

ral being the principal stocks sold. Loan and Miscellaneous shares have been quiet also, with values maintained.

Following are prices of stocks bid to-day compared with those of last Thursday :

Banks.	Bid Dec. 18	Bid Dec. 24	Loan Cos.	Bid Dec. 18	Bid Dec. 22
Montreal...	187 1/2	187	Can. Per.	214	....
Toronto...	174 1/2	174 1/2	Freehold.....	161	....
Ontario...	104	103	Western Can..	183	178
Merchants	103 1/2	103	Bldg. & Loan	107 1/2	100
Commerce	117 1/2	116 1/2	Farmers' Loan	113	....
Dominion	165	165	Land & Can'dn	135	....
Hamilton	116 1/2	116	Huron & Erie	158	....
Stand'd	110 1/2	111	Dom. Savings	....	....
Federal...	47 1/2	47 1/2	Ontario Loan	127	....
Imperial...	126 1/2	126	Hamilton Prov.	....	....
Molson...	....	....	Imperial Sav.	....	104

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There is reported a certain improved tone. The retail trade has been buying carefully for months past, just keeping up assortments, and every extra demand is discovered in fresh orders. The recent severe cold has developed a degree of activity among retailers, and the wholesale trade responds. Still wholesale stocks are in some houses pretty large. It is the case, however, that complaints among the manufacturers are not heard to the extent that would indicate any extreme pressure. There are none of the manufacturers working nearly full time, but the work is distributed so the shops are all moderately engaged. Prices are unchanged.

COAL.—Trade in the city is brisk for small household orders, which is all that is left for the season. The stock of coal is ample. Prices at points of production are still low, and prices here are not likely to change. Our lots

of all descriptions of coal are quoted about \$5.25 to \$5.50. The price delivered in the city is unchanged at \$6. Wood is in large supply at \$5.50 per cord for best.

COAL OIL.—There is a tendency to weakness, but prices will not decline below present rates. Common Canadian is quoted at 17c for single barrels with 16 1/2c to 16 3/4c for larger lots. Carbon safety at 19c. American oils unchanged at 23 1/2c for prime and 27c for water white. Crude oil quiet at 75c in Petroleum.

DRY GOODS.—Distribution is still very limited. The retail trade is represented, both in town and country, as exceedingly quiet. Stocks everywhere are abundant, and buying by the general community is still below what was expected. The aggregate movement is not so greatly below the average, but it leaves still very large stocks unbroken. A hard winter will make things better, provided cash payments are adequate. Prices still low and in buyer's favour. The retail trade in the city has been comparatively light, and cash is scarce.

DRUGS.—General business is reported moderate. There are no changes to note in quotations. Mercurial and Iodine preparations are firm. Linseed oil quiet and firm. Drugs quiet, and prices steady.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—There is scarcely any change in the situation. Demand is confined to local consumption. Flour is quoted at previous rates. Superior extra at \$3.40 to \$3.45, and extras at \$3.30, without transactions. Patent process flours at \$4 to \$4.50. Oatmeal unchanged at \$3.80 for ordinary and \$4.15 for

granulated. Bran in light demand, at \$10.50 for lots on the track. Grain is quiet, as much because of small receipts as for other reasons. Wheat is rather improved in tone; No. 1 Spring and No. 2 Fall are quoted at 75c and No. 2 Spring and No. 3 Fall at 73c. Goose wheat 57c to 58c. Barley quiet, with small receipts, No. 1 quoted at 65c; No. 2 at 60c; No. 3 extra at 53c, and No. 3 at 50c. Oats are quiet at 30 1/2c to 31c on the track. Peas are in fair demand, and prices steady at 59c to 60c for No. 2. Rye dull at 56c for ear lots on track. Wheat in store Monday last 188,579 bush., barley, 123,921 bush., peas, 13,631 bush.; oats, 875 bush., rye, 1,101 bush.; corn 1179 bush. Total grain 328,616 bush. against 233,358 same date last year.

GROCERIES.—Business has shown some improvement in small orders for Christmas goods, and generally trade has been sustained. The prospect is for a quiet period succeeding the holidays. There are no changes to note in quotations. Teas are quiet. Sugars and fruit have been in better demand. Fish is still very quiet, but prices are steady. The general list quiet.

HARDWARE.—Trade has been dull; the demand for building material has fallen off. General hardware is moving only in small lots. There are some orders from country buyers for bar iron. The prospect of continuing low prices forbids any buying except for immediate wants.

HIDES AND LEATHER.—There is no change in the market. Hides are easier, cows quoted buying at 7 1/2c to 7 3/4c for No. 1, and steers 8c. Cured hides selling at previous quotations which would be shod for good buyers.

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