

10 cents since last report, made two weeks ago. The average price may be called \$1.15 f.o.b., but transactions are very few. A speculative tendency to take hold is manifest, which will be made active as soon as the House of Commons has pronounced its verdict. Refined is sustained at 11c., London freights. Business in this likewise waits on the settlement of the fire test. A very important communication from Mr. McLagan, Refiner, Guelph, appeared in Saturday's *Globe* (10th inst.) on the subject of the standard of testing. He has opened up a discussion that will only stop when the close test is abolished in Canada. It has been given up elsewhere, and the open test must come in use here too,—from the simple fact that much more uniform testing can be had by the one than the other.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 13th April, 1880.

Since this day week we have had a return of wintry weather, which however to-day appears to be giving way, the roads are very bad and for the time being business in the country is at a standstill. Stocks in the hands of merchants there are said not to be much broken in upon. Hardware is very dull with a decided downward tendency and unsettled market, especially is this the case with heavy goods, and quotations at the moment are not very reliable. Sellers being willing to make concessions to intending purchasers. Sugar has declined since this day week but the demand is not active, indeed there is no branch of the wholesale trade in the city that can be said to be "booming" just now. The opening of navigation will doubtless improve matters.

ASHES.—Pots.—The state of the ashes market has not varied much since our last, receipts are very light, and prices are steady at \$3.75. *Pearls*, there is a weaker feeling for this sort of ash, but no transactions have taken place for some time and price is nominal. The stocks at present in store are Pots 770 brls and Pearls 345 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—A number of sorting orders have been coming in during the last week but stocks are not yet much broken in upon, a fair sorting trade is looked for later on in the season. Prices still continue firm at late quotations.

CATTLE.—The stock offering yesterday was large and many of them of very superior quality. All meeting with a ready sale at good paying prices, ranging from 3½ to 5½c, but the bulk of sales were within our range. Hogs were scarce and sales reported at \$5.25 and 6.00 per 100 lbs live weight according to quality. *Calves* brought from \$1.50 to 4.00 each; *Spring Lambs* \$4.50 to 6.00.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Since the breaking up of the roads, business in this line has been quiet, but large orders are on hand for shipment on the opening of navigation. There is no quotable change in any article on our list except in Shellac, which is easier. Other chemicals though unchanged are firm. We quote *Bi Carb Soda*, \$3.90 to 4.00; *Soda Ash*, \$2.75 to 3.00; *Bi Chromate of Potash*, \$1.6½ to 1.7½; *Refined Borax*, 14 to 15c; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 31 to 32½; ditto ground, 32½ to 35; *Caustic Soda*, \$3.00 to 3.50; *Sugar of Lead*, 12½ to 15½c; *Bleaching Powder*, \$2.25 to 2.50; *Alum*, \$2.00 to 2.25; *Copperas*, per 100 lbs \$1.25; *Sulphur* \$3.25 to 3.50; *Roll Sulphur*, \$2.25 to 2.50; *Epsom Salts*, 1.75 to \$2.00; *Sal Soda*, \$1.50 to 1.75; *Saltpetre*, \$9.00 to 9.50; *Sulphate of Cop.*, \$7.00 to 8.00; *Whiting*, 65 to 70c; *Opium*, \$8.75 to 9.50; *Quinine*, \$4.25 to 4.50; *Iodide of Potass*, \$6.50 to 6.75; *Bromide of Pot-*

ass, 50 to 55c; *Morphia*, \$3.75 to 3.90; *Castor oil*, 13 to 14c; *Cod Liver oil*, \$1.00 to 1.10; *Shellac*, 45 to 50c.

DRY GOODS.—Business without being large has kept houses moderately well employed; few buyers have been in the city, but those that have been, purchased freely. Manufactures of cottons and woollens are fully employed and have orders to work upon for sometime to come. The market in sympathy with England shows considerable firmness. Remittances have been pretty good the past week.

FURS.—Leipsic Fair opened briskly on the 5th instant. Coon and mink sold freely. Skunk declined 10 per cent., and not all sold. Muskrats seem to have done very poorly, declining 10 per cent. and only one third sold, this, with the decline of 10 per cent. in March shows a very weak market while the quantity handling there has been very large. Our local market continues very quiet, and no change in prices to note, our quotations for rats are considered to be the outside that skins will reach here, but there are none offered yet although some traders have been in asking for quotations. We repeat last week's quotations. *Mink* prime dark large, \$1.25 to 1.40; ditto small, 75c. to \$1.00; *Marten*, prime, 75c. to \$1.00; *Beaver* prime, dark, per lb. \$2.00 to 2.25; *Bear* large, \$6.00 to 8.00; ditto small, \$2.00 to 4.00; *Red Fox*, \$1.50 to 1.60; *Musk Rat* fall, 8 to 10c; winter 10 to 12½c; spring, 15 to 17c; *Lynx* prime large \$1.00 to 1.50; *Skunk* prime, dark, large, 40 to 60c; ditto white, large, 20 to 40c. *Raccoon* prime, 40 to 60c; *Fisher* prime, \$4.00 to 6.00; *Otter*, prime dark, 6.00 to 8.00.

FREIGHTS.—There has been some enquiry for tonnage for shipments in May, but we have heard of no engagements, the feeling however is that freights at opening of navigation will rule high.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the past week 6,830 brls., total receipts from 1st January to date 78,404 brls., being a decrease of 78,252 brls. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1879. Shipments for the past week 4,057 brls, total shipments from 1st Jan. to date, 35,624 brls. showing a decrease of 26,454 brls. on the shipments for the corresponding period of 1879. Towards the close of last week there was a rather better demand for flour, but this has subsided, and quietness again rules. Any business doing being chiefly in strong flour, the value of which is well maintained, market closes dull with only a small demand. We quote *Superior Extra* \$6.10 to 6.15; *Extra Superfine*, 6.05 to 6.00; *Fancy 5-7½ Spring Extra*, \$5.95 to 6.00; *Superfine*, \$5.55 to 5.60; *Strong Baker's Flour*, \$6.50 to 6.75; *Fin*, \$5.00 to 5.10; *Middlings*, \$4.35 to 4.50; *Pollards*, \$4.00 to 0.00; *Ontario Bags*, \$2.90 to \$3.00; *Oatmeal*, 4.60; *Cornmeal*, 3.00.

GRAIN.—*Wh. at.*—Receipts for the past week 33,500 bushels. Total receipts from 1st Jan. to date 407,975 bushels being a decrease of 189,508 bushels on the receipts for the same period of 1879. Shipments for the past week 22,710 bu. Total shipments from 1st January to date, 315,194 bushels being a decrease of 279,660 bushels on the shipments for the corresponding period of 1879. There is nothing of any consequence doing in any kind of grain, and quotations may be taken as nominal. Canada spring wheat \$1.37 to 1.39; *Peas* 81 to 82c. per 66 lbs.; *Oats* 32c.; *Maise*, *Barley* and *Rye* in absence of sales are quite nominal. With the early prospect of open navigation we expect daily to hear of cargo sales for May and June delivery.

GROCERIES.—*Teas.*—Transactions are within small compass, buyers are apparently holding off expecting lower prices, but holders are not disposed to make any further concessions. Japans are worth from 25 to 55c according to grade, our quotations being extreme figures. Congou

30 to 70c; Young Hyson 32 to 70c; *Coffee.*—Prices are pretty firm at quotations but the demand is limited to small job lots; we quote Jamaica 18 to 20c; Maracaibo 23 to 24c; old Government Java 26 to 28c; Rio 18 to 21c; *Sugar.*—The sugar market is pretty dull, few sales of any magnitude are transpiring, notwithstanding prices have given way, and we lower our quotations. Paris lumps 10½ to 10¾c; Granulated 9½ to 10c; Grocers A 9½ to 9¾c; Yellow 8 to 9c; There is little change in *Raw Sugar*, it has not been much enquired for, holders are asking from 7½c to 8½c; *Molasses* dull and easier, we now quote Barbadoes 36 to 40c; Trinidad 30 to 33c; Porto Rico 34 to 36c. *Rice* is easier, holders wishing to clear out stocks before the spring arrivals, it can now be had from \$4.15 to 4.30; Tapioca \$7.75 to 9.00; Sago 6.00 to 6.50; *Spices.*—Stocks are getting low, and with a moderate jobbing demand prices are well maintained. The only change since last Tuesday being in White pepper, which we quote 15½ to 17c. *Fruit* sales are small and not very numerous. Valencia Raisins are scarce and very few can be had at our quotation of 8½ to 8¾c. all kinds of fruit are high and holders are firm at last weeks quotations.

HIDES.—The demand for hides is pretty brisk among dealers, and butchers have managed to advance prices to 10½, 9½ and 8½ respectively for Nos 1, 2, and 3. Some of them are asking as high as \$11 and \$12.00 but we have not heard of these prices being given. Tanners are also buying at present prices. *Calfskins* 14c. per lb; *Lambskins* 20 to 25c.

HARDWARE.—All lines of hardware are dull and quiet, and prices of heavy goods are decidedly easier. Merchants are willing to make concessions to effect sales but with little result. Buyers and sellers at the moment are at a loss to find out what the future will be. Some are sanguine of higher prices, but the greater number seem to think there is no hurry to buy and prefer taking their chance as to price. We do not alter the quotations although private reductions will be made to intending purchasers.

LEATHER.—Business continues quiet with only moderate sales taking place. Holders generally are firm on account of the recent advance in the price of hides, but quotations are unchanged. Receipts are light. We continue to quote *Hemlock Spanish Sole* No. 1, B. A. 26 to 27½c; ditto No. 2, B. A., 24 to 25½c; No. 1, *Ordinary*, 25 to 26c; No. 2, ditto, 23c to 24; *Buffalo Sole*, No. 1, 22 to 23c; ditto No. 2, 20 to 21c; *Hemlock Slaughter*, No. 1, 27 to 30c; *Waxed Upper*, light and medium, 37 to 42½c; ditto, heavy, 35 to 38c; *Grained*, 35 to 40c; *Splits*, large, 28 to 34c; ditto, small, 25 to 30c; *Calfskins*, (27 to 36 lbs.) 55 to 70c; per lb., ditto (18 to 26 lbs.) 50 to 60c per lb; *Sheepskin linings*, 30 to 50c; *Harness*, 24 to 34c; *Buffed cow*, 14 to 17c; *Enamelled cow*, 15 to 17c; *Patent Cow*, 15 to 17c; *Pebbled Cow*, 13 to 17c; *Rough*, 24 to 28c.

OILS.—*Petroleum.*—Owing to the breaking up of the winter roads the demand has been very quiet and prices favor buyers. The present price in London is 11c. per gall, and in this market we now quote carlots 13½ to 14c. in store. Broken lots 14½c. single brls. 15 to 15½c. *Coal Oil* is the turn easier and would be sold at 45 to 47½c. but there is hardly any demand at present. *Seal* is firmer and holders are not much inclined to make concessions, steam refined 57½ to 60c. and pale 50 to 52½c. *Linseed oil* is firm at quotations, 67 to 68c. for boiled, and 64 to 65c. for raw. *Olive* \$1.05 to 1.25.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter.*—Receipts 157 packages; Shipments 339 pkgs. The market is firm, and for want of stock there has not been much doing, any new butter coming in found ready buyers at from 25 to 30c last week for local consumption, but owing to pretty free arrivals yesterday the outside price cannot be called over 27c. at which price it is held, but