

than 20.55 bushels per acre—as reported—was generally expected. Actual yields, however, have been less. The Government estimate has not been realized. The principal causes of shrinkage were a period of drought in August when wheat was filling, and the ravages of the Hessian fly. The most promising fields, especially on summer-fallow, from which 30 to 35 bushels per acre were expected, only yielded 20 to 25 bushels per acre. Shrinkage from the work of the Hessian fly is estimated in individual cases at from 5 to 30 per cent. of the crop. The damage was most serious in the Red River Valley. The samples of the wheat are good, grading 1 and 2 hard, or 1 northern, although a few cars in some districts are frosted. The absence of weed seeds in grain is specially noted.—Winnipeg Free Press.

—The Nova Scotia Steel Co. have sold 200,000 tons of Newfoundland iron ore for shipment to the United States during the coming season. The price obtained has been a very good one.—New Glasgow Chronicle.

—Silas P. Wood, manager of the New York office of the Western and British assurance companies, of Toronto, has closed a contract for the reinsurance of the entire New York suburban department business of the Spring Garden of Philadelphia. The department covered all of Long Island, Westchester counties, New York, the northern half of New Jersey and Fairfield county, Conn. The annual premiums involved are about \$120,000. The Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin says that the Spring Garden was a very aggressive competitor, as a non-union company, not being bound by any commission rule, and this deal removes one of the principal obstacles to the resuscitating of the 'Suburban Underwriters' Association.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Dec. 28th, 1899.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Not much sorting is being done, but there are plenty of spring orders, for which 1st April dating is being sought. Here and there is to be found a tendency towards preference for better class goods, though Quebec product is still largely sought. Rubber goods are firm because of the high price of raw rubber, but the discount regulations of the associated rubber factories are a source of difficulty.

DRY GOODS.—The present is a comparatively quiet week in the warehouses. Stock-taking being over, spring orders are being given attention, and not a little spring stuff is already shipped. Among the pleasing duties of the week is that of marking up prices of stock on hand to correspond with present quotations by manufacturers. In embroideries and other white goods this rise is not less than 25 per cent., and in some cases 33 per cent. In fact, the firmness in textiles is so general that no department escapes. "Goods are higher all over the house," as one merchant phrased it. Complaints are made that the mills are not filling orders, and in Canada, as well as in Britain, this is true, for the pressure of orders is this season beyond the capacity of the mills. Under these circumstances it is not easy to keep up assortments. The marked advance in Australian wool has affected other grades, and all woollens are firm and looking upward.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—A well-known dealer said, as illustrating the quietude of business: "I never saw it so dull in years; I have not sold a carload of flour all this month." And practically there is nothing moving; straight roller sells in very small parcels at \$2.75 to \$2.85 in

barrels, and at \$2.60 to \$2.70 in bags; bran and shorts are moving in a local way, holders now asking \$13.50 for bran, and \$15.50 for shorts, car lots are wanted down east in Quebec, and also in Manitoba, but are not easily got, the demand is quite persistent, however; oatmeal is somewhat firmer, being worth \$3.50 to \$3.60, f.o.b., Toronto.

GRAIN.—There is very little movement of any sort this week. Millers are buying small parcels of wheat, principally Manitoba hard at 70c. for No. 1; barley sells in small parcels for malting at 40c. for No. 1; 38 to 39c. for No. 2; 36 to 37c. for No. 3; peas are moving slowly at 57 to 58c., according to location; rye is almost nominal, the demand is merely local; oats are worth 25½ to 26½c. per bushel, to exporters, some holders insist on ½c. more, but not many change hands.

GROCERIES.—There has been a drop since our last report of 5c. per lb. on all grades of refined sugar, granulated being now down to 4.35; this is occasioned by United States competition. Teas are quiet, but firm, Japan showing good value, and Ceylons steadiness. Dried fruits are quiet, as is to be expected after Christmas. Canned goods, both fruits and vegetables, are firmly held.

HIDES AND SKINS.—While hides are unchanged in price, the situation is a little easier, owing probably to the fact that the condition of hides has at this time of the year begun to deteriorate. This circumstance will have its effect on Canadian hides, and will likely reduce their price in the near future. Sheepskins are in active demand, and find ready sale at \$1 to \$1.10 each. Tallow is scarce and wanted at 3½c. for rough, 5c. to 5½c. for rendered.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—A fair amount of business is being done. Iron and steel goods are all firm, as is the case with lead, but both copper and tin are easier. The cable quotation for spot copper in London yesterday was £68 15s. Shelf goods and fancy hardware, such as is termed "show-case goods," have moved freely this holiday time. Cutlery, too, has been active, even at advanced prices, which in some lines have been declared. Yesterday's New York metals market was featureless and slow, as a rule, pig lead firm, tin uncertain, copper nominal.

PROVISIONS.—The present is a quiet week. In hog products, for example, the demand has been very perceptibly affected by the plentifulness of poultry, but hams have met with fair sale at quotations, while bacon is steady. Eggs, fresh, are worth 18 to 20c.; cheese a trifle firmer at 11½ to 12c.; there are no tubs of dairy butter to be had now, it is all put into large rolls, which are worth 19c., and firm. The brisk export demand during the summer cleared stocks out, and now there is no accumulation; creamery is worth 22 to 23c. The poultry market was very unsatisfactory last week, receipts being heavy and demand slack; turkeys sold down from 8c. to 7c. per lb., and many had to be placed in cold storage. Chickens are also in over supply, and sold down to 25c. per pair; geese were in rather better demand at 6c. per lb.

WOOL.—There is practically no business doing at the moment. The few who have wool to sell in Ontario are holding it for speculation. Quotations are unchanged for fleece from last week. In pulled wools a moderate business is doing at steady prices.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Dec. 27th, 1899.

ASHES.—Though there is no trading with Britain in ashes just now, several enquiries are reported from the United States, resulting in a few shipments in that

direction, and giving a little more tone to prices. We now quote first quality of pots at \$4.35 to \$4.40; seconds, \$3 to \$3.05, and pearls about \$5.25 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—There is no weakening of values, though the present demand is very slight. We quote: Belgian cement, \$2.10 to \$2.20; English, \$2.45 to \$2.60; German, \$2.60 to \$2.80; firebricks, \$17 to \$26.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Local trading in butter is reported quite brisk, and notable scarcity exists of medium and common kinds. Fine creamery is quoted at 21 to 22c., steady, and rolls are in good demand at 18 to 19c. The cheese shows little variation since a week ago, and holders of fine Western exact about 12c., some asking 12¼ to 12½c.

FURS.—More snow is reported in the north, and receipts are likely to be freer after the New Year, but as yet few pelts are coming in. We quote prices as revised for this season: Bear \$7.50 to \$15; cubs and yearlings, \$2 to \$7; fisher, \$5 to \$7.50; red fox, \$1.50 to \$3; cross fox, \$5 to \$12; as to color; lynx, \$3 to \$4; marten, \$2 to \$4; mink, \$2 to \$3; rats, 10 to 13c. for winter; 8 to 10c. for fall; otter, \$10 to \$15 for large; coon, 90c. to \$1.25 for large; higher figures for black, according to size and color; skunk, 40c. to \$1.40, according to color and stripe.

GROCERIES.—This is always a quiet week in wholesale circles, and with all the English houses stock-taking is in progress. Sugars were reduced another 5 cents a cental the end of last week, due to the competition of American refiners, mainly in the West, though some moderate lots are also reported as being received at larger prices in the Eastern Townships. The factory quotation for standard granulated is now \$4.35; yellows range from \$3.55 for No. 1, up to \$3.95 for fine coffee sugars, and to \$4.15 for creams. Molasses is held stiffly at 43c. for single puncheons of Barbadoes, and 42c. for car lots; Antigua, 38 to 39c., and Porto Rico about 40c., in a jobbing way. Syrups are firm at 2 to 2½c. per lb. Tea importers report no recent cable reports from primary markets, and values generally are firm. Coffees have shown a tendency to advance of late. In other lines there are no noteworthy changes.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Bushels. Dec. 18.	Bushels. Dec. 25.
Wheat	36,400	37,360
Corn	30,553	30,180
Oats	210,046	212,617
Rye	13,164	13,614
Peas	46,464	47,670
Barley	40,666	56,960
Total grain	377,303	398,401
Oatmeal	213	353
Flour	14,572	16,670
Buckwheat	26,356	27,082

HIDES AND TALLOW.—The Chicago market is reported a shade easier, but local buyers are still paying 10½c. for No. 1 beef hides, though quality shows some falling off. Receipts this week are reported very light. Lambskins remain at 85c. Tallow is steady at about 5c. for rendered.

LEATHER.—A very quiet fortnight is looked for, but values continue to be well held, indeed, sole may be called a peg stiffer, and some Western tanners are now quoting 28½ to 29c. for No. 1 slaughter, and have advanced, No. 3, B.A., half a cent. Stocks of sole are said to be in narrow compass, and one large city house is said to have had to decline several English cable orders within the last week or so. We quote: Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 26c.; No. 2, B.A., 24½ to 25½c.; No. 3, B.A., 23½ to 24c.; No. 1, ordinary Spanish, 24 to 25c.; No. 2, 22½ to 23c.; No. 1 slaughter, 28 to 29c.; No. 2, ditto, 25 to 27c.; common, 20 to 21c.;