

THE FIRE RISKS IN TORONTO.

From The Architect and Builder.

Until such time at least as the City Council see fit to further improve the means of overcoming fire in Toronto, the Underwriters' Association will charge a special insurance rate on buildings in excess of four stories. They claim that the city water pressure cannot be effectively employed on buildings of more than four stories, and that the present equipment of steam fire engines would require to be at least doubled before buildings of greater height could be regarded as equally good risks with those of four stories and under. Not only are additional fire engines needed, but means of furnishing them with the necessary supply of water should likewise be provided. At present there is but a single water main supplying the Rosehill reservoir, and in case of accident a large section of the city would be left without fire protection. A duplicate main, such as is to be found in every large city, has long been an absolute necessity, but there is no indication that it will be provided except as the result of some great catastrophe. The existing main, which is 23 inches in diameter, is at present fed from a 10-inch main on Front street, by which senseless arrangement its efficiency is greatly reduced. The City Engineer is fully alive to the absurdity of this arrangement, and on his recommendation a by-law was submitted to the ratepayers recently to authorize the construction of a 24-inch main on Front street, which by-law the citizens in their wisdom voted down. The attitude of the Underwriters' Association will have a damaging effect upon the rental value of high buildings, and prove to be a strong discouragement to the erection of such buildings in the future. The latter effect is not to be deplored, at least, by those who desire to see an improvement in the character of our street architecture. Present owners of high buildings, however, who find themselves called on to pay one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars per year in additional insurance, on account of a fifth or sixth story, have good reason to complain at their lot.

MISDIRECTED.

From the Boston Transcript.

It is doubtful if the attempted use of a language by people who do not know it ever aroused more amusement than it did in a big Boston china store on the recent receipt of a consignment of goods from Germany. A representative of the house had ordered in that country a variety of goods, and among them a lot of the cups which are beautifully labelled "To My Brother," "To a Friend," and so on through the list of human relationships. He had ordered with the rest a lot of mustache cups. They were well and duly made, but great was his astonishment, when the consignment arrived, to find the greater number of the cups so contrived to protect the beverage against the masculine hirsute adornment labelled thus: "To My Sister," "To My Mother," "To My Wife," "To My Betrothed."

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, Sept. 24th, 1896.

GRAIN.—The wheat market is steadier this week than last, and prices have advanced 1c. per bushel. The improvement is due to an increased demand from local millers, while receipts have remained very light. It is difficult to say what conclusion must be drawn from the limited offerings. The farmers may have obtained sufficient money from their sale of fruit, wool and dairy produce to enable them to hold their wheat until they think a more opportune time has arrived for marketing, or, on the other hand, they may be obtaining supplies without paying for them from the country merchant, who, unfortunately, is often all too ready to give a long credit. Trade in oats is steady and unchanged. There is a moderate export demand, and some sales are reported for export at 18 to 18½c. per bush. at outside points. There is little trade in barley, the market having scarcely opened. Until the standards have been fixed next Friday, we can expect nothing but a limited movement in barley. There is a good demand for peas for export; peas are worth 40 to 41c. per bush. There is little trade being done in rye. The price in corn has declined 1c. per bush., and in view of cheap oats and barley the market remains very dull.

The stocks of grain in store at Port Arthur on Sept. 12th were 1,474,069 bushels. During the week there were received 162,536 bushels, and shipped 265,357 bushels, leaving in store on Sept. 20th, 1,371,248 bushels.

GROCERIES.—Only a quiet trade has been done during the week. In dried fruits there is but a limited movement. The first shipment of new Valencia raisins has been exhausted, and none are expected here until early in October. Cables from Patras state that the new crop of currants are coming solely from the interior. A number of orders for sugar are being received, but as compared with trade several weeks ago there has been a considerable falling off. Outside markets are unsettled; latest advices from London report an advance in beet of 1½d. For general sorts of teas there is a fair demand. The Young Hysons are beginning to move; prices are about on the basis of last year's values. The cup qualities of the new teas are said to be good. In canned goods vegetables are inactive, the low range of values having acted as a bar to immediate trading. Stocks of 1 lb. flat lobsters are very scarce. Dealers report that there are poor prospects this season for trade in lumbermen's supplies.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The situation continues without practical change. Dealers are paying six cents to butchers for No. 1 green cow hides. The receipts are only fairly large, but with colder weather they may be expected to improve; at the same time we may look for a decrease in the killing of calves and lambs. The quality of hides going into the market is excellent, the bulk of receipts consisting of short hair, clean hides, free from grubs. The last sales of cured, of which we have knowledge, were made at a fraction more than 6c. per lb., but dealers are now quoting 6½c. per lb., and although no sales have been recently made, it is probable that more than this price could now be obtained. Stocks are well cleaned up and there are no accumulations here. Sheepskins are being received in the usual quantities, and are quoted \$1.55. Tallow is dull.

HOG PRODUCE.—With favorable weather for killing there have been some receipts of dressed hogs already, but there appears to be an uncertainty in the minds of farmers as to the advisability of killing and shipping their hogs to the market so early in the season. Stocks of some products are at present low and a number of packers advise immediate shipments. There are already indications of large offerings this year, and possibly prices later in the season may not be as high as now. Packers are quoting \$5 for light-weight hogs (110 to 150 lbs.) and \$4 to 4.50 for heavy weights. There is an active demand for mess pork for lumbermen's supplies. Long-clear bacon also finds a good demand from the same source. Hams are very scarce. A number of dealers are trying to meet the demands with shoulder hams as a substitute. In fact all lines of hog produce are now in rather small compass and apparently the new year's trade will open with a clean sheet. Unfortunately, a review of the events of the past year gives no satisfaction to packers, as the bulk of the stocks were sold at very low prices.

PRODUCTS AND DAIRY PRODUCE.—Trade in butter has been quiet this week. The receipts from country points have been large, and it is understood that considerable butter is being held in different parts of the Province. It was hoped that the great bulk of summer made butter had been marketed, and that the trade of the winter months would be conducted on a sound, healthy basis. But it now unfortunately appears that this expectation has not been realized. Creamery butter is also weaker in sympathy with dairy. We quote:—Dairy, pound prints, 14 to 15c. per pound; tubs and large rolls, 12 to 14c. per pound; the bakers', 7 to 9c. per pound. Creamery, in tubs, is quoted 17 to 18c., and pound prints, 18 to 20c. per pound. There has been little trade in cheese this week. The views of buyers and factory men are apart, the latter holding for higher prices than the merchants feel able to give. Buyers say that on the present basis of prices in the United Kingdom, it is not profitable to export Canadian cheese. On the local market cheese is jobbing at 9 to 9½c. per pound. As compared with last week, trade in eggs is in an improved condition. There has been an increase in stocks which has had the effect of adding strength to the market. No. 1 are quoted at 12½ to 13c. per dozen.

WOOL.—Trade continues dull, and the movements of a very limited nature. For such good

merchandise offers as are marketed here, dealers are paying 18 to 19c. per lb. The export trade is very slow. The demand from the woolen mills of the United States, instead of improving, has, if anything, fallen off. The last sales made on this market for shipments to the United States were at about 19½c. per pound. Pulled wools are dull, in sympathy with fleece, and prices remain very low. The Canadian woolen mills are not active at present, and from reports recently received we understand that in many cases the plants are not being worked to their full capacity. The fifth series of wool sales operated in London on the 23rd inst. The attendance of buyers was good, but the demand was not over brisk. The prices obtained were from par to five per cent. lower than those realized at the closing sales of the fourth series. Very few American purchasers were present.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 23rd Sept., 1896.

ASHES.—The English demand has been rather better since last writing, and among recent shipments have been 10 brls. of pearls to Bristol, 10 first pots to Newcastle, 20 seconds to London, and a second similar lot to Glasgow, also 25 first pots to Liverpool. The market is, if anything, a shade firmer; a 56 brl. lot of seconds from Quebec were offered on the market the other day, and being extra well barrelled, brought rather more than ordinary quotations. We quote first quality pots \$3.50 to \$3.55, seconds \$3.05 to \$3.10, pearls \$4.45 to \$4.50.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—Receipts for the week ending to-day are 6,600 barrels of Belgian cement; 2,850 barrels of English, and 10,000 firebricks. In cements, the sale of a 1,500 barrel lot is reported, also a fair aggregate of smaller orders. Quotations are without change in either line.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The shipments of cheese last week were 11,983 boxes to Liverpool, 2,139 to Glasgow, 20,853 to London, 17,618 to Bristol, and 103 to Aberdeen; in all, 53,596 boxes. The market is inactive, and barely as strong as a week ago; buyers and sellers are apart in their views, and about 9½c. is the normal quotation for best makes. There is some improvement in the English market for Canadian butter, and choice creamery is being generally held at 18c. Eggs are again stronger at 12c.

DRY GOODS.—Retail trade is rather dull for the season, but the almost frosty weather of the last few days is calculated to improve the demand for seasonable fabrics. Travelers are now pretty much all out again in the regular sorting trip, but have hardly got fairly to work yet. A few North-West buyers have been in town, and have made some very fair selections. Both city and country retailers complain of the scarcity of money, and general payments are not much improved. Cotton goods continue to strengthen, and within the week the mills have notified an advance of from 5 to 7½ per cent. in pillow cottons.

MONTREAL GRAIN STOCKS IN STORE.

	Sept. 21, '96.	Sept. 14, '96
Wheat, bushels.....	355,335	337,388
Corn, "	43,827	28,435
Oats, "	162,778	176,595
Rye, "	6,484	6,484
Peas, "	96,542	83,499
Barley, "	25,224	25,254
Total grain.....	690,290	687,485
Oatmeal	2,139	2,185
Flour	31,702	31,878
Buckwheat.....	3,839	3,839

GROCERIES.—The principal interest of the moment is centred in dried fruits, and advices from nearly all principal producing points show a stiffening market, with the one exception probably of Malaga raisins, for which the local demand has been yearly diminishing, the California product of loose muscatels having displaced the cheaper lines of Malaga fruit, and even of the finer grades few seem to be wanted. A few small lots of London layers and Connoisseur clusters are expected next week, and will probably be jobbed at about \$1.50 to 1.60 for the former and \$2.25 for the latter. A cable received to-day from Denia reports a firm and advancing market for Valentias, with finer grades 3 shillings higher than opening prices, and common 2 shillings higher. Sultanas are reported a