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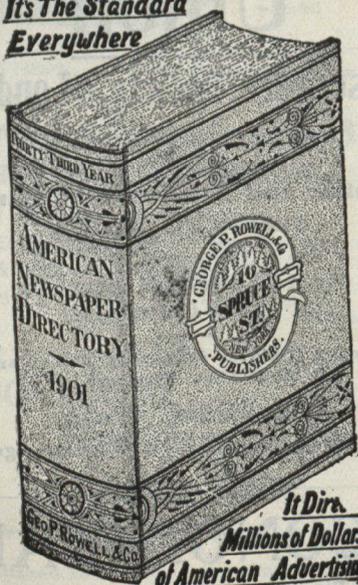
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TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, May 14th, 1903.

Chemicals, Drugs etc.—Owing to its extraordinarily high price but little cod liver oil is changing hands. Opium is held in primary markets at stronger rates, owing to reports of damage by drought to the growing crop, and this is giving a firmer tendency to prices here. Trade locally is very fair, but no feature calls for special mention.

Dry Goods.—The summer weather has given just the needed fillip to trade along those lines chiefly affected. The demand for all kinds of dress goods and light materials is very good, and an active sorting trade is being done. Travellers report good prospects from all parts of the country.

Flour and Grain.—At the prevailing quotations of \$2.67½ to \$2.70, considerable quantities of 90 per cent patents are changing hands, extra good brands selling a little higher. Manitoba is steady. In grains, no changes whatever have taken place in price. Wheat, barley, and peas have been moving quite freely for export at quoted prices. Little stuff has been coming into market latterly, farmers having been busy with seeding operations.

Fruit.—An interesting feature of the fruit trade this week was the first of the annual Montreal spring auction sales, at which about 150 buyers, several of them from Toronto, were present. The sale was confined to lemons, of which 22,706 boxes were sold, the amount realized being \$48,682, the average price being considerably above that of last year, most of the fruit going at \$2.25 to \$2.75, against \$1.60 last season. Local trade is quite brisk, not only in oranges and lemons, but in Southern strawberries and tomatoes, and prices hold good. We quote strawberries, quarts, 18c.; North Carolina, large quarts, 18 to 20c.; apples, per barrel, 75c. to \$2; per bushel, 10 to 20c.; bananas, \$1.50 to \$2.50 per bunch; oranges, Jamaica, per barrel, \$5 to \$5.50; per box, \$2.50 to \$3; do., California navel, per box, \$3 to \$3.75; Valencia, \$4.75 to \$5 per box for ordinaries; \$5.75 to \$6 for large 420's, and \$6 per box for 714's; lemons, Messina, \$2.75 to \$3.50; California, per box, \$3.50 to \$4; sweet potatoes, per barrel, kiln dried, \$5.50; cocoanuts, per sack, \$3.75; pineapples, 24's and 30's, \$3 to \$3.75 per

case; 36's, \$3 to \$3.25 per case; Florida tomatoes, \$3 to \$4 per crate; asparagus, \$1 to \$1.50 per dozen bundles.

Hardware.—We do not know either of any special feature which has developed lately, or of any change in prices. They hold very firm, however. Trade is very active, not in any particular line, but in practically all. The demand for screen doors is hardly likely to be very vigorous, owing to the cool summer last year, which prevented a thorough clearance of stock then. Deliveries of some kinds of goods are difficult to obtain to time, the factories being over-pressed with orders. Lawn-mowers more especially are badly needed. Heavy metals are moving freely and prices are firm.

Live Stock.—The lifting of the embargo against shipping, owing to the settlement of the longshoremen's strike in Montreal, has quickened the demand for export cattle. For the best offerings 10 to 15c. per cwt. higher was offered, but most of those coming forward this week were medium quality, and prices for these remained much as before. Of butchers' cattle the receipts were large, but they were quickly taken up at prices which were well maintained. Good milch cows are wanted. The market for calves had a better tone. Everything in the way of sheep and lambs was snapped up early, and grain fed ewes went 50c. higher.

Provisions.—Choice new dairy rolls are coming in in increasing quantities, but prices remain pretty steady, and, with the increasing call for such goods, no serious decline is looked for. Creamery solids are a little easier. Cheese is easier, no doubt due to the difficulties in shipments inaugurated by the Montreal strike. Prices are about 12¾c. for twins, 12½c. for large. For eggs 13c. is about the prevailing price. Dealers believe, with their former experiences, that this is too high and are trying to beat it down, but the demand on the part of the country picklers is almost too high to allow of much being done in this direction. Hay products are meeting with rather a better demand than usually obtains at this season, and prices remain steady in spite of a small decline in live hogs.

Groceries.—No further changes have taken place in this market for sugar, though the feeling towards higher prices in New York is quite strong. The movement here too is pretty good. Our quotations for most canned vegetables have been lowered. Tomatoes are coming in from the States in large quantities, and though the quality is often not of the best, yet prices are affected. In corn too, a good deal of rubbish is being sold. Teas are strongly held. Otherwise, there is not much to report.

Hides, Skins and Leather.—Prices for hides remain steady though the very firm feeling and fractional advance in the States are likely to cause a similar rise here before long. Tallow is steady. For leather there is a pretty good enquiry, and prices remain unchanged. Prospects for a good season's trade are bright.