

with consumers; prices for such are easier, about 2c. In fine to choice Yokohama kinds there is quietness. Young Hysons fairly steady, at 34c to 38c for low to fair ordinary; up to 40c to 65c for good to choice kinds. Black Teas firm in England, and fully 1s. for common Congou. *Molasses*.—25c to 33c for Trinidad; Barbadoes, 33c to 39c. *Syrups* have lost most of last advance reported in United States; figures here are 49c to 62c. *Coffees, Rice*.—Small business, at about previous prices. *Spices*.—Pepper continues firm. Other Spices show little change. *Fruits*.—Valencia Raisins, 7½c to 8½c. Malaga Fruit dull. Currants, 6½c to 8½c. Almonds firm.

HARDWARE.—For the nonce a lull holds sway in this market, and there is but little to report. Travelers are about getting ready to set out, and in another week or so will be fairly on the road. In the meantime business is naturally confined within the narrowest bounds to which buyers can limit themselves. There is no change in the tone or temper of the market, and an active spring business is looked forward to confidently. In consequence of the advance in the raw material, and in response to premonitions of changed price lists from abroad, the discount rate on screws of all descriptions has been reduced from 60 per cent. to 40 per cent., equivalent to a direct advance of 50 per cent. New price lists have not yet been issued, and the change noted is in anticipation of detailed advices not yet to hand. The following further advances have been made during the week, and will be found recorded in our prices current: Ingot Copper, 22c to 23c; Boiler plates, \$3.25 to \$3.75; Canada Plates, Hatton, \$5.75; Penn and Garth, \$6.00; Pig lead, \$6.00 to \$6.50; Sheet, \$6.50 to \$7.00.

HIDES.—Calfskins are strong, owing to limited supply, and have advanced to 12½c per lb. Green butchers hides are unchanged, though the demand is again reported somewhat less eager. The market would yet absorb a larger supply than is to be had at ruling rates, but buyers are not sufficiently necessitous to press inquiry. In the New York market free arrivals of stock are reported on purchases made some time ago, and this deprives the spot supply of an outlet, and gives prices a weakening tendency.

HOPS.—The market is quite flat, and the tone weak. Sales of some 13 bales have been effected since last report at prices not transpiring. The inference is drawn from this trifling demand that some of the smaller consumers have reached the point of immediate want, but there are yet no indications that the large brewers, who are counted upon to absorb present stocks, are approaching a similar stage in their operations. The entire stock in this market of this year's crop, outside of that in brewers hands, as to which nothing is known, is estimated by a party whose opportunities of forming a reliable opinion are of the very best at not over 200 bales, to which perhaps 50 bales might be added for yearlings, making the total stock about 250 bales. This market is so directly affected by New York that we deem it proper to make the following extract from the *Commercial Bulletin* in order that all interested parties may be advised of the openly proclaimed questionable character of the circular information coming from that centre. The circular referred to has been cited as an authority on the hop market, and we are disposed to believe has not been without effect in giving color to this market. The *Bulletin* says: There is a very steady tone displayed by holders generally, bids of 37c. to 38c. for strictly choice stock failing to find sellers, while proportionate prices are also refused for best mediums. The demand is not at all brisk, however, but in preference to making more than slight concession holders seem satisfied to await the spring demand. The last literary production of the assumed regulator of the hop market has created a general disgust among the trade. The assertions made leaving

the inference that a decline of 3 to 5c. per pound in prices had taken place are wholly inconsistent with the true state of affairs. Already there is a movement towards issuing a circular for publication, denouncing the misrepresentation, and the most prominent firms have promised that their signatures will be appended. Wells' last circular was not a representation of the market. It was merely a ruse to frighten growers and to attract consignments.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Crop of 1879, State, fancy..... | 39 to 40 |
| do do do good to choice..... | 34 to 38 |
| do do do common to fair..... | 30 to 33 |
| Crop of 1878, State, choice..... | 20 to 25 |
| do do do good to prime..... | 15 to 18 |
| do do do poor to fair..... | 10 to 14 |

LEATHER.—The demand for sole leather is not so eager as last week, and this has led to an impression in some quarters that the market was easier as to prices; but such is not the case. We learn of a liberal sale this week of No. 1 B. A. sole at 28½c., which is certainly a full price, and fairly indicative of strength. Uppers are a shade easier, and our quotations have to be changed conformably. An outside figure for light weights, 6 lbs. and under, is now 42½c., but the minimum price for heavy weights, good stock, must still be kept at 37c. Black leather, pebble and buff continue in good demand, and are decidedly strong at quotations. The moot question of inspection has been settled so far as rates are concerned by agreement to a charge of 9c. per 100 lbs., instead of 2c. per side as heretofore. This arrangement is generally regarded as more satisfactory by the trade, and would certainly seem to be demanded by equity, since goods varying from 6 lbs to 20 lbs. in weight ought not to pay a like fixed charge for inspection. No new measures have been adopted to secure compliance with this regulation of a pro rata charge, and there is clearly no greater difficulty in the way of absolute evasion or rather disregard of inspection than before, but possibly now that an avowedly just system has been adopted there will be no further occasion for complaint on this score. It is thought that when this new arrangement becomes fairly established, if found to work well, as there seems every probability will be the case, its operation will be extended to hides, where a like occasion for reform exists.

LIVE STOCK.—The arrivals of fat cattle for the 10 days ending Monday last were only 23 car loads. The offerings on that day were small, and prices higher than last week. Cattle suitable for shipment to Great Britain were sold at from 4c to 4½c per lb. A considerable number of bulls were offered and sold, at from 24c to 31c per lb. 1 carload of cattle was sold at \$48 per head, of which 11 were re-sold at about 4½c, and the balance at from 3½c to 3¾c per lb; 25 cattle were sold for \$675, part of which was afterwards re-sold at from \$30 to \$32 each; 7 were sold at from \$25 to \$40 each, 10 at a little over \$22 each, 9 at \$31.50 each, and 5 for \$180.

LUMBER.—Owing to the very light demand at present from city and country customers, prices in the city yards are not as regular as the increased cost of new stock would warrant. The advance at the manufacturers is fully 20 per cent., and on special sides and select qualities rather more. Should the demand from the States continue, of which there is little doubt, all the dry merchantable lumber will be worked off before the new lumber is fit for use, a state of things that has not occurred for many years. Almost all the bankrupt stocks which have been thrown on the market during the last five years have been cleaned up, and consumers now will have to pay full prices. Hard wood trade is dull, there being little, if any, shipped from this city. The entire cut for the Dominion of Canada for the winter is estimated at 1500,000,000 feet. These figures seem very large, but they lose some of this seeming when set over against the product of the single State of Michigan which, for last season, reached the enormous

total of 2000,000,000 feet. The lumber carried through the city of Chicago alone last year measured 1400,000,000 feet.

OILS.—Things have been pretty quiet in this line during the week, the only movement being in Linseed Oil, of which some lots of English have been contracted for to be delivered at opening of navigation. This article is a little weaker at the moment, but is expected to recover again. *Naval Stores.*—Turpentine has been slightly depressed at Wilmington, through the operations of the Standard Oil Co., who were buying to export. As soon as they have obtained their requirements they will operate for an advance again. It is worth here 72½c to 75c per Impl. gallon. *Paints* are being enquired for and orders are placed for future delivery at last year's prices, although materials of all kinds are higher.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter.* The spurt of activity recently noticed has almost entirely disappeared, leaving the market certainly none the better for the visit. Shipments are still making of the speculative lots bought up a week to a fortnight ago, which on their way across the Atlantic will have the companionship of very few consignments from New York. The quantity of butter afloat is exceptionally large, and should meet with a decidedly firm market abroad, if its arrival is to be without depressing effect. The latest English advices are favorable, cold weather having set in again; if prolonged, this change will doubtless give the market the bias and tone of which, for holders' interests, there was growing need. Apart from continuing interest in ventures already made, the local market is quite dull and flat. Light transactions only are reported, and these, as the week has advanced, at receding figures. Small lots of Brockville found a market early in the week at 20c; but purchases have since been made at 20c; and a nominal change similar in character has taken place in other selections. Many out of town holders are making no concession in their offerings, and, it is assumed, will ship on their own account rather than accept prevailing rates. The giving way in prices noted is but the reflection of the New York market, in which weakness has obtained, accompanied by lower quotations. The market here is virtually bare of stock, but in the absence of conditions calculated to give birth to special demand this circumstance is without significant bearing upon the probable course of prices. We alter our list prices by reducing quotations to the following: Creamery, 26c to 28c; Eastern Townships selections, 20c to 22c; Brockville selections, 19c to 21c; Morrisburg selections, 19c to 21c. *Cheese.*—No change in prices or character of the market. Stock in this city is slowly but steadily running down, and the calculations of holders as to the demand for consumption would seem to be nearing complete verification. Local retail demand is now making itself felt in a limited way, and constitutes the only business doing. Liverpool remains at 72s.

SEEDS.—During the past few days the market for clover has been dull, with a slight downward tendency and considerable quantities of seed offering at various points in Ontario. Holders are now asking \$4.10 to \$4.50, according to quality. At these prices a few lots have been taken for shipment. In Timothy there is nothing doing, and our market is still bare of seed.

TOBACCO.—In manufactured plug sales have been light, as is usual for this season of the year. Prices are as yet unchanged but the general impression is that higher prices must be expected this spring. *Cigars.*—For domestics in low and medium grades there is fair demand, better lines are neglected. Prices are now as low as is possible to make them without loss, and an advance must be made before long. In Havanna a fair trade is doing in 1879 Cigars. Reports from Havana state that the crop for this year will be a failure on account of the want of rain. In consequence of this, tobacco of last year's crop is in great demand at advanced prices.