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GRAIN.—Wheat is fairly steady, though Manitoba has dropped during the week a cent or two. Oats are a little higher. Rye, corn, and buckwheat are nominally unchanged. Business is rather quiet for this time of the year.

GREEN FRUIT.—With the exception of apples and a few grapes, the domestic fruit season is about over. We quote: Lemons, Malaga, per box, \$4; choice, \$2.50; new Messina, \$3.50; oranges, Jamaica, \$3.25; bananas, fancy, \$1.25 to \$1.75; grapes, Almeria, \$6 to \$7 per keg; pears, 25 to 50c. per basket; Kiefers, \$2.50 to \$3 per barrel; sweet potatoes, Jerseys, extra fine, \$2.50 to \$2.75; quinces, 25 to 30c.; winter apples, \$1.75 to \$2 per barrel; cranberries, very fancy, Cape Cod, \$3 per box; \$8 per barrel.

GROCERIES.—There is no feature in the market calling for special comment, except that there is a downward tendency in Valencia raisins. Local trade is very good, considering the interruptions which have taken place this week.

HARDWARE.—The only changes during the past week have been in rope, which has dropped from 1/2 to 1/4c. This is due merely to the fact that both the Consumers' Cordage Co., and the United States Cordage Co. have for some time past been trying to ease off the market. They have also had some little competition in the Central Prison industry, Toronto. Business this week has been very good, though we suppose the elections and the festivities, celebrating the return of the volunteers, have served to interfere with it to some slight extent. Last month was exceptionally good, and many orders for fall goods were shipped. Large quantities of such goods as skates and cutlery are being bought. Old Country advices state that things have been very dull in the pig iron trade of late. Transactions have been small. Prices of Scotch iron, however, have been slightly better. The higher-priced metals, also, have been dilatory during the month. Copper is about 10s. lower, and tin has fallen almost £4 per ton.

HIDES AND SKINS.—A fair demand is being made for hides, and prices continue fairly good. Sheepskins and calfskins are coming in in somewhat large numbers, with good prices prevailing, owing to local competition. Tallow is locally scarce, though dealers, as a rule, hold back from giving the somewhat high prices being asked for the rendered article. In Chicago, the packers are having their own way with the market. They are marking up prices after every sale, and seem quite independent since they are sold ahead on most of the selections. Native steer hides have been sold at 12 1/2c. It cannot be said that there is any pressure to buy at the extreme prices demanded. The tanners are becoming alarmed, and many of them have decided to withdraw from the market for the present. The leather situation does not offer any inducement to the tanners to load up with high-priced hides.

LEATHER.—Prices still continue distinctly firm, as a consequence of the heavier demand for hides.

PROVISIONS.—Receipts of butter continue fairly large. Choice quality is easily sold at the quotations mentioned, but medium and common qualities are apt to accumulate. Large rolls are coming forward more plentifully, and are selling at 17 to 17 1/2c. Cheese is quiet, though pretty steady. In hog products, there is an easier feeling. Long clear is quoted at 9 1/2c. Other cuts would be cheaper, were it not for the pronounced scarcity.

WOOL.—The local market for wool is extremely dull. In the States, however, for the finer grades, at any rate, a better

feeling and more active demand are visible, and this condition of things is expected to influence the local market, after awhile. A surprise of the more recent wool sales in London has been the comparatively active demand by British wool interests. There can be little doubt that the stocks of fine raw wool in hand were much smaller than was at first believed.

## SAWDUST UTILIZED.

In the large sawmills of Joseph Fialla, in Austria, the sawdust is utilized by being made up into briquettes; these form a good combustible for boiler furnaces, or household use. The sawdust is impregnated with a mixture of tarry substances and heated to the proper temperature; it is then passed over a plate of iron heated by steam, from which a screw conveyor takes it to the screw-press, where it is compressed into briquettes of the required size. The press turns out nineteen per minute, weighing two-fifths of a pound each, and measuring 6 x 2 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches. The calorific power is about the same as that of lignite, with but four per cent. of ash. The factory turns out more than 6,000,000 briquettes a year; the cost is about eightpence per thousand, and the selling price reaches four shillings or more, leaving a considerable margin of profit.—*Scientific American*.

## A NEW PROCESS FOR PRESERVING RAILWAY TIES AND TELEGRAPH POLES.

There has lately been erected at Perth Amboy, N.J., a plant for wood preservation, according to the Hasselmann process, whereby such classes of timber as railway ties and poles are rendered free from tendency to decompose and greatly increased in life.

The process is one of great simplicity, and the results attained by it are said to be of extraordinary importance, in that the wood, while becoming harder, more durable and apparently changed in chemical composition, nevertheless retains its elasticity and strength, both transverse and longitudinal, and both as regards compression and tension stresses. The process in brief consists of extracting from the wood its sap and other natural juices and of filling its pores with an impregnating liquid which not only serves as a germicide for the destruction of such fungi and spores as it may contain, but which also enters into chemical combination with the cellulose of the wood, producing what is practically a new substance, highly resisting the attacks of oxygen, and of the various bacteria which are destructive to ordinary untreated wood. The impregnating solution consists of the sulphates of copper and iron mixed in the proportion of 20 per cent. of the former to 80 per cent. of the latter, with a proportion of alumina and "kainit," which is a mineral mined at Stassfurt, in Germany, and consisting mainly of the sulphates of potassium and magnesium and chloride of magnesium.—*Electrical Review*.

—Laws have been passed in Switzerland for the operation of automobiles, which state that no machine may be used without having been passed upon by a technical committee on the safety of the vehicle. Its operator must also possess a certificate of competence and each machine must have two lamps, one showing a white and the other a green light, and, most important of all, a plate on which is stamped the name and address of the proprietor must be displayed in a prominent place upon the body of the vehicle.