

A prominent feature of the dry goods business at present is the advance in prices. I have no doubt but that these prices will be maintained for some time and in some lines a further advance is apparent. Before advances took place many lines both in cotton and woolen goods were lower in price than ever before.

The wholesale houses have had to contend more or less with the irregular delivery of goods from our home manufacturers, and I trust with increased facilities these manufacturers will in the future be able to give the trade a more prompt and better delivery.

During the year our Customs Department has been made aware of the fact that goods were being smuggled into our country at some of the border towns. At that time precautionary measures were adopted to prevent this, which I trust the authorities will continue to carry out.

EDGAR A. WILLS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

JOHN MACDONALD,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE GRAIN, FLOUR, HOP AND MALT SECTION OF THE BOARD
OF TRADE OF THE CITY OF TORONTO.

This Section held over 300 meetings during the year. A large percentage of the grain grown in Ontario, Manitoba and the North-West Territories is bought and sold by the members of this Section. The grain crop of Ontario in 1899 amounted to 152,000,000 bushels, 90,000,000 bushels of which were oats and 15,000,000 bushels each fall wheat, barley and peas. We exported oats in large quantities all the year around, Great Britain and Ireland being our chief market. We also exported considerable quantities of oatmeal, chiefly to Scotland and England.

Fall wheat, owing to the unfavorable weather in April last, is a poor crop in Ontario, the aggregate yield being considerably below the average. In consequence no fall wheat has been exported from the 1899 crop. It is being consumed in Canadian mills at prices several cents a bushel higher than could be paid for it by exporters, who have to compete with United States, Argentine and Australian wheat of the same grade. Some Ontario spring wheat, however, has been sent to Great Britain and the Continent, and considerable quantities of the hard spring wheat, grown west of Fort William, is finding sale at relatively good prices in Great Britain and European countries.

The barley crop of the past year is of a superior quality in weight and color. It is superior to the best barley grown in the United States, and is eagerly sought for by United States maltsters. Owing, however, to the United States duty of 30 cents per bushel, only about a quarter million bushels has found its way to the United States. The consumption of barley in our own country is larger than at any former time.

Peas are exported largely to Great Britain and the Continent. Canadian peas are considered to be the best sample grown in any country in the world.

Very little flour from Ontario wheat has been exported from the 1899 crop, owing to the fact that Ontario wheat is above export value this year. The export of flour made from the hard spring wheat of Manitoba and the Territories is also very small. In this case owing entirely to the lower freights usually given by our railways on wheat than on flour.

With equitable rates of freight as between wheat and flour, the flour milling business of this country would assume large dimensions, and would not be limited as at present, to the consumptive requirements of our own country. Another phase of railway rates affects the farmers