

THE PRODUCE MARKET.

THE general arrivals have been small, and the amount of business transacted limited. British advisers offer little encouragement for most articles of export; much of the produce of Canada is finding its way to the States, and all expectation of large operations at this port for the Spring months are abandoned. The accounts from all quarters of the growing crops are highly encouraging, and those interested are now content to await the turn of affairs, when the fall product comes on the market.

FLOUR.—The arrivals have been smaller than for some weeks back, but with previous accumulations the supply has been rather in excess of the demand, which has been restricted almost entirely to local wants, and has been very limited owing to purchases being freely made previous to the recent reaction, as well as the contingency of souring at this stage of the season. Little actual change in prices can be noted, as holders decline any concession of consequence, and most transactions have therefore been at rates approaching those of last week. The views of holders and the larger operators are, however, considerably apart, and the transactions are of a comparatively retail character, and only to supply actual wants. The higher grades are quite neglected, and may be quoted nominal at, for Superior Extra, \$6.20 to \$6.40, Extra \$5.85 to \$5.95, and Fancy \$5.65 to \$5.75. Fresh ground Canada Supers are pretty freely taken as offered at \$5.20 to \$5.60, according to strength and suitability for bakers. Winter ground is less in favour, and only taken in small quantities for immediate use at ten to fifteen cents under. Western and City brands, from Western wheat, have been comparatively neglected, although not offered largely, \$4.50 to \$5.10 may be considered the range for low-ground to best samples of Milwaukee and City brands. The demand for lower grades is fair, and the stock not excessive: we quote No. 2, \$4.70 to \$4.80; Fine, \$4.45 to \$4.60, and Middlings \$4.25 to \$4.40.

BAO FLOUR.—Has been slow of late, as many of the dealers, misled by the former activity, had contracted for supplies for forward delivery, and are now receiving in most instances beyond the wants of their business. As much of what is thus supplied is manufactured from Western States wheat, and therefore lacking in strength, the better samples of Upper Canada are taken to assort at about \$3, but anything inferior or deficient in strength is most difficult to move.

WHEAT.—The arrivals of the week have been moderate, but beyond a few cargoes of Western at about \$1.01 to \$1.02 there are no sales to note.

OATMEAL.—Only in small supply, and retail demand at \$4.60 to \$4.75.

PORK.—Remains without alteration; holders are very firm, and the few transactions reported are at full previous rates.

BUTTER.—Arrivals for the week are more moderate, but still in excess of the demand, which continues restricted to local trade, for which the requirements are finding, the grocers being at present well supplied by neighbouring farmers. Nor can we look for any improvement until a shipping demand arises, which may be looked for shortly, as the British markets are entirely bare of American; and although there is every appearance of a large make both of Irish and Continental Butters, good Canadian will be in request before long, and with a continuance of cheap bread, and a more moderate range of prices than ruled last season in Britain, a very large consumption may be expected of the better qualities. Medium and ordinary being taken solely to supply the temporary scarcity of good eatable Butter are certain to be of slow and dragging sales throughout the season, as, except at very low prices, such cannot at any time or to any extent be forced into consumption. The bulk of the arrivals thus far this season have been very inferior—pale, weak, and wanting in quality—and in some cases mixed with old; nothing but the positive absence of anything better will secure a sale or even induce buyers to examine such parcels; holders have therefore to alternative but to await patiently a more active demand, and less discrimination on the part of buyers.

ASHEs.—Both Pots and Pearl have been dull during the week, and sales dragging. We quote Pots \$5.20 to \$5.25 for first sorts; \$5.60 to \$5.65 for inferiors. Pearls \$5.40 for firsts to \$5.45 for seconds, the market closing heavy with a drooping tendency in view of receding prices in Britain.

The Hardware Trade.

As the operations here are nearly completed for Spring Trade, a dullness has been the prevailing feature for the past ten days, and there are no alterations to note this week. For quotations, see General News Current.

BANK GUARANTEES.

A Chicago paper recently contained an article, which was copied by several Canadian Journals, reflecting upon the refusal of the Bank of Toronto to make good a certain guarantee which their former agent in Montreal had undertaken. The following are the main points which are urged on behalf of the Bank:

1. That to guarantee a broker's contract is utterly beyond the scope of banking operations as carried on in Canada, and entirely illegal.
2. That, so far as is known, no such guarantee has ever been given by any Canadian Bank.
3. That no record of the transaction, in any shape, appears in the books of the Bank, nor was it communicated, as all legitimate transactions of the agency are, to the authorities at the head office.
4. That there is good reason to believe the affair to have been really a private speculation of the agent, who was, at the time, secretly carrying on various operations of his own in gold and stocks.

Confederation.

Conversing with an intelligent and well-informed gentleman from Halifax, recently, we asked him as to the prospects of Confederation in his Province. His reply was, that the present Parliament stood about 23 for it to 37 against it, and now that New Brunswick was so completely opposed to the scheme there was no hope for it in Nova Scotia. Had the former Province been favourable, this time of a majority might have been, by a variety of influences, induced to erase its vote, and Federation would have been possible, but under the circumstances it is not. He added, that every day made it less probable, the more the scheme was discussed in country constituencies, the more distasteful did it become. He felt quite certain that outside of the city of Halifax it would be impossible to return six members of Parliament favourable to Confederation. And yet the members of our Government, in England, are still pressing the project upon Imperial advisers as the remedy for all our ills, politically and commercially. As they were mistaken in their calculations last year, are they not so this?

Manufactured Tobaccos.

The market has improved somewhat, and desirable lots of good tobacco can now be placed at 2½c. to 26c. Western manufacturers are now holding for 15c. in bond, some preferring to suspend operations rather than to sell at unremunerative prices. Bright work of every kind is now very scarce, and the leaf for making fancy tobacco has advanced to such a price in the States, that our manufacturers can scarcely venture to purchase, as the price obtainable here for bright tobacco is not much over the price asked in Louisville for leaf to make it from.

LEAF.

In U. S. Leaf there is nothing doing here, the small lots held on consignments not being suitable for manufacturing purposes. For Upper Canada leaf a good demand exists, and sales can be made at 3½c. to 4½c.

Prices' Current Page.

On the Prices' Current page our readers will find, besides correct quotations of most articles of trade, a complete list of the new failures, with notices of meetings of creditors, appointments of assignees, writs of attachment issued, and applications for discharge; also a comparative statement of the receipts of produce at Montreal, from 1st January of 1864 and 1865, together with a valuable table, showing the imports of the leading items of trade at the port of Montreal, from 1st January of the present year, compared with the same period of 1864, which shows a decrease of 44 per cent.

DAVID MORRICE,

PRODUCE AND GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANT AND MANUFACTURERS' AGENT,
62 ST. PETER STREET.

REFERENCES:

E. H. RUTHERFORD, Esq., Vice-President Upper Canada Bank.
Messrs. JOSEPH MACRAY & BROTHERS, Montreal.
" WM. STEPHENS & CO., " "
Hon. WILLIAM MCMASTER, Toronto.
Messrs. BRYCE, MCMURRICH & CO., Toronto.
" WM. ROSS & CO., " "
" GEORGE MICHIE & CO., " "
" D. McINNIS & CO., Hamilton.
British Correspondents, Messrs. JOHN MOLAREN & CO., Liverpool and Glasgow.
I deal only on Commission. Personal attention given to all Consignments of Flour, Grain, Ashes, Leather, Butter, Coal Oil, &c. I guarantee the highest market prices for all kinds of Produce, having a large and favourable connection with the local consumers of Strong Flour, in bags and barrels. Bags returned promptly. Having ample means, I am enabled to make returns on day of sale.

Sales effected of all kinds of Canadian Manufactures (guaranteed or otherwise).

Consignors may draw against property at two thirds Montreal market price at time. Drafts must be accompanied by Bill of Lading, Railroad or other Receipts. Liberal Cash Advances made on all kinds of Produce.

The lowest Commission charged.
Agent for the celebrated "Great Western" Coal Oil.

THE LEATHER TRADE.

REVIEW FOR HALF YEAR ENDING MAY 30.

THE leather trade of Canada, as is well known to all engaged in it, has, during the past six months, suffered a serious, in fact almost unprecedented depression: this state of things, though very discouraging, has not been peculiar to that trade, but has characterized to an equal extent almost all the other manufacturing and commercial interests of the country. In looking to the future, however, there are reasonable grounds to hope for improvement, for as soon as the present prospect of bounteous crops is realized, the business of the country will again flow on in its wonted volume, and a demand for leather may follow, which the diminished number of tanners will probably find it a profitable business to supply.

During the period under review, prices generally have had a downward tendency, and, since the close of last year, the price of sole leather has been unusually low, while in the New York market hides have been relatively high. Latterly, however, the price of the raw material has declined, while leather has slightly advanced.

The abundance and cheapness of hemlock bark, especially in Lower Canada, has drawn the attention of tanners to the manufacture, on an extensive scale, of Spanish sole, so that not only do they supply Canada, but have a large surplus for exportation. The chief market for this surplus has been Britain, but latterly purchases have been made for the United States and Lower Ports. Canada is, consequently, the cheapest market for hemlock sole-leather in the world, a state of things which would give a decided advantage to Canadian manufacturers of boots and shoes, if they exported to markets at present supplied by other countries. In fact, from the very superior machinery in use here, and the low price of leather and labour, it is not unlikely that Canada may yet supply boots and shoes very extensively for the British market.

The leather trade of Canada is centring more and more in Montreal, on account of the greater convenience of transacting it at a common centre, and the small proportion that freight on leather bears to its value. The plan of drawing on Montreal as stock is finished and sent forward to market, is a great facility to tanners, whilst the credit given to purchasers by the Montreal commission merchants is likewise a facility to them. It thus happens that the purchaser may buy as low in Montreal as he could from the tanner, and yet the tanner get a return which is on the whole more satisfactory.

SPANISH SOLE, No. 1, which was at this time last year 19 to 20 cents, gradually receded to about 17 cents in February last. It is now in moderate demand at from 17 to 18½ cents from poorest to best brands, and according to terms. The quantity on hand is not large, and stocks in process of manufacture are less than at the same period of last year.

SLAUGHTER SOLE.—Receipts of this description have been rather limited, and scarcely equal to the moderate inquiry; rates rule firm from 17½ to 18½ cts. Limed leather has the preference over sweated, and heavy is in better demand than light.

WAXED UPPER.—Till the end of April, few sales were made and stock accumulated. About that time a considerable quantity was disposed of which was pressing on the market, but a very low figure, say from 22 to 24 cents. Latterly, prices have somewhat improved especially for fresh stock, which brings from 25 to 27 cents, and light weights a cent or two higher. Stocks are reduced.

GRAINED UPPER has now an improved inquiry, and prime stock of light and medium substance would find a ready market at present, and probably for several months to come, at remunerative prices.

WAXED CALFSKINS have met a dull market till within the past six weeks, when an active demand has been experienced for heavy skins, say from 30 to 38 lbs., from 60 to 65 cents; light skins are still neglected.

ENAMELLED AND PATENT COW have had a very dull sale, being only required in very small parcels and at lower rates, say 14 to 16 cents.

BUFFED COW.—In this description it has been very difficult to effect sales, even at low prices, and there is now pretty large stock on hand. The price is 10 to 11 cents.

PURBLED COW was in fair request in March and April, but the inquiry has now fallen off; prices ranged from 11½ to 13 cents.

SHEEPSKIN LININGS are in a large supply and have a very limited call at from 22½ to 25 cents per lb.

The quantities of Leather inspected in the city during the week ending June 10, were:—Sides No. 1, 2,801; Sides No. 2, 686; Sides No. 3, 43;—total 3,430 sides. The following are current prices:—

Hemlock Spanish Sole No. 1 (b.b.) per lb.	18 to 19
Do do No. 2	15 to 16
Do do No. 1, (ordinary)	16½ to 17½
Do do No. 2, do	14 to 15
Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1	17½ to 18½
Do do No. 2	15 to 16
Waxed Upper, light and medium	24 to 27½
Do do heavy	23 to 24
Grained do	27 to 32
Splits do large	18 to 22
Do do small	11 to 16
Kips, City Slaughter, ex quality (whole)	37½ to 45
Do ordinary	30 to 35
Calf Skin (27 to 33 lbs. per doz.)	55 to 62½
Do (18 to 26 lbs per doz.)	50 to 55
Sheep Skin Linings	22½ to 27½
Harness	18 to 21
Skirting	25 to 20
Buffed Cow, per foot	11 to 12
Enamelled Cow do	14 to 15
Patent Cow do	16 to 17
Purbled Cow do	13 to 17½

Palermo Sumac, per bag of 160 lbs. \$8.00 to \$10.00

JOHN DOUGAL & CO.,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS, St. Paul Street.