably not before May or June, when the increased manufacture of lager will create a demand.

PROVISIONS.—The scarcity of butter is the feature of the provision market. So scarce is it that several lots shipped to the British markets have been sent back to New York and Montreal, and, notwithstanding the double freight, a profit has been realized. Large rolls are quoted here at 21 to 22c., and dairy tubs would bring the same, but that none are coming in. There are no stocks of cheese held in Toronto, and though it is very firm, prices are unchanged. Eggs are weak at 16 to 17c. for new laid; held fresh, 13 to 14c., and limed, 13 to 14c. In hog products, the market is firmer, and there is a general advance in prices; long clear now selling at 7½ to 7¾c.; mess pork at \$14.50; hams, 11 to 11½c., and rolls, 8¼ to 8½c. Other lines of provisions remain unchanged.

WOOL.—The market is practically free of wool, but for such small lots as are offering 19 to 20c. is being paid.

THE WAYS OF BANKERS.

How bankers and financial men are sometimes sized up, is illustrated by the following sarcastic speech, made a few days ago by Simeon Ford, on the occasion of a bankers' gathering in New York:

"As I sat here this evening," he began, "listening to the strains of that fine old banker's anthem, entitled 'When you ain't got no money, why you needn't come around,' I was thinking what a grand idea it was for you magnates to get together once a year to exchange ideas and settle among yourselves what shall be done, and who shall be done, and how you will do them.

"I have observed," continued Mr. Ford, "that one's reception at a bank varies somewhat with the condition of the money market. Go in when money is easy, and the president falls on your neck, calls you by your first name, and cheerfully loans you large sums on your Balloon Common and Smoke preferred, and you go on your way rejoicing. The next day, news having arrived that a Gordon Highlander has strained a tendon while sprinting away from a Dutchman near Ladysmith, or an Irish lady chef has sent home two pounds, sterling, to her family, money goes up to 180 per cent. a minute, and you get a note requesting you to remove your Balance Common and your Smoke Preferred, and substitute Government bonds therefor. And still you wonder at crime.

"Bankers are too prone to judge a man by his appearance, so that the very men that need the money most have the hardest work to get it. They are apt, especially at the City Bank, to discriminate against the feller who looks Rocky in favor of the Rocky-feller. Clothes do not make the man! If they did Hetty Green wouldn't be where she is, and Russell Sage would be in the Old Ladies' Home. If Uncle Russell had to travel on his shape, he never would see much of the world. Yet beneath that ragged coat there beats a heart, which as a beater can't be beat—a heart as true (so the Standard Gas people say), as true as steal.

"But, after all, banks and trust companies do a lot of good in a quiet way, especially to their directors in a quiet way. It would sometimes be mortifying for these directors to have to attempt to borrow money on certain securities, in institutions with which they were not connected, because, instead of getting the money, they might get six months."

—Mr. W. Askin, of Sarnia, succeeds A. Miscampbell, M.P.P., as manager of the Northern Navigation Company, of Collingwood. Mr. Askin has been connected with the Beatty Line for many years.