

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, February 14th.

Drugs and Chemicals.—The market is very firm, with business good. Quinine has advanced in price, and there is a possibility of a further rise.

Dry Goods.—The complaint of the big wholesale houses is yet that the mills cannot keep pace with orders, and are slow in their deliveries. One result will be, so the trade says, that people who are looking for everyday goods will find them extremely scarce. The demand has been perhaps the greatest in the history of the country. "The mills must realize," said one of the wholesale managers, "that Canada is no longer in her swaddling clothes."

Fruit.—Navel oranges are fairly light in price, with a big demand. The quality has never been better. Strawberries are coming forward from the South, and create a fair demand. The banana market is down. There is a good call for bitter oranges. Messrs. White & Company, of Toronto and Hamilton, have nine car loads of these oranges, besides lemons, on board the "Cedric" from Italy, which will arrive to-morrow. This is the largest consignment of fruit ever imported by one firm this season. There is a good enquiry for apples, especially the better grades. The onion market is very much stronger. We quote: Oranges, Bronco brand navels, 5 box lots, \$3.35; King brand navels, \$2.75 and \$2.50; Mexican oranges, \$2.15 and \$2.25; Valencia oranges, \$3.50 and \$4.50, extra large Jumbos, \$5.50; Florida oranges, fine juicy fruit, \$2.75 and \$3; Sorrento oranges, \$2.50 case.

Groceries.—Teas and coffees are very much higher. Dried fruit continues very firm, with an upward tendency. Valencia almonds are likely to increase in price.

Hides and Skins.—The market is very quiet and the position unchanged. Fall hides are drawing slightly advanced prices at Chicago on the present take-off. We quote: Inspected hides, No. 1, 10½c.; No. 2, 9½c.; No. 3, 8½c.; country cured, 9c.; country frozen, 8c.; lamb skins, \$1.35.

Provisions.—This is the most active market of all. Montreal stocks are pretty well cleaned out, making the business better here. The butter market is in much better shape, and prices should remain firm for a week or two anyway. The egg market is good, there being no "held" eggs on hand. Supplies of new laid eggs are very light, and the demand will be large on account of Lent. We quote: New laid eggs, 31 to 33c.; separator prints, 25 to 26c.; farmers' ordinary dairy, 23 to 24c.; large roll butter, 22 to 23c.; tubs, 21 to 22c.; creamery prints, 26 to 28c.; lard in tubs, 12¼ to 12½c.; in pails, 12½c.; compound lard, 8 to 11c.

Wool.—There is practically nothing doing in the Canadian markets. The first series of London sales of Colonial wool closed on January 30th, the following quantities having been catalogued:—Sydney, 39,152 bales; Queensland, 12,132 bales; Port Phillip, 28,719 bales; Adelaide, 13,258 bales; Tasmania, 26 bales; Western Australia, 14,885 bales; New Zealand, 37,318 bales; Cape, 6,418 bales; total catalogued, 151,908 bales. The net available amounted to 153,000 bales. Of these 150,000 bales have been sold; 77,000 bales for Home Consumption, 60,000 bales to the Continent, and 13,000 bales to America, leaving 3,000 bales to be carried forward to next series. The sales were largely attended and marked by keen competition from all sections of the trade, America again taking a prominent part.

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MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, February 13th.

Butter.—Holders feel fairly secure. It is estimated by some that not more than 25,000 boxes are held in stock here, and as the requirements of local consumers reaches 20,000 per month and outside demand 5,000, it should not take long to absorb local stocks. There are the receipts to be reckoned with, but this is of little consequence at this time of year, and will not increase for six weeks to come. Dealers are getting 25 to 25½c. for choicest creamery, and 24½ to 25c. for good to fine. "Imported" creamery is selling at 23½ to 24c. per pound, and dairy at 22 to 23c., according to quality.

Eggs.—The market is being pretty well cleaned out of held stock. Notwithstanding the talk of receipts of new laid, there are very few of them coming in. Some were purchased recently at 29c., and the buyer declares they were worse than storage. For new-laid, 32 to 35c. in case lots, has to be paid. Cold-store and pickled would bring 21 to 23c., according to quality.

Flour and Feed.—The car situation shows a slight improvement, but stock is not yet moving freely. Demand for flour is fair, at \$4 to \$4.10 per barrel, in bags, for Manitoba strong bakers, and \$4.50 to \$4.60 for patents. There is an active request for millfeed at recent prices, being \$21 per ton for bran, in bags, and \$22 for shorts.

Grain.—The market is firm and fairly active. Oats are 43 to 43½c. per bushel for No. 2, store, 42 to 42½c. for No. 3, and 41 to 41½c. for No. 4. Manitoba No. 1 Northern wheat, store, is 90c., and Ontario No. 2 winter, 80c. No. 2 peas are 90c.

Hay and Hayseed.—It is about as hard as ever to move hay. The local market is taking stock at good prices, and is considerably above a basis of export. No. 1 timothy is selling at \$13.50 to \$14 per ton, No. 2 timothy, \$12.50 to \$13, and clover mixture \$11.50 to \$12. Hayseed is very dull. Red clover is easier, prices being 25c. lower, at \$6.75 to \$7.75 per bushel; of 60 pounds, and alsike \$5.50 to \$6.50, while timothy is \$1.25 to \$2 per 48 pounds. These prices are offered at country points. Dealers are getting practically all their timothy from the United States.

Hides and Wool.—The quality of hides is now poor, but trade is fairly active. Dealers are offering 9½c. per pound, Montreal, for No. 3, 10½c. for No. 2, and 11½c. for No. 1, and selling to tanners at ½c. advance. Calfskins are 12c. for No. 1, and 10c. for No. 2, sheepskins being 95c. to \$1 each. Wool is very dull, at 26 to 28c. per pound; for Canadian fleece, tub washed, and 18 to 20c. in the grease; Canadian pulled, brushed, 30c., and unbrushed, 27 to 29c.; pulled lambs, brushed, 30 to 32c. and unbrushed, 30c.

Potatoes.—The market for potatoes is quoted firmer. The weather has been so severe that the handling and shipping of the stock can only have been done at a risk. Cars have been sold here lately at 78c. per 90 pounds, and purchases have been made, to arrive, at 75c. The former price has been refused for further shipments. This refers to finest white stock. A carload, bagged, was sold, on track, at 81c. In a jobbing way, bagged and delivered, 90c. is quoted for fines, and as low as 80c. for reds.



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