TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, October 8th, 1903.

Cement.—The demand for cement shows no sign of falling off; indeed, if anything, it has grown even stronger during the last few weeks. Importations have been fairly heavy, but the Canadian article is being largely called for. The price at the mill holds at about $2.25 per barrel.

Chemicals, Drugs, etc.—The business in drugs, locally speaking, keeps up fairly well, with no startling changes to announce either in prices or the call for particular articles. From New York come reports to the effect that the cheap lots of Java quinine now being out of the way, the market for this commodity has a firmer tone. The demand for opium continues light. Interest in cod liver oil is increasing. The price of Union salad oil has been reduced by 2c. per gallon. Advices from Manchester say that there is only a moderate enquiry for chemicals, especially in the textile lines. Values for the most part, however, have ruled steady, and consumers are now sending in more enquiries.

Flour and Grain.—An easier feeling prevails for flour. Ninety per cent. patents sell for $3, in buyers' bags, east or middle freights. Choice brands are a little higher. Millfeed is steady at $17 to $17.50 for shorts, and $13.50 for bran; oatmeal is duller. There has been since last week no appreciable change in the wheat market, which is dull. Quotations are unchanged. Barley continues unchanged. Oats are 1 to 2c. lower, and dull at the decline. Rye is 1c. lower, corn and buckwheat are unchanged. Little business in grain is being done just now.

Fruit.—Quite a large quantity of fruit is still making its appearance in the market, but there is a certain degree of slackness in the demand. Some of the peaches coming forward are not over-good quality, and even the better grades are not in keen demand. A few second-crop Lawton berries sold this week at 12½c. per box. Tomatoes are scarce, but only fetch 15 to 20c. even for best quality. Grapes are fairly plentiful at 20 to 30c. per small basket. Prices on other fruits and vegetables are as follows: Cocoanuts, per sack, $3.70 to $5; Oranges, late Valencias, $4.50 to $5; Jamaica oranges, $6 to $7 per barrel; lemons, Verdelli, $4 to $4.50; bananas, 8s,, $1.50 to $2; firsts, $2 to $2.50; extras, $2.50 to $3; sweet potatoes, $3.50 to $3.75 per barrel; celery, 35c. to 40c. per dozen; gherkins, 40c. to 50c.; Spanish onions, $2.75 to $3 per large case, and $1 for small; cranberries, $9 per barrel; pears, 25c. to 35c. per basket; quinces, 35c. to 40c. There is a great boom in apple shipments, which so far number three times as heavy as was the case last year at this time. Baldwins and Greenings are the chief exports, to be followed in a few weeks' time by Northern Spies. Germany has been paying $6.50 for choice Canadian apples, but the European market, as a whole, is now so swamped with American apples that it will now only pay to ship really good stuff.

Groceries.—No further change has taken place in sugar. The movement may be described as good, seeing that the preserving season is about at an end. The action of the Consolidated Canners respecting terms, etc., is being criticized a good deal by the trade, who find it difficult to make their arrangements ahead. As the above organization controls 90 to 95 per cent. of the country's output of canned vegetables, its views naturally have considerable force.

Hardware.—Trade both in shelf goods and the heavy metals continues very good indeed. Sporting goods are in specially good request. Values of practically all lines remain steady.

Hides, Skins and Leather.—There is a fair demand for all these lines. Sheepskins have gone up about 5c., but otherwise prices remain unchanged. Prospects for a good fall season's leather trade are good.

Live Stock.—A weaker market prevails for several lines of cattle. A good deal of poor stock has been arriving lately, and this has affected the demand, though, for really good animals, both for export and butchers' purposes, the latter is not much to be complained about.

Provisions.—For all the better grades of butter the demand is good. Creamery sells at 21c. for prints, and about 18c. for solids, while dairy, (pound rolls), goes at 16½ to 18c. Cheese is steady around 12 to 12½c. Stocks of smoked meats are light, especially hams, with the result that prices are very firm, barreled meats also are in good request.

Wool.—Holders of fleece seem disposed to keep it for higher prices than buyers believe it to be worth, and so little business is passing. Pulled wools are meeting with a fair demand from the domestic mills, and prices are firm.