## Commercial.

### TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Jan. 31st, 1901.

Drugs, Chemicals, Etc.—Business is going on with fair activity, without any special feature having presented itself. The proposed combination of physicians for the purpose of establishing a drug supply depot in this city at moderate prices creates little comment among the trade. In New York a pretty good jobbing trade is reported. Quite a large business is being done in quinine. Opium has a strong downward tendency, as have also the alkaline hypophosphites.

Dry Goods.—No new feature has developed in the dry goods market, excepting that the extraordinary demand for black goods has created something of a famine. The prices for nearly all staple articles continue very firm. Travellers throughout the country almost universally report fair orders, with a prospect for a continuance of similar conditions.

Flour and Meal.—The flour market remains unchanged at fairly steady prices. Bran, shorts and oatmeal are all somewhat quiet, with no noteworthy feature.

Grain.—Wheat, both Ontario and Manitoba, is up about a cent, having recovered from the decline of last week, and there is a good demand for export at the advance. Oats also have gone up 1c., and remain steady at present quotation. Barley continues firm and unchanged. In rye, corn and buckwheat nothing is doing, and prices remain nominally the same. Receipts in the country are light, probably owing to the uncovered state of the roads.

Green Fruit.—Imports of oranges and lemons are about average, and very fair prices are being obtained, though there is no particular briskness. We quote: Lemons, new Messina, fancy, $2.50 per box; choice, $2; California, fancy, $3.50. Oranges, Jamaica, $2.50; Mexican, $2 to $2.25; California navels, $3.00 to $3.35; Florida, $3.25 to $3.50; Valencia, $4.25; Bananas, fancy, $1.50 to $1.75; Almeria grapes, $6 to $6.50 per keg; Canadian onions, 85c. per bag; winter apples, $2.75 to $3 per bbl.

Groceries.—Business has scarcely been equal in volume this week compared with last, orders having been merely of a sorting up nature. A good deal of enquiry is developing, however, for canned goods, and considerable cutting in off-brands has been observed on the part of one house. Sugars are moving out steadily in fair quantities, but car-load orders are scarce, the trade evidently having little faith in the stability of the market at present prices. An improved distribution in Ceylon and Indian pekoes, medium grades has been noted this week. Raisins and currants are in moderate demand at the quotations.

Hardware.—We have nothing to add to what was said last week about the state of the shelf goods trade. Business continues very fair, with frequent orders coming in. The general metal trade is distinctly satisfactory for this season of the year. A very good season is expected. Orders are being booked freely for future delivery. Prices in several lines have declined somewhat, as, for example, tin ingots, hoop steel, iron hoops and galvanized iron, but this probably shows nothing more than that they are reaching a settled basis.

Hides and Skins.—As may be expected at this time of the year, the condition of offerings is not up to average, and the demand is slow, with fair receipts. Tallow is fairly steady.

Provisions.—The market for butter is easier, the demand, which has not been large for some time past, having fallen off again. Large rolls fetch 17c. to 18c.; choice tub, 18c. to 19c. Cheese is dull and easy. The market for hog products is firm at unchanged prices. Dressed hogs have been easier this week, but receipts are not large, and it is generally admitted that the crop is considerably short of last year. Eggs, new laid, are selling at 20c. to 21c., while held fetch 14c. to 16c., and pickled 14c. to 15c.

Wool.—No improvement is visible in this market, and such is hardly probable for the next month or so. Holders of last season's clips are asking for offers, but the views of buyers are so very divergent from theirs that no business is possible. There is no demand whatever from across the line, and until one springs up, prospects must continue in the present discouraging state.

### MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal. Jan. 30th, 1901.

Ashes.—The market continues lifeless and easy, and quotations for No. 1 pots are more or less nominal at about $5; seconds, about $4.60. There has not been a transaction in pearls for some time past.

Cements and Firebricks.—Little improvement in the demand can be noted as yet, but prices rule steady. We quote: Belgian cement, $2 to $2.20; English, $2.40 to $2.50; German, $2.55 to $2.65; firebricks, $18 to $2 per thousand.

Dairy Products.—For butter there is a good jobbing demand, with light supplies, and values rule very firm. Choice creamery brings 23 cents; seconds, 22 to 22½c., and roll dairy, 20½ to 21c. Cheese prices are, if anything, firmer, and very few goods can be obtained under 10c., while for really choice the figure reaches to 11¼c.

Dry Goods.—The wholesale warehouses all display much activity in the shipping cut of spring stuff. With city retailers business is on the slow side with clearing sales all the vogue. Stocks of cheap black stuffs, both wholesale and retail, are well cleared out, owing to the demand for draping purposes, and owing to the reported scarcity of black dress goods in England, it is said that a leading retail concern here has shipped some 5,000 yards of black cashmeres to London, which is a reversal of the usual order of things. Remittances are reported as fair, but hardly as active as they were a fortnight ago, there being apparently a husbanding of resources for the 4th of February, which is a heavy day for payments.

Furs.—Full telegraphic reports of last week's London sales are now to hand, and a decline is shown in all lines except mink, otter, coon, and black bear. The percentage of decline, as compared with figures of last March, is as follows: Skunk, 20; civet, 10; possum, 25; Rus-