

unchanged at 110 for green, and nothing doing in cured. *Sheepskins*.—There are very few green offerings, and prices of these few range from \$1.60 to 2.00 according to quality. *Lambskins*.—A few are changing hands.

HOPS.—Are very quiet at weak prices with holders more inclined to offer concessions. First-class could be had in lots at 35c, but no sales are reported.

LEATHER.—Some slight improvement is noted in trade, but the sum total of business is still small, and scarcely any round lots are moving. The only transaction of consequence was the sale of a lot of 200 sides of sole at 25c. Prices of all sorts, save native stocks, are firm. Foreign goods remain much the same as before. Cod oil is firm and expected to remain so.

LUMBER.—Is rather quiet and is expected to continue so until there is some improvement across the lake. The check to building operations here from tight money has hurt the coal trade a good deal. Receipts are coming in slowly, but stocks are ample. Prices are weak and in some cases have declined. The commoner grades are down \$1 to 2 per M, and shingles also are easier.

PETROLEUM.—There has been no change in prices, though there seems to have been some movement on foot to advance them 2c. Trade is quiet, but fairly good for the season.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter*.—There is but little doing in shipping lots, as they are neither offered nor wanted; the only transaction reported is the sale of a lot of 150 packages at 13½c. Choice new dairy is wanted for local use at 18 to 20c. Box butter is selling rather better at 16 to 18c. English advices are discouraging and prices again lower at 82s. 6d. to 87s. 6d. for extra. *Cheese*.—Remains quiet and unchanged at 14 to 14½c for small lots. *Eggs*.—Are still abundant, but are selling more readily than at our last at 12½ to 13c. *Pork*.—Small lots have been in fair demand at \$21.50 to 22, but nothing doing in large. *Bacon*.—Is selling fairly well in small lots, and at advancing prices in some cases. Cumberland brings 10½ to 10¾c. in tons and under; a lot of 100 sides of long clear sold at 11½c. Shoulders are firm at 8½ to 9c. Smoked meats are very firm; rolls bring 13½ to 14½c.; shoulders about 10c., and Cumberland 11½ to 12½c. *Hams*.—Are firm and in fair demand; canvassed have sold in lots of 100 at 13½c.; but small lots bring up to 14½c.; smoked range from 13 to 13½c., the former for long cut. *Lard*.—Prices have again advanced; tinnets are going off freely in small lots at 15 to 15½c. *Hogs*.—Sell readily on the street at \$8.75 to \$9.25. *Dried Apples*.—Are going off more freely and at an advance; the range now is 8½ to 9c.

SALT.—Both Liverpool and Goderich are quiet, and unchanged at former prices.

SEEDS.—The demand for clover is less active than at our last, and prices are easier, lots are not worth over \$10.00 to 10.25, but Hungarian is still in demand at \$3.00 per cental. Dealers are selling clover at \$10.50 to 10.75; timothy at \$5.25 to 5.50; tares at \$3.00 to 3.50, and Hungarian at \$3.25 per cental.

WOOL.—The feeling generally seems to be firm, but the market is very quiet. There was one lot of 4,500 lbs., of fleece clothing sold at 36½c, and a few small lots of super have changed hands at 32½c, round lots are to be had at 32c, though some holders ask 33c and look for firmer prices.

—In the House of Assembly at Halifax the Provincial Secretary introduced a bill to further encourage the building of railways. It provides that an additional subsidy of \$2,000 a mile be granted the Western Counties Railway Company to assist in building the line from Annapolis to Yarmouth; \$4,000 per mile to any company to assist in building a railway from the

Strait of Canso to Broad Cove, touching the Bras D'Or; \$4,000 per mile to any company to build a line from Middleton to Bridgewater, Malone Bay, Lunenburg, and Liverpool.

PREPARATION OF HIDES.—One of the earliest processes in the preparation of hides for tanning is the removal of the hair. This is sometimes affected by inducing a slight putrefaction, which loosens the epidermis and renders the hairs easily detachable. But in this country the method usually adopted is to place the hides in a large vat or pit containing milk of lime, in which they are frequently moved, so as to allow the lime to act equally on every part. After from sixteen to twenty days the hair is easily removed by a blunt scraper. In Germany, Austria and Belgium, however, the trade is reported to have all but abandoned the old method of unhairing, in favour of one in which sulphide of sodium is the depilatory agent, the sulphide of soda in a crystalline form being now especially manufactured for the purpose in Germany. The process is modified in various ways to meet the peculiarities of the metal operated upon. Sometimes, where it is necessary that the hair should be removed as quickly as possible, as in the case of sole leather, the hides are painted with a paste consisting of one part of crystallised sulphide of sodium and three parts of lime. The hides are covered with damp matting to prevent the drying of the paste, and in fifteen or twenty hours the process is complete, and the hides can be unhaired. In other cases the skins are steeped in a solution of sulphide of sodium—1 lb to 100 quarts—when the time required is two or three days. When the hides are to be unhaired by hand, it is necessary that they should be first well rinsed with water; and the men employed in the laying on the paste are usually provided with india-rubber gloves, on account of its corrosive properties.

MONTREAL PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this society was held some weeks ago. The business of the year has been satisfactory. Nine per cent. of a dividend has been paid. The balance due on existing loans is \$295,737.10. The subscribed capital is now \$346,400. Profit and loss account; received interest on mortgages, \$40,121.26; interest and fines, \$850.98; premium on new stock, \$9,283.16. Total, \$50,235.40. Paid, \$34,478.60, leaving a balance to contingent account of \$15,776.80. The present value of loans is \$487,384.76. The old officers and Board of Directors were re-elected as follows: Directors—Henry Thomas, Esq., President; George H. Frothingham, Esq., Vice-President; R. Esdaile, Esq.; T. Hart, Esq.; A. W. Ogilvie, Esq.; T. Caverhill, Esq.; W. F. Kay, Esq.; M. H. Gault, Esq.; Thomas Craig, Secretary-Treasurer.

—The annual budget was submitted to the British House of Commons on the 15th inst., shows that the surplus of receipts over expenditure for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1875, was £593,833. The expenditure for the current fiscal year are estimated at £75,260,000, and the revenues at £75,685,000, leaving a surplus of £417,000. The budget includes the following plan for the reduction of the public debt:—The charge on account of the debt for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1876, is estimated at £7,215,000. This charge is to be gradually increased until it amounts £28,000,000, at which figure it shall permanently remain. The yearly overplus which is not required for the payment of the interest shall be applied to the redemption of the debt, thus in 30 years £213,000,000 of the debt can be cancelled.

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