

same time, the cost of production just now is equally high. In heavy alkalis there is a tendency downwards. Bleaching powder is more freely offered, and at lower prices. Chlorates of potash and soda are plentiful and somewhat easier. Caustic soda, however, as well as ammonia (crude), maintain a strong position.

**FLOUR AND MEAL.**—Considerable straight roller flour has changed hands at main line points at \$3. Manitoba patent has a downward tendency, as has also straight roller, and very little is being done. At the same time, prices are becoming more fixed, and no doubt there will be more frequent transactions, now that dealers can see it is safe to rely upon the prices. There will probably be more Ontario wheat sold this year than pre-

viously, and as there will be a fairly plentiful supply of this article, it will be established on an export basis. This, together with the fact that the by-products (feed, etc.), are high in price, will put the Ontario miller on good ground, which can hardly be said of him in recent years. The prices given in our quotations are for flour in bags, at Ontario track points. Bran and shorts have gone down a little. Business all around is as good as can be expected at this season of the year, and for the first few days of this month there was very considerable buying for export.

**GRAIN.**—The changes have been slight. Ontario wheat is about 1c. lower; Manitoba remains unchanged. In Chicago, business in wheat has been dull, partly owing to the holidays in England. Elevator companies and representatives of foreign houses have been the chief buyers lately. Barley is down a little here. Oats, nominal. Peas are steady at 60 to 61c., while rye is about 1c. lower. Buckwheat remains unchanged. Corn is also unchanged though Chicago reports say that continued scorching winds in Kansas are causing the farmers there to hold on to what they have for feed purposes. The new crop of wheat has not begun to move yet, with the exception of a few cars in the far West. The crop in Ontario still looks excellent, but a one-third crop appears to be the fullest prospect for Manitoba.

**GROCERIES.**—There is a further slight advance in currants, the news from Greece being very unsatisfactory regarding the condition of the growing crop. The crop is now estimated at 70,000 tons, which is only about half the quantity of last year. Another thing worthy of note is that the new pack of canned peas, raspberries and tomatoes is now in the market at prices slightly higher than last year, about 10c. a dozen advance. The price of canned salmon at the Coast is likely to advance materially as the length of the fishing season on Fraser river has been considerably curtailed by the strike among the fishermen. Japan teas have again advanced—about ½c. per pound for ordinary grades during the past week, and are very firm. But little new season Japans, however, have been imported so far, owing to the uncertainty as to the prospects in the East. The bulk of the supply has yet to come forward, and certainly much higher prices are to be looked for. Or, to put the same thing in other words, the grades which are usually retailed at 25c., which is the standard tea in use among farmers, will be much lower in quality this year, if, indeed, it is possible to offer anything in fair supply to retail at this figure at all. Singapore black pepper has advanced about ½c. per pound, and costs now about 15¼c., to lay down here. In sugar, there is now the usual between-seasons lull. The market, however, is extremely firm, and there is no prospect of any retrocession; on the contrary, another advance may be looked for, probably in September.

**HARDWARE.**—The conditions obtaining in the hardware trade have not changed much during the past week or two. Of iron, it is difficult to say anything very definite just now, as our market depends both upon the English and American. The former has shown no great decline, while in the United States the market has been very erratic. The consequence is that many cases may be seen in which the raw material and the finished product are selling for the same price, this being one of the results of the trust. Shipments of stock are fair for this time of the year, but no great movement can be expected till the holiday season is over. No doubt as soon as prices get to a firm basis, the demand will be very good. In shelf goods there is no change from former quotations. Reports from Great Britain state that the condition of the

pig iron trade has much improved during the past month. Prices of Scotch iron have advanced some 2s. 3d. per ton, and Cleveland iron some 1s. 3d. per ton, and are firm at present. At Middlesbrough there is a distinctly better tone; consumers are showing more inclination to cover their requirements for a little way ahead at about present values, but sellers want some advance for forward delivery. The higher priced metals have also been moving better during this month. Copper, after declining, has advanced again and is about £1 per ton dearer. Tin has fluctuated considerably, but is now about £1 below the price as at end of June. Spelter has advanced 12s. 6d. per ton, and is firm. Lead is about 10s. dearer, and seems tending further upward.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—There are no changes, and practically nothing of a novel nature to report. If anything, it appears likely that prices of hides will recede. In Chicago, according to latest despatches, a fair business is being done in Texas hides, and prices are ranging from 9¼ to 10c. Prices of wet-salted are quoted: Havana, as they run in bond, 35 to 50 lbs., at 9c.; city slaughter, native steers, selected, 60 lbs. or over, 10¼ to 10½c.; country slaughter steer, 60 lbs. or over, 9½c.; country slaughter cow, 8¾c.; country slaughter, bull, 8 to 8¼c. A sale of sheepskins was held in London on the 2nd, at which 3,624 bales were offered. The demand was slow and many were withdrawn, owing to the low bids. The following prices fetched will give our readers an idea of the result of the sale: New South Wales, 116 bales, at 2½ to 5½d. Victoria, 485 bales, at 2½ to 6½d. South Australia, 840 bales, at 2½ to 6½d. West Australia, 320 bales, at 2¼ to 6d. Tasmania, 255 bales, at 2½ to 5½d. New Zealand, 750 bales, at 2½ to 7½d. Cape of Good Hope and Natal, 120 bales, at 2½ to 5½d. Punta Arenas, 440 bales, at 2 to 5½d. Falkland Islands, 62 bales, at 3 to 5½d. River Plate, 194 bales, at 3½ to 4½d. Tallow remains unchanged at 1¼ to 2¼c. for rough, or 4½ to 5c. for rendered.

**PROVISIONS.**—The receipts for eggs during the hot spell have been large, but the market is weak at 12c. Butter remains steady at 16 to 17c. for choice dairy, but receipts have not been very large. Cheese is a shade firmer, in sympathy with outside markets. In hog products, a good trade is going on, and the market generally is firm; the hot weather seems to have a tendency to increase the demand for smoked meats. Dressed hogs are weak; at farmers' wagons choice will bring \$7.50 to \$8 for butchers' use. Very few rolls or shoulders are to be had. For this time of the year, there is a very fair movement in most lines of business.

**WOOL.**—There is nothing to record of this market, quotations being the same as last week. Despatches from Boston say that manufacturers are beginning to cover their first sales of light-weight cloths by purchasing wool. The market continues stronger and more active. One Boston dealer purchased 10,000 bags of new Texas wool in Texas this week. There have been heavy clearance sales of pulled wools, mostly of B. supers. One sale of 200,000 pounds of Ohio delaine, the largest sale of that grade recorded in three months, was made at 30 to 31c. Prices in California and Montana have advanced a cent during the week. The arrivals in London up to the 4th for the next series of wool auction sales numbered 190,684 bales, including 36,000 forwarded direct. The imports for the week were as follows: New South Wales, 438; Melbourne, 3,970; South Australia, 5,010; Brisbane, 67; New Zealand, 7,458; Cape of Good Hope and Natal, 111; Bussorah, 1,096; Marseilles, 1,202, and elsewhere, 579 bales.

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