TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, May 25th, 1905.

Chemicals, Drugs, Etc.—A fair trade is being done locally in drugs, but there is little worthy of special comment. Opium has not advanced on account of the damage to the crop so much as was at first anticipated, the stocks being sufficiently large to still keep prices on the easy side. Quinine has declined 2 or 3 cents. Carbolic acid is firm. Citric is quiet. There is a good demand for menthol. Bromides are about the same as before. A trade report from Manchester says that export business has been somewhat better during this month; the home trade has not improved, but allowance must, of course, be made for the Easter holidays. A fair number of orders have been placed all round, but mostly for moderate quantities only, and in scarcely any one article in particular has there been any considerable degree of activity. Values, however, are well maintained, and although the total volume of business is scarcely up to reasonable expectation the general tone in trade is not unsatisfactory. In the heavy alkali branch there is a moderate demand, and little, if any, change in values. Bleaching powder is perhaps offering a little more freely from second-hands. Caustic soda is not active, but remains steady. Ammonia alkali is in good request.

Dry Goods.—Business in general dry goods is about what may usually be expected at this time of the year. Sorting trade, perhaps, is not quite so heavy as it might be, owing to the backwardness of the season. Dress goods are finding a normally ready sale. Travellers throughout the country districts report that prospects for a continued good season are bright. Wholesalers report payments to be about average.

Flour and Grain.—Greater activity seems to be making its appearance in the flour market, and sales can hardly be long delayed in the face of the past continued cessation from buying. Prices remain nominally the same, ninety per cent. patents being quoted at $4.35 to $4.40. Millfeed is easier in price; in fact, it has declined to $14.50 or $15 for bran, and $17 to $17.50 for shorts. Not much business is being done in Ontario wheat, millers still having fair stocks on hand. It is expected, however, that very shortly they will have to re-commence buying. Barley is dull. No business is being done in Canadian corn. There is a firm market for oats, and it is believed in some quarters that the supplies will not be sufficient to meet requirements until the new crop comes in.

Fruits.—Southern fruits continue to sell well at fair prices. Strawberries are fairly plentiful. It is expected that the domestic berries will be rather late in arriving owing to the late spring. Some say they have been affected in certain districts by frosts.

Groceries.—A normal movement is going on. Sugars are dull, and little is passing in that commodity. In canned goods the scarcity of certain lines, of course, continues, particularly in tomatoes. Dried fruits are in moderate request. Currants are comparatively firm.

Hardware.—Wholesalers report conditions very brisk in practically all lines of small hardware. Nails, bolts, nuts, chain and farmers' hardware are all in strong demand. Metals, too, are experiencing a good movement. Pig iron is quite brisk. English advices speak of further improvement in this branch, and Cleveland iron is now 2s. 3d. per ton dearer than it was a month ago. Scotch iron, however, has only gone up 1½d. per ton in that period. Copper has declined steadily. Tin is not so strong as it was. Lead and spelter have both become firmer.

Hides and Leather.—Hides are quite dull, but prices are unchanged. Leather has shown improving demand of late, but prices are still a little unsettled.

Provisions.—The market for butter holds firm, supplies being about on an equality with demand. Cheese is in fairly good request, and the improving quality it likely to increase this. Eggs are quite firm, large quantities being now bought up, before the warm weather, for pickling purposes. Prices for hog products are firm, and trade is normally brisk.

Wool.—Prices are nominally the same, very little actual business being under way.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 24th May, 1905.

Ashes.—The market shows little variation. Supplies continue light and values are very steadily maintained, buyers readily paying $5.50 for good tares of first quality potash; seconds, $4.95 to $5. There is still an absence of business in pearls, and from $7 to $7.25 per cental is a nominal quotation.

Cements and Firebricks.—The movement in cements is increasing, and firebricks are in very fair request. Receipts from sea have been quite liberal of late, and there are considerable stocks now on the wharves. We quote: Belgian cement at $1.80 to $2; English, $1.90 to $2.10. Firebricks, $17 to $22 per M.

Dairy Products.—The exports of butter last week were fairly liberal for the season of the year, reaching 4,338 packages, as against 2,010 packages for the corresponding week last year. Of cheese eleven steamships took out 31,512 boxes, mostly to London and Bristol. The butter market shows a somewhat firmer tone, supplies being comparatively light, and the demand good; for choicest creamery 19c. is about the figure, in some rare cases 19⅛c. is said to have been paid. Fine to finest Western cheese is quoted at 9¾ to 9⅞c. per lb., and from 9½ to 9⅝c. for fine Quebecs.

Dry Goods.—The attention of most of the larger houses is now being directed mainly towards the reduction of stock before the usual half-yearly stocktaking, and some considerable sales of clearing jobs are reported to leading retailers from the larger centres, who have been in town