

**DRY GOODS.**—Some houses report a tolerably busy week, attending to the wants of customers in the market from Eastern Ontario and the Upper Ottawa district, and state that they have no reason to complain; while others have experienced an inactive week, attributing it to the cold, raw weather. Sorting-up purchases are generally light, and, unless the weather soon becomes more favorable, the distribution of spring goods will likely fall far short of the early expectations. A few travellers for fancy goods houses have gone out on their sorting-up trip, and report little business to be done, as, owing to the backward spring, stocks in the country for the most part remain unbroken. A few leading buyers for our large houses have left for England during the week, and representatives of the smaller establishments will leave in a few days. No changes advised as yet. Payments are uniformly reported good; and it is to be hoped that the unanimous second call for supplies of seasonable goods has only been deferred.

**FISH.**—Market dull and weak, stocks about all sold out of first hands, and the few sales made comprise only small jobbing lots at \$3 to \$3.25 for No. 1 *Green Cod*, and \$4 for *Dry Cod*. No. 2 green is practically unsaleable, owing chiefly to the poor condition and inferior quality of the offerings.

**FLOUR AND GRAIN.**—The local breadstuffs market is as yet devoid of interest. Our grain merchants are rather holding off, and seem to be in no hurry about making shipping contracts, especially during the present unfavorable weather, which is certainly not premonitory of an early opening of navigation. Beyond the sale of a cargo lot of pease for May delivery on Monday last, at about 90c, no important transactions have been reported within the week, and quotations have, for the most part, remained nominal, for both flour and grain. In corn a few sales have been made in the West, and a cargo of white winter wheat was bought in Detroit on Montreal account, to be shipped via Portland. Values here for spot offerings are: No. 2 Canada red winter wheat, \$1.23 to \$1.25; corn, 55c to 55½c; peas, 90c; oats, 36c to 37c; rye, in small lots, \$1.01 to \$1.02, and in cargo lots \$1.04. *Flour* has ruled quiet all week, with a slightly easier tendency in values at the close, in sympathy with the condition of the English and American markets. There has been a fair demand this week for Strong Bakers, but other grades receive little attention; sales altogether for the local trade, and values show little change from last week. Considerable quantities of American flour are being imported here, chiefly from Chicago, where the market was reported on Monday as follows: "Exporters made a number of purchases of sacked flour, and the local trade bought sparingly. The market at best was quiet but feeling firm. Sales were: Spring double extras—800 sacks for export, 200 sacks patent do, and 200 sacks Ashton on p. t., 200 sacks at \$4.50, 300 brls (Mina) at \$4.75, 125 brls do at \$5.40, 400 sacks patent at \$5.60, 125 brls Palace and 800 sacks Minnesota on p. t. No grade—400 sacks on p. t., 740 sacks at \$3.75." The imports into the United Kingdom during the week show a decrease of 40,000 brls flour, of 100,000 qrs wheat, and an increase of 20,000 qrs corn as compared with those of the week previous. During the past three days the English markets have become dull and depressed with lower prices reported. This state of affairs was at once reflected in the West, and No. 2 Spring wheat has declined about 2c in Chicago since Tuesday. One cause assigned for this, however, is finer weather, which disposes holders to sell. New York is steady and quoted a fraction lower for wheat to-day, while in London, business is of a holiday character, and in Liverpool, wheat is cabled as quiet and firmly held, with a small business doing. The growth of the winter wheat crop in the North West is

still unfavorably affected by the weather, and advices from Southern Wisconsin are that the crop will suffer a diminution of one-fourth to one-half by the storms of the winter. The season is evidently still fraught with unusual contingencies, and more than ordinary circumspection would seem to be required on the part of those engaged in the trade.

**FRUITS.**—Trade continues dull. There is a slightly improved demand, however, for *apples*, the cheap, inferior stock referred to in our last report having been pretty well worked off. Good sound fruit is worth \$2.50 to \$3 per brl.; second and inferior qualities quoted at \$1 to \$2, respectively. No late advices from England, but dealers here seem apprehensive of discouraging reports. *Oranges* quite scarce, owing to light arrivals; the small stocks are in few hands, and under a good demand prices have advanced to \$11 to \$12 per case, or \$5 to \$6 per box. A shipment is expected per steamer in a few days, however, when prices will likely suffer a decline. *Lemons* in fair jobbing demand, at \$3.50 per box, or \$5 per case. *Cocoanuts* are selling fairly well at \$5 per hundred.

**GROCERIES.**—*Teas.*—Only a moderate business doing on about the previous basis of prices for Japans. Fine qualities maintain fairly their value, and probabilities run in the way of steady prices. In lower grades not much demand; stocks full. Japanese mail advices to 17th March are received to-day. After a fall of \$1 the picul, which took place after the departure of the previous mail, the market ruled fairly steady, and was sustained by speculative purchases made by some of the native dealers at full rates. Receipts were light. Telegraphic advices lately received report an expected late opening of the "season" in Japan, and "*First Crop*" expected less than average quantity. *Sugars* without noteworthy change for any kind during the week. The new Halifax refinery has commenced operations. *Molasses* and *Syrups* unchanged. *Rice* dull. *Coffees* steady. *Mocha* keeps up. *Spices.* Pepper keeps up; other *Spices* not much changed. *Fruits.*—In Malaga Raisins business is light and nominally without special change. *Valencia Raisins* 8½c to 9½c. *Sultanas* 10½c to 11½c. *Figs* quiet. *Nuts* and *Almonds* dull.

**HEMLOCK BARK.**—The market is reported dull; considerable quantities, however, have been shipped from the Eastern Townships, within the past fortnight, to Boston and vicinity, where prices range from \$10 to \$11 per cord.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—This being Easter week, the offerings of native *Hides* have been somewhat larger than for some time, but the quality shows little or no improvement; it is doubtful if hides will be free from grubs before the middle of May. All offerings have been taken at \$8, \$7 and \$6, respectively for Nos. 1, 2 and 3; there is for the time being a pleasing absence of that contest for the control of supplies which existed at the like date last year, and up to a short time ago, in which foolish struggle the question of profit was frequently forgotten or ignored. There have been rather more *Sheepskins* under offer this week, too; they are worth \$1 to \$2 each, as to size and quality, and *Lambskins* 20c, but not many of the latter offering yet. *Calfskins.*—The supply is increasing, and demand rules steady at 11c per lb.

**LEATHER.**—A fair business has been done, considering that it is between seasons with manufacturers, who have scarcely commenced yet to cut for Fall requirements. There has been considerable enquiry for Spanish and slaughter *Sole*, and sales have occurred at unchanged prices; stocks of the latter description are low. There is also a fair demand for light and medium waxed *Upper*, and sales are reported at our quotations: a lot of 250 sides changed hands at 42c. *Splits* leather, notwithstanding the recent large shipments to England is still a

drug, the supply being largely in excess of the demand, and prices are weak. In *Pebble* sales of 1,000 sides of light stock are reported at 13c. *Buff* has also met with some enquiry at 15c to 17 as to quality, and *harness* is moving off slowly at quotations.

**OILS.**—The market for *Seal* has been somewhat influenced by the almost daily advices from Newfoundland; since the date of our last report several steamers have arrived at Harbor Grace, and the total catch to date numbers over 111,000 seals, with about twenty steamers yet to arrive. As stated in our last report stocks of *Steam Refined Seal* are nearly all in the hands of one firm, consequently values remain firm but unchanged, at from 72c to 75c, as to size of lot. Sales of *Straw Seal* have been reported at 47½c wine, equal to about 57c Imperial gallon. The demand for *cod* oil is reported good, but stocks are light and in few hands; jobbing lots can be bought at 61 to 63c, although there are holders who talk higher prices. *Linseed* is somewhat stronger, in consequence of an advance of 1s. per cwt. in England; spot lots are under offer at our last week's quotations, but for lots to arrive higher figures will probably be asked. *Spirits of Turpentine* dull, and prices lower, quoted at 70 to 72c; no sales of consequence reported.

**PROVISIONS.**—Subsequent to our last report the Chicago market grew stronger, and steadily advanced up till Monday last, when *Pork* was selling at an advance of about \$2 per brl. on previous prices. A reaction then set in, and, under the influence of the "bull" and "bear" fight, values have since been quite unsettled; yesterday a despatch announced that the Chicago "corner" in *pork* had been ended by the cornered parties or "shorts" paying \$100,000 to be believed from the deal. This, however, was not credited here, especially after a further advance of 10c to 15c per brl., showing a rise of 25c to 32½c on the previous day's closing figures, had been wired. *Lard* closed strong in Chicago yesterday, with prices 5c to 7½c per lb. higher than on Tuesday. For to-day's closing figures see "American markets" in another column. The local trade report a fair demand from country dealers, but city buyers have not been disposed to meet the views of sellers, and trade for the week may be written inactive. In sympathy with Chicago market, prices for *Mess Pork* have advanced, and it is now firmly held at \$20 to \$20.50 for American and Canadian; short cuts of the latter bring the outside price, a lot of 25 barrels being sold yesterday at that figure. The demand for *Lard* has been good, and considerable quantities of Fairbanks' in pails have sold at 14½ to 14¾c; a lot of 500 pails changed hands yesterday at the inside price, but none offering now at under 14¾c. In a retail way 15c is asked. Stocks of Canadian *lard* are about exhausted. *Smoked Hams* meet with a fair enquiry at 13c to 13½c as to quantity. *Eggs* firmer, under a good Easter demand; receipts are not in excess of the consumptive requirements, and sellers have rather the advantage, commanding 15½c to 16c as to size of lot. *Maple Syrup* in steady demand, but receipts during the week have been lighter and prices steady, at 80c to 90c, in single gallon cans, and 70c to 80c in casks. *Sugar* selling at 8c to 9½c per lb.

**PETROLEUM.**—Notwithstanding the recent advance for *Crude oil*, the price for refined in London has suffered a decline of 1c within the week, being quoted now at 19c f. o. b. Prices here are, therefore, 1c lower all round; 23c in car lots, and 24c to 25c in single brls. The decline is said to be owing to some new competitors in the refining trade.

**RAW FURS.**—A few small lots of *muskrat*, *skunk* and *fox* cover the offerings here during the week; they sell rather slowly at quotations: rats, 18c; skunk, 40c to 65c; red fox, \$1 to \$1.50.