

also said that the retail dealers in American hog products are getting the same prices as ten years ago in Europe as here, and that no more people are able to buy them than before, while these dealers never made so big a profit as now. But that when their home product comes on market it is likely to come down to a parity with wholesale prices. This, he says, is what has prevented an increased consumption of our products at this year's abnormal prices."

PRODUCE AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There continues to be large receipts of butter in this market, and advices show that larger quantities are being held in the country than had been expected. Some of the creameries, it is said, are holding the entire season's output. We can but consider this policy of holding back dairy products a serious mistake, and one that must cause, taking the season as a whole, losses to both makers, dealers and consumers. We quote dairy butter:—Tubs, 13 to 14c.; pound prints, 14 to 15c. per pound. The lower grades are accumulating, prices ranging from 9c. downward, according to quality. Creamery is dearer in price on account of the large receipts and lower cables from the United Kingdom this week. We quote:—Tubs, 17 to 18c.; pound prints, 18 to 19c. per pound. In some cases, for the best established brands, 25 cents is paid for pound prints. The feeling in cheese is easier this week. English advices indicate weakening markets abroad and a falling off in values. Last week we thought an excellent time for sales to be made, and the present events confirm our views. Receipts of eggs on the Toronto market have been more than requirements. Cable advices from abroad show larger arrivals in the United Kingdom and easier markets. The decline in price is about 1c. per dozen all round. We quote:—No. 1, 12 to 12½c.; No. 2, 6 to 7c. per dozen. This market is overstocked with the culls of Western Ontario egg exporters, which are being sold at a sacrifice.

WOOL.—Business remains very depressed. In the United States no improvement has taken place in either wool or woollen goods. A ray of hope, however, comes from England. It is believed there that the downward course in values of colonial wool, which has been almost uninterrupted since the last series of London sales, has been stayed. There yet remains sufficient time before the next series of sales for an improvement to take place. The consumptive demand from the Canadian mills is small. A number of mills have in a spirit of economy cut down wages of their employees and dismissed a number of hands.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 16th Sept., 1896.

ASHES.—The European demand remains inactive, and recent shipments have been few, and small in size. Second quality of pots are easier at \$3.05; firsts, \$3.50 to 3.55. Pearls are nominal at \$4.50, but a few poor tares have been recently bought below this figure. There are in store 214 pots and 75 pearls.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The moderate improvement in the demand for cements, noted last week, is fairly maintained, and a few transactions involving several hundred barrels each are reported, with a fair sprinkling of smaller orders. Prices are steady at \$1.90 to 2.00 for English; Belgian, \$1.80 to 1.90. Bricks are moving in small lots at \$15.00 to 21.00, as to lot and brand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Last week's exports of cheese were again comparatively light, being 12,290 boxes to London; 8,868 boxes to Bristol; 6,234 boxes to Liverpool, and smaller lots to Manchester, Glasgow and Belfast, making in all 32,001 boxes. The English market advanced a shilling a cwt. on Saturday for both white and colored, and the local market is again firmer. The demand for the usual Monday receipts of French country cheese was brisk at 9½ to 9¾c.; but 9¾c. seems about the present limit for Western. Butter has not shown any recent gain, and 17½ to 18c. is a full quotation for choice creamery. Shipments to England last week were about 7,000 packages. Eggs are firmer at 11½ to 12c.

DRY GOODS.—The cheap exhibition excursions have brought in quite a few dry goods buyers from near by districts, who have bought moderate bills as a rule, and there have also been some merchants from distant points in Western Ontario, Nova Scotia, etc., who have made pretty large selections in some cases, so

[CHAPTER I]

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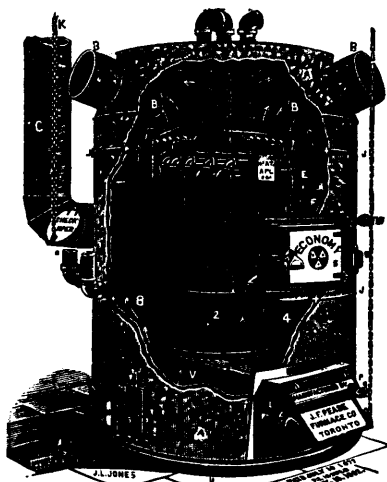
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