

**HARDWARE.**—There is no word of any improvement in trade; and it is only a guess that the orders for spring will show pretty well. Dealers are not sanguine. Prices are steady. Quotations are:—Antimony, 12c to 14c; Babbit metal, 7c, 12c, 16c, 20c; wire fencing, galvanized, 7½c; painted, 7c; Canada plates, \$3.20 to \$3.35; cut nails unchanged and trade rather dull; glue 8c to 13c; iron wire, per bundle 63 lbs., No. 6, \$1.80 to \$1.90; No. 9, \$2.10 to \$2.20; No. 12, \$2.30 to \$2.60; borax, 15c to 17c; pig iron dull and unchanged; iron N. S. bar, \$2.50 to \$2.60; ordinary, \$2 to \$2.10; hoops, \$2.50 to \$2.60; band, \$2.50 to \$2.60; lead dull and unchanged; rope, manilla, 12c to 13c; Russian, 14c to 16c; white lead, \$1.50 to \$2; steel, cast, 12c to 13c; sleigh shoe, 3½c to 4c; tin, bar, 26c to 27c; ingot, 23c to 24c; solder, 17c to 18c; zinc, 5c to 6c; tin plates unchanged; iron boiler plate, P. G. 2½c to 3c; best, 3c to 4c; Bradley, 4c to 7c.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—Hides are rather quiet, buying at 7½c for cows and 8½c for steers. Cured selling to tanners at 8½c; with a moderate demand, as the quality of hides is now at the best. *Sheepskins* buying at 80c to \$1, according to quality. *Calfskins* buying at 13c for No. 1, and 11c for No. 2, selling, cured, at 15c for No. 1, and 13c for No. 2. There are very few calfskins offering.

**PROVISIONS, ETC.**—Business is dull. There is an uncertain feeling about the course of prices in hog products. There are no large orders yet coming. Meats are pretty steady. New long clear *Bacon* is selling in small lots at 8½c to 9c; smoked rolls at 13c. *Hams* are selling readily at 13c for smoked. *Lard* is steady, selling in small lots at 12c to 12½c. *Pork* is in light demand at \$16 to \$17. *Beef* quiet, at \$14.50 for mess. *Butter* dull, with large stocks

of inferior quality; prices are easier. Good to choice tubs selling at 19c to 19½c; medium and large rolls at 16c; inferior at 12c. *Eggs* easier, lined selling at 21c; fresh at 24c, in case lots. *Cheese*, steady, at 12½c to 13c for fine goods; ordinary at 11½c. *Apples*, quiet, selling at \$3.50 for fine winter varieties; ordinary at \$2 to \$3, in large lots. *Dried Apples* slow at 9c to 9½c for common, and 15c for evaporated. *Beans* selling at \$2.25 to \$2.50. *Hops* quoted at 20c to 21c for medium; and 26c for fine samples. *Potatoes* in fair supply, at 70c to 75c for car lots per bag. *Poultry* quiet; turkeys 10½c to 11½c; geese, 7½c per lb. *Onions* selling at \$2.25 per barrel. *Tallow*, buying rendered at 7c; rough at 3½c per lb. *Salt*, Liverpool bags, selling at 65c in car lots; and Canadian barrels at \$1.25 in car lots.

**SEEDS.**—There is very little doing in field seeds yet. The farmers are holding back, looking for higher prices. Dealers here say they can import clover from the other side paying duty and sell it here for a little over \$7. There have been enquiries from sellers, and the quotations have been given for the present; red clover, \$6.75 to \$6.90; alsike, \$9 to \$10; timothy, \$1.60 to \$1.90 per bushel of 48 lbs. The future of the market depends entirely on the export demand for Europe. Some small lots have been selling out of store at \$7.25.

**WOOL.**—The situation is not changed. There is a very small demand for fleece, and prices are nominally unchanged. Holders are better off this season than they were a year ago, as they bought at lower rates in the fall of 1883. Southdown is still worth 25c; Leicester, selects, 19½c to 20c; and Cotswold 17c. Pulled wools in limited demand from factories; Supers quoted at 22c to 23c, and extra supers at 28c. Dealers are pretty certain that there will be no improvement in the market for some time to come.

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By order of the Board.

**CHARLES DRINKWATER, Secretary.**

Montreal, December, 1883.

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