

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, Dec. 23rd, 1897.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—The butter trade is fairly active. The principal receipts have been large dairy rolls and creamery pound prints. Butter of good choice quality is in active demand, and merchants' stocks are well sold up. Creamery is firm, and possibly a little higher prices are being obtained for butter. The export business is more satisfactory, and choice Canadian creamery is competing with Australian for the shilling a pound trade. Dairy prints remain steady, without advance in prices. Receipts are quite equal to the requirements, with 14 to 15½c. quoted. Some little improvement has been made in the cheese trade, and within the week several enquiries from exporters have come to hand. They are offering 8¼ to 8½c. per lb., while local jobbers are quoting 9 to 9½c. per lb. The demand in the egg market continues good, and prices steady. Supplies are apparently in small compass. Deliveries of new laid eggs are small, and meet with a ready market at 17 to 18c. per doz. Pickled eggs are in demand at 13 to 14c.; while cold storage and held fresh are more difficult to sell at the same quotation.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.—Values in dressed hogs are in dispute between buyers and sellers. For light selected weights (90 to 150 lbs) shippers are asking \$5.90 to 6.00 per cwt., and for heavy weights \$5.75 per cwt. Packers are not willing to give within 10c. per cwt. of these figures, and maintain that dressed hogs are proportionately higher than live hogs, the latter when quotations are reduced to a basis of dressed hogs, selling according to present live stock quotations at \$5.45 per cwt. for heavy weights. Deliveries are free, or rather large quantities of hogs are being offered here. Provisions are quiet, as is usual at this season of the year. The *N. Y. Journal and Bulletin*, Dec. 20th, says: "There has been a material change in sentiment, if not in the situation, of the markets the past week. First, the receipts of hogs have been very disappointing falling far behind daily estimates, and even behind a year ago, since early in the week at

the leading packing points and especially at Chicago. Second, packers have changed generally from the bear to the bull side or have been getting off the short side of the market, indicating that they think it is either unprofitable or dangerous to remain there longer, in view of the gradual and healthy, though slow advance in the speculative products, in spite of their opposition, without outside buying until the latter part of the week, and without inside support, except from the shorts."

GRAIN.—The roads have improved in many parts of the country and, as a result, deliveries have been freer. The approach of the holiday season is, however, beginning to affect the trade, and the market is expected to assume its usual semi-stagnant holiday character next week. The *New York Journal and Bulletin* says: "The export demand for wheat has run largely on Manitoba for the United Kingdom, and No. 2 red and No. 2 hard winter, chiefly the latter, for the continent, France still being the chief buyer, notwithstanding the report of mid-week that the French duty would be removed, though not confirmed as yet, but believed to be likely so soon as the French crop is marketed." Oats are steady. Peas continue unchanged. Barley is quiet, and transactions are limited in numbers and amount.

The stocks in store at Port Arthur on Dec. 11th were 1,539,735 bushels, and there were received 140,236 bushels and shipped 1,799,205 bushels, leaving in store on Dec. 18th, 661,890 bushels.

TORONTO STOCKS IN STORE.

	Dec. 13, '97.	Dec. 20, '96
Wheat, hard, bush	14,350	14,350
Wheat, fall, "	18,058	20,769
Wheat, spring, "	365	365
Wheat, goose, "	7,100	7,490
Rye	600
Barley, "	56,495	44,295
Oats	7,900	7,900
Corn	11,000	11,000
Peas	4,467	4,458

Totals..... 121,735 113,227

GROCERIES.—Holiday trade has been active,

but retailers are now too busy to receive travelers or visit the wholesale houses. There is every prospect of a good season's results. A wholesale merchant reports that a retailer in a northern Ontario town, after having placed an order for a variety of goods, wired "Double my order." Business had evidently been better than anticipated, and time did not permit a minute examination of the list. In dried fruits business has been very active. According to late mail reports from Smyrna, there were remaining there but 4,000 tons of Sultana raisins, which is considered a light supply for this season of the year. Advices from Greece report a very strong feeling in the market for currants, stocks there being reduced to about 25,000 tons, against 60,000 tons on hand at this time last year. It is thought that after the rush of the holiday trade has subsided local dried fruit stocks will be found in narrow compass. Sugar has been active at unchanged prices.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Hide merchants continue to render their services to the trade with little or no return in profits. There has been the usual increase in the quantity of hides offered incident to the Christmas trade. For green hides, No. 1, merchants are paying 9c. per lb., and cured are quoted at 9½c. per lb. Sheepskins are steady at unchanged prices. Calfskins are dull. Chicago advices, December 21, state: "The market quiet, but prices unchanged and steady, closing at 11c. for native steers, 10c. for heavy Texas, 9½c. for light do., 9½c. for butt brands, 9½c. for branded cows, 9c. for Colorados, 10¼ to 10½c. for heavy native steers and 10¼ to 10½c. for light do."

LEATHER.—The year is now about closed, and tanners are attempting to find out what its results have been. The movement in general lines is fairly active for the season, but values are not yet on a satisfactory basis.

POULTRY.—In the early part of the week the market was bare of stock, offerings selling as follows: turkeys, 10 to 11c.; geese, 6½ to 7c. per lb.; chickens, 40 to 50c., and ducks 60 to 70c. per pair. On Thursday deliveries were large, indicating that poultry had been held

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