

RICE—In this staple the ordinary amount of business has been done; stocks are light, but importers are timid, owing to the low price of wheat, which materially interferes with the price of rice.

SALT—A large business has been done during the fall and speculation has been rife; prices have fluctuated considerably, but the tendency has been upward. The market closes with light stocks, not more than sufficient for our requirements before the spring importations.

SUGAR—In raw sugar a large business has been done, chiefly with the refiners, although several in the trade have sold largely to their country customers, of good grades. I may here remark that the lower qualities of refined sugars are rapidly superseding even the higher styles of imported. They are got up in more convenient packages, and not the same loss by drainage. I hear that the importers are satisfied with the result of the fall's operations; stocks are moderate and held for high rates. This is owing to the state of the New York market. Refiners have advanced their prices for all descriptions.

TEAS—The business has been large and satisfactory to all interested. Stocks generally were only moderate, and of good grades very light. Good Japans are rapidly getting into favor.

TOBACCO—In manufactured the business has been to the usual extent, and prices have been remunerative. The season closes with very light stocks. The "Prince of Wales" brand has become in such favor that the manufacturers have not been able to make it in sufficient quantity to meet the demand. I hear of some orders which they have had in hand for five to six weeks and not completed. *Leaf Tobacco* has ruled dull and prices low. The market closed without animation.

Toronto Market

The general trade of the city is still quiet, and will remain so until after the holidays.

GROCERIES.—*Teas*.—Are quiet, and there is little doing except that some few lines have been placed with the city trade. The stock of teas in London on the 30th Nov. was 73,652,061 lbs., and in Liverpool 1,084,997 lbs. against 61,954,700 lbs., and 1,731,619 lbs. respectively. A telegram from Hong Kong, dated 2nd, gives the exports of tea from China up to that date at 12,100,000 lbs., being an increase of about 29½ millions of pounds on the exports to the same date last year. *Sugars*.—Our market is quiet; the New York market has fluctuated a good deal owing to the unsettled state of affairs in Cuba. *Fish*.—Quiet, and prices unchanged. *Fruit*.—There is a good demand for all kinds of fruit at steady prices. *Rice*.—Unchanged.

HARDWARE.—Trade in heavy goods is a little better, and quotations are fully maintained.

PRODUCE.—*Wheat*.—Receipts for the week by cars 10,000 bush.; there is a fair demand for Spring wheat for milling purposes at \$1.00 to \$1.03, and all that offers at these prices is readily taken, but most holders ask more money. Some 8 or 10 cars sold at \$1.01 to \$1.03. Midge proof is also in good demand at the same quotations. Fall, prime white, is enquired for, and some few cars of choice have been placed for shipment at \$1.15 to \$1.20. Medium sold at \$1.11 to \$1.12, and there are few buyers above these figures. *Barley*.—Receipts by car 1,300 bush. There is little offered, and the demand is quiet at \$1.25; sales of cars occurred at \$1.22½ to \$1.25. *Oats*.—Receipts 2,400 bush.; there is a good local demand at 52c. to 54c. and sales occurred at 54c. *Peas*.—Nominal, no receipts.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the week 2,677 brls. No. 1 superfine is offered at \$4.60, and there are buyers of choice brands at that price, while ordinary is nominal at \$4.50 to \$4.55. Extra is held at \$5.50, with buyers at \$5.25 to \$5.30.

PROVISIONS.—*Dressed Hogs*. The market has closed brisk at higher prices; receipts light. *Pork*.—Mess is in good demand both for Canadian and old American. Provisions nominal.

FREIGHTS.—The following are the present rates via Great Western Railway from Toronto to Liverpool, London and Glasgow, per Williams & Gowan's line of steamers: Beef, bacon, pork, hams, lard and tallow, in lots not less than one car load and upwards, \$1.03 gold per 100 lbs.; grain in bags, in lots of five car loads and upwards, 3s 4d sterling per 100 lbs.; flour, 6s 9d per bbl. To Liverpool via National line: Beef, bacon and pork, \$1 per 100 lbs.; lard, in barrels and tierces, \$1.06 per 100 lbs.; in kegs and tinnets, \$1.17 per 100 lbs.; butter and cheese, \$1.43 per 100 lbs. Through bills of lading granted.

The winter rates of the Grand Trunk Railroad to the Maritime Provinces came into force on the 1st inst., and are as follows: From Toronto to St. John, N. B., general merchandise, per 100 lbs., first class, 90c; second class, 65c; third class, 55c; flour, per bbl., 95c; grain, per 100 lbs., 48c. From Stratford, London, or St. Mary's—flour, \$1.10; grain, 55c. From Brantford—flour, \$1.10; grain, 58c. From Guelph—flour, \$1.05; grain, 53c. From Oshawa, Newcastle and Bowmanville—flour, 89c; grain, 45c. From Montreal—flour, 62c; grain, 30c. From Toronto to Halifax, N. S.—general merchandise, per 100 lbs., first class, 90c; second class, 65c; third class, 55c; flour, per bbl., \$1.05; grain, per 100 lbs., 53c. From Guelph—flour, \$1.15; grain, 58c. From Brantford, London and St. Mary's—flour, \$1.20; grain, 60c. From Oshawa, Newcastle and Bowmanville—flour, 99c; grain, 50c. From Montreal—70c for flour, and 35c for grain.

The Cotton Trade.

The Liverpool cotton statement of to-day, as received by cable, shows the following condition of supply compared with the two previous statements:

| | Dec. 13. | Dec. 11. | Dec. 5. |
|--|----------|----------|---------|
| Total stock of cotton, bales... | 334,000 | 365,000 | 367,000 |
| Total stock of American... | 51,000 | 49,000 | 44,200 |
| Total afloat... | 235,000 | 268,000 | 254,000 |
| American afloat... | 110,000 | 95,000 | 78,000 |
| Total of all kinds stock and afloat... | 609,000 | 603,000 | 621,300 |

We have here a slightly improving condition of supply, especially in view of the late large shipments to the Continent from this country, the total Continental shipments since September to date reaching about 175,000 bales against about 85,000 bales last year. The Bombay movement indicates that the shipments since October 1 to January 1 will show an increase this season of about 40,000 bales over the total for the same period last season. With regard to consumption, the probabilities are not clearly marked. Our own manufacturers certainly show no disposition to reduce their time. The stock of goods are very light, while prices have advanced considerably during the month, and the indications of a healthy, active trade for the spring are becoming extremely promising. The European consumption, however, is more uncertain. Private cable advices to-day claim that the mills will soon be, and are in fact now being put on half time. We should place more confidence in these rumors if something to the same effect had not been sent to this side before during the month. Besides, the foreign goods movement of Great Britain has been in no amount very favorable. The Board of Trade returns for October, just issued, and given in our London correspondent's letter, published to-day, show a continued increase in the exports of cotton goods. Still there is a point at which the high price of cotton will check the European consumption. Liverpool circulars received this week all claim it is now reached, and strongly advise the immediate, further and decided reduction of time at the mills. It is to be hoped that the raw material will not reach such a price as to make this resort necessary. It is the key to the position, and, if adopted for even a few weeks, could not fail to affect our market very unfavorably. But, on the other hand, with a living price for the raw material to the manufacturer, it is pretty clear that the total world's supply of

cotton this year will be needed.—*Financial Chronicle*.

Halifax Market.

BREADSTUFFS.—Dec. 15, 1868.—We have no change to note in flour market. Receipts this week 5,254 bbls. Canada No. 1 ranges from \$6.25 to \$6.40; strong bakers \$6.65 to \$6.70; extra Canada \$7.50 to \$8; extra State still continues dull at \$6 to \$6.40, according to quality. No. 2 in good demand at \$5 to \$5.50. Cornmeal—Kila dried scarce at \$4.75; fresh ground, sound, none; unsound \$4.15 to \$4.25. Rye flour \$5.25 to \$5.50. Oatmeal \$8. Imports from December 8 to 15th, 1867 and 1868:

| | Brls. Flour. | Brls. Cornmeal. |
|-------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1868. | 181,890 | 48,294 |
| 1867. | 186,507 | 35,125 |

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.—Molasses in small stock though no quotable advance in price. Sugars dull except Vacuum Pan, which continues to be in good demand at 9½c duty paid, with no stock in first hands. We quote: Porto Rico 6½ to 6¾c, Barbadoes 5½ to 5¾c, Cuba 5½ to 5¾c, Centrifugal Cuba 6c, in bond. Rum very scarce at quotations; 75c for Demerara and 65c for St. Jago.—*R. C. Hamilton & Co.'s Circular*.

Petroleum.

The following were the exports of Petroleum from the United States, from January 1st to Dec. 2nd:

| FROM | 1868. | 1867. |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| New York.....galls. | 51,072,351 | 32,049,365 |
| Boston..... | 2,320,486 | 2,163,639 |
| Philadelphia..... | 30,710,012 | 27,672,573 |
| Baltimore..... | 2,583,021 | 1,315,157 |
| Portland..... | 704,997 | 900 |
| Cleveland..... | 270,000 | |
| Total gallons..... | 91,660,777 | 63,201,634 |
| Same time in 1866 .. | | 62,671,589 |
| Same time in 1865 .. | | 26,192,948 |

Reduction in Charges for Telegraphing.

The following are examples of the extent to which reductions have been made in the rates charged by the Montreal Telegraph Company:—

| | FORMER TARIFF. | REDUCED TO |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Montreal to Father Point and | | |
| Cacouna..... | 50c & 4c | |
| Portland..... | 50c " 4c | |
| Whitehall..... | 50c " 5c | |
| Pembroke and | | 25c & 1c |
| Perth..... | 35c " 3c | |
| Picton and Peter- | | |
| boro'..... | 40c " 4c | |
| Hamilton..... | 40c " 4c | |
| St. Catharines & | | |
| London..... | 50c & 5c | 40c & 2c |
| Buffalo..... | 65c " 6c | |
| Port Colborne..... | 70c " 7c | |
| Chatham..... | 70c & 7c | 50c & 2c |
| Detroit..... | 75c " 7c | |

From Sackville to Detroit.....\$1.50 " 14c. 75 " 3c
Arrangements have also been made with the Western Union Company, by which the through tariffs of the Companies have been reduced to the following points:—

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| From Montreal to Boston..... | \$0 60c. \$0 50c |
| " " New York..... | 0 75c. 0 50c |
| " " Chicago..... | 1 50c... 1 00c |
| " " St. John, N. B. 1 00c... | 0 75c |
| " " Halifax, N. S. 1 05c... | 0 80c |

And from other places in nearly like proportions.

British Wheat Trade.

The wheat trade during the week has been characterized by much inactivity, and there is every probability that a series of dull markets will ensue until at least the turn of the year. An abundant crop, and importations which are very large, considering the heavy fall which has taken place in prices during the last few months, will continue to induce the miller to purchase only from hand-to-mouth. As our importations are larger than