THE COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

Giving Ranges of Prices in some of the More Important Branches of Trade; their Situation and Tendencies.

TORONTO.

Toronto, January 31st.

Drugs and Chemicals.—Business continues very good. This market has kept exceptionally steady for many months past, and again there are no changes to record in prices.

Dry Goods.—The big wholesale houses are eagerly looking forward to the establishment of new mills at Lachine, Que., which is now being discussed. Many of them are somewhat strong in their language concerning belated deliveries of the mills. This is, of course, only natural; but on the other hand it must be remembered that scarcity of labor has kept the mills behind. The Canadian Colored Cotton Mills seem to be giving more satisfaction than some of the others in their deliveries. There is a strong demand for fall goods and the prospects are for an exceedingly live trade. Spring orders are coming in freely and most of the big wholesalers lay stress on the fact that these should be placed early.

Fruit.—The first marmalade oranges arrived in the market this week and are selling at $3.50 per box. The second shipment will probably come to hand in three weeks' time. The apple market is strengthening considerably as is also the onion market. There is a better enquiry for onions all around. Shipment of goods to distant points has been somewhat hampered by the cold weather. But the railway companies have relieved the situation by furnishing heated cars to the principal points.

Frozen Fish.—There is a strong demand for fish of all kinds. Cars of Manitoba whitefish are beginning to arrive. Pickled lake fish in half barrels is scarce this year, trout being almost impossible to get. Halifax frozen sea herrings are arriving in considerable number.

Groceries.—Business is fairly good, dry fruits continuing very firm, although there is not an exceptionally strong demand for them. The latest arrival of California prunes are quoted as follows: 30-40, 10½c.; 40-50, 8¾c.; 50-60, 7¾c.; 60-70, 7c.; 70-80, 6½c.; 80-90, 6c.; 90-100, 5½c.; 100-120, 4¾c.

Hides and Skins.—The hide market receipts have fallen a little, but are still coming in plentifully, and will most probably continue to do so for a week or two. Stocks will then become normal. They will probably be below normal in Ontario until the spring. The market is still weak on present stock, but fall stock continues as strong as ever. The hides are held at fall prices, not only here, but also in the States. There is very little enquiry for Canadian hides.

Provisions.—The butter market is just a shade steadier and the prospects are for an advance before very long. The supplies are plentiful and the demand exceptionally good. The big accumulation at Montreal and in the East generally, has been considerably reduced. The egg market continues very firm and supplies are very light indeed. The price will not be easier. We quote: New laid eggs, 28 to 32c.; cold storage, 24 to 28c.; pickled, 22c.; separator prints, 24 to 25c.; farmers' dairy prints, 23 to 24c.; large roll butter, 21 to 22½c.; tubs, 21 to 22c.; creamery prints, 25 to 28c.; lard tubs, 12 to 12¼c.; pails, 12½ to 12¾c.; compound lards, 8 to 11c.

Tallow.—The market is still very strong on account of scarcity in supplies. The price generally ruling is 5½ to 6c.

Wool.—There is no activity in the market. The trade says, "We are living in hopes, and are always doing that."

MONTREAL.

Montreal, January 30th.

The trend of values in most lines continues upwards. Trade is rather more active in heavy metals, dry goods and other branches of the wholesale trades. Cottons are very firm, and the Montreal Cotton Company has revised quotations for cambrics, percalines, cantons, lawns, sateens, turkey reds, etc., while advices of advances in carpets, hosiery, laces, and small wares have been given in England. Teas of all kinds are in good demand and shoe factories are busy.

Provisions.—The market for dressed hogs is quiet and rather easier, at 9 to 9¼c. for country dressed, choice goods selling at 9½c. Abattoir dressed are 10c. for selects. Hams are steady at 13 to 14c. per pound for good, and 14 to 15c. for choicest, bacon being 13 to 14c. per pound.

Cheese.—The market for cheese holds very firm. Sales of at least 1,000 boxes have recently been made at 13⅜c. per pound for choicest. Many are holding 13½c. and even higher. Stocks here are light and it is hoped that the next report from England will show them considerably reduced there.

Butter.—The situation is difficult to judge, but prices hold steady at present and holders do not appear to be showing much anxiety. They are demanding and obtaining 25 to 25½c. for choicest quality, though the turnover is not large. Dairies are quoted at 22 to 23c., supplies being exceedingly light. There is fear that further supplies of Canadian butters may be brought back from England. From this forward the make in the country is certain to be very light.

Eggs.—Dealers are already commencing to try to break the market on reports of large receipts of new laid eggs. One man quotes case-lots of fresh laid—all laid within the week—at 31c., while others say it is impossible to get them at less than 35c., and even then the quality will be very doubtful. Another states that he offered 28c., f.o.b., country points, in the West, and failed to get the stock. Storage stock is quoted at 20 to 21c., and selects at 25 to 26c. The market is a shade easy.

Hay and Hayseed.—The hay market is undoubtedly easier this week, but even yet the offerings are none too large. Dealers report that they are willing to sell at $14 per ton for No. 1 timothy, and $13 for No. 2 and $12 for clover and clover mixture, but others doubt if they would let much go at these figures. As to hayseed, there does not appear to be more than about one-quarter the requirements. Of course, Canada seldom raises enough timothy seed for her own sowing, but this year the supply is particularly short. Dealers are offering $1.25 to $2 per 48 pounds, at country points, for average quality, and $7 to $8.25 per 60-pound bushel. Alsike is practically all in, but is quoted at $5 to $6.50.

Flour and Feed.—The car situation governs in this market. The railways are unable to handle all the freight they have taken in the West, and there is fear now that they may refuse to accept any more till the stock in transit has been delivered here. Meantime, millers will not venture to promise delivery and trade is in a rather peculiar position. Quotations of Manitoba strong bakers, are $4.10 per barrel, in bags, patents being $4.60. Bran is $21 per ton, in bags, and short $22. Demand for feed is active, that for bran being fair.

Hides, Tallow and Wool.—There is no change from last prices on these lines and demand is light all round.

HALIFAX.

Halifax, January 28th.

The dried fish market has been dull, but is now improving. The distributing trade in fish is showing improvement, and prices may go higher. All the bank fish are in the hands of the dealers at prices ranging from $5.75 to $6. Stocks in Nova Scotia are said to be 100,000 quintals less than last year, and as much less in St. John, Newfoundland. As the new cure will not be on the market until September, if the reports of present scarcity are correct, an advance may reasonably be looked for.

COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS.

The following are the details of January shipments of Cobalt ore:

Shipped by	Ore in pounds.
Buffalo Mining Co. to Perth Amboy	59,000
McKinley-Darragh to Newark	60,000
Coniagas (2 cars) to Perth Amboy	118,500
Green-Meehan to Copper Cliff	61,210
O'Brien Mine (4 cars) to Copper Cliff and Perth Amboy	232,661
Buffalo (3 cars) to Copper Cliff, Perth Amboy and Cleveland	140,000
Nipissing (4 cars) to New York	235,432
O'Brien (2 cars) to Perth Amboy and Copper Cliff	125,600
Foster to Copper Cliff	43,600
La Rose (2 cars) to New York	123,500
O'Brien to Copper Cliff	60,570
Coniagas to Perth Amboy	56,720
Cobalt Townsite to Copper Cliff	47,160
Buffalo to Perth Amboy	40,000
Nipissing (3 cars) to New York	124,177
University to New York	61,385
Silver Queen (2 cars) to Copper Cliff	125,683

The total shipments for the first four weeks of January were 1,715,198 lbs., or 857½ tons, the estimated value of which is placed at $1,500,000.