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Subscribed Capital, - 125,000

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The Metropolitan Fire Insurance Company

CASH-MUTUAL and STOCK
HEAD OFFICE, - TORONTO
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opium, which continues quite dull. From Great Britain comes word that trade has become quieter during this month, but it is not unusual to see some falling away in March. The demand from the textile trades shows, of course, no improvement, and seems likely to continue unsatisfactory for some time to come, and from other trades the demand for chemicals is not brisk. The trade all round is at present not in good condition, and any sound reason for expectation of early improvement is difficult to find, especially in view of the disorganization to trade, and the want of confidence, caused by the recent heavy failure in the New York cotton market. In the heavy alkali branch there is quietness.

Dry Goods.—A better volume of business is reported, the result of more seasonable weather conditions. This has reacted very favorably upon the demand for dress and other goods usually required at this time of the year. Travellers throughout the country state that prospects for a good season's trade should be good.

Flour and Grain.—The demand for flour is not up to the mark, or rather the divergence between the views of holders and buyers is too great to admit of the carrying through of any large amount of business. The price quoted by exporters for ninety per cent. patents is \$3.65, in buyers' bags, east or west. Rolled oats are steady at \$6.50. Bran and shorts remain at old prices, but the feeling in these lines is quite firm. Ontario wheat is a cent higher owing to comparative scarcity; it is firm at the advance. Manitoba remains unchanged. Barley is dull and unchanged. Oats are

steady at unchanged prices. Peas are 2c. to 3c. lower. Buckwheat is 4c. to 5c. lower, and dull at the decline.

Fruits and Vegetables.—The fruit trade during the past week has been pretty active. Not many oranges are coming forward now, but pineapples, strawberries, etc., are plentiful. Prices for these are becoming easier. Prices are quoted as follows: Apples, 75c. to \$2.50 per barrel, according to grade and quality; coconuts, \$3.50 to \$4 per sack; oranges, California navels, \$2.75 to \$4; Valencias, ordinary, \$5 to \$5.50; large, \$6 to \$6.50; lemons, Messina, 360's, \$2 to \$2.50; 300's, \$2.75 to \$3; bananas, 8's, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bunch; 1st, \$2 to \$2.50; dates, Sair, 3½c. per lb.; Hallowee, 4c.; figs, 8c. to 12c.; tap figs, 3½c.; pineapples, \$2.75 to \$3.50 per case; strawberries, 11 to 17c. per quart box; Egyptian onions, \$3.50 per sack; tomatoes, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per case.

Groceries.—Refined sugars have made another advance of 5c. per hundred-weight, and there is great firmness, in sympathy with the statistical position and report from New York. Canned goods continue very strong, especially peas and corn, which are becoming scarcer. In dried fruits, not very much is doing. Teas are held very firmly, and an active trade is going on. Reports from Japan and from London refer to increasing prices, the latter no doubt owing to the increased taxation for revenue recently imposed in this line.

Hides, Skins and Tallow.—Receipts of cow hides are about normal, and prices continue steady. Steers have gone up about ½c. Calfskins are steady, and so are lambskins. Tallow, rendered, is a little weaker.

Hardware.—Business is of fair volume now that transportation facilities have been opened up in earnest. Seasonable lines of goods are in good demand, and travellers in the country report prospects good. In metals the movement is only fair, but prices keep up pretty well. A report received recently from the Old Country said: "A month ago we had to report the pig iron markets firm and prospects considered good. Since then the position has been well maintained, and during the last fortnight the prices have advanced strongly, the total increase since a month ago being some 1s. od. to 1s. 4d. per ton. Consumers have been buying freely during the last few days, and the market is at present firm with good prospects. The higher-priced metals have been moving well. Copper has improved steadily, and with a good consuming demand is tending further upwards. Tin, after easing in the early part of the month, has improved rapidly and is strong at an advance of about £4 during the month. Spelter has fluctuated mildly and is now steady. Lead has advanced 12s. 6d. per ton, and is firm.

Leather.—Trade in leather is dull just now. Prices keep up well, however, and there is a promise of better conditions coming in the trade before long.

Provisions.—Not only are the receipts

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of butter increasing largely, but the quality of much that is offered is distinctly inferior, so that the conditions in this branch of the trade are by no means good. Stocks are accumulating. Cheese retains its slightly firmer tone, but the volume of trade is small. Receipts of eggs the last few days have hardly been up to average, and the market is firmer. Hog products are in only fair demand just now, but an improvement is looked for before long.

Seeds.—Business now is becoming smaller, with the advance of the season. Prices, however, remain about as before.

Wool.—Some lots of new fleece are now coming forward, but the total quantity is but small. Pulled wools, too, are in dull demand.