

## MARKET CONDITIONS.

Montreal, March 10th, 1909.

Advices from Pennsylvania are to the effect that the pig-iron business has practically been suspended. It is certain, however, that furnaces would take less for their iron than they would a week ago. The result is that buyers are still holding off, awaiting lower prices. The market is down 25c. as compared with a week ago, and 50c. as compared with two weeks ago. The prices of billets have declined to \$25, from \$26.20, delivered, and bars are now quoted \$1.42, delivered, against \$1.45, last week. It was thought that reductions in wages and cheaper scrap would probably put the market in much better shape for business.

The English market is in sympathy with the pessimistic reports from the United States. Lack of orders from continental points, coupled with the quiet home trade, and increased stocks, all tend to the reduction in prices. As a matter of fact, selling prices are to-day so close to cost, that there is little likelihood of further reductions, but there is much speculation, the result of which is difficult to foresee. Stocks of foundry iron, in store, February 25th, amounted to 171,000 tons, as against 88,000 tons the same day last year. This is not a heavy stock as compared with many previous years, but coupled with the quiet tone prevailing, it is not reassuring to makers. Consumers are only buying to cover present requirements.

In the local market, the pig-iron situation is not materially effected by the uncertainty of prices in the United States, excepting as that is reflected on the English and Scottish markets from where considerable supplies are purchased for importation into Canada. Demand at present continues good, particularly for delivery after navigation opens, and it is expected that several good round lots will be closed very shortly by the large consumers. In fact, some heavy tonnage has been closed during the past week. Stocks in store are practically nil, and some lots are being taken at winter freight to take care of immediate requirements. Canadian furnaces are not pressing sales of pig to the extent that they have been during the year 1908. The situation is, generally speaking, hopeful, and heavy business is expected to develop during the next few weeks. The feeling among importers is that the declines in the United States were partly brought about to influence the tariff commission. Notwithstanding the statement credited to some of the iron and steel makers, that wages would be maintained, it is possible that a reduction may be brought about within the next few months in order to further influence the action of the commissioners.

The local market is marking time and awaiting further developments in the United States. No prices have been changed, officially, during the past few weeks; and the past week has been as unproductive of results as its predecessors, although the general idea appears to be that sellers are prepared to shade prices somewhat.

**Antimony.**—The market is steady at 0 to 9%.

**Bar Iron and Steel.**—Prices are steady all round, and trade is dull. Bar iron, \$1.90 per 100 pounds; best refined horseshoe, \$2.15; forged iron, \$2.05; mild steel, \$2.00; sleigh shoe steel, \$1.90 for 1 x 3/4-base; tire steel, \$1.95 for 1 x 3/4-base; toe calk steel, \$2.40; machine steel, iron finish, \$2.10; smooth finish, \$2.75.

**Boiler Tubes.**—The market is steady, quotations being as follows: 2-inch tubes, 8 1/2c.; 2 1/2-inch, 10c.; 3-inch, 11 1/2c.; 3 1/2-inch, 14 1/2c.; 4-inch, 19c.

**Building Paper.**—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounces, \$1.60 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.40 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, No. 1, 55c. per roll of 400 square feet; No. 2, 35c.; dry sheathing, No. 1, 45c. per roll of 400 square feet, No. 2, 28c. (See Roofing; also Tar and Pitch).

**Cement.**—Quotations are for car lots, f.o.b., Montreal. Canadian cement is \$1.55 to \$1.65 per 350-lb. bbl., in 4 cotton bags, adding 10c. for each bag. Good bags re-purchased at 10c. each. Paper bags cost 2 1/2c. extra, or 10c. per bbl. weight. English cement is \$1.65 to \$1.85 per 350-lb. bbl. in 4 jute sacks (for which add 8c. each) and \$2.20 to \$2.40 in wood. Begian cement is \$1.60 to \$1.65 in bags—bags extra—and \$2.10 in wood.

**Chain.**—The market is steady as follows: 1/4-inch, \$5.30; 5/16-inch, \$4.05; 3/8-inch, \$3.65; 7/16-inch, \$3.45; 1/2-inch, \$3.20; 9/16-inch, \$3.15; 5/8-inch, \$3.05; 3/4-inch, \$3; 7/8-inch, \$2.95; 1 inch, \$2.95.

**Copper.**—The market is about steady at 14 1/2 to 15c. per lb. Demand continues limited.

**Explosives and Accessories.**—Dynamite, 50-lb. cases, 40 per cent. profit, 18c. in single case lots, Montreal. Blasting powder, 25-lb. kegs, \$2.25 per keg. Special quotations on large lots of dynamite and powder. Detonator caps, case lots, containing 10,000, 75c. per 100; broken lots, \$1. Electric blasting apparatus:—Batteries, 1 to 10 holes, \$15; 1 to 20 holes, \$25; 1 to 30 holes, \$35; 1 to 40 holes, \$50. Wire, leading, 1c. per foot; connecting, 50c. per lb. Fuses, platinum, single strength, per 100 fuses: 4-ft. wires, \$3.50; 6-ft. wires, \$4; 8-ft. wires, \$4.50; 10-ft. wires, \$5. Double strength fuses, 1 1/2 extra, per 100 fuses. Fuses, time, double-tape, \$6 per 1,000 feet.

**Galvanized Iron.**—The market is steady. Prices, basis, 28-gauge, are: Queen's Head, \$4.40; Comet, \$4.25; Gorbals' Best, \$4.25; Apollo, 10 1/4 oz., \$4.35. Add 25c. to above figures for less than case lots; 26-gauge is 25c. less than 28-gauge. American 28-gauge and English 26 are equivalents, as are American 10 1/4 oz., and English 28-gauge.

**Galvanized Pipe.**—(See Pipe, Wrought and Galvanized).

**Iron.**—Prices are rather higher, and the outlook is steady. The following prices are ex-store: Canadian pig, \$18.50 to \$19.50 per ton; No. 1 Summerlee, \$21 to \$22; No. 2 selected Summerlee, \$20.50 to \$21.50; Carron soft, \$20.25 to \$20.75; No. 3 Clarence, \$19 to \$20 per ton.

**Laths.**—See Lumber, etc.

**Lead.**—Trail lead is firmer, at \$3.75 to \$3.85 per 100 pounds, ex-store.

**Lead Wool.**—\$10.50 per hundred, \$200 per ton, f.o.b., factory.

**Lumber, Etc.**—Prices on lumber are for car lots, to contractors, at mill points, carrying a freight rate of \$1.50. At the moment, the market is exceptionally irregular and prices are uncertain. Red pine, mill culls out, \$18 to \$22 per 1,000 feet; white pine, mill culls, \$22 to \$25. Spruce, 1-in. by 4-in. and up, \$16 to \$18 per 1,000 ft.; mill culls, \$14 to \$16. Hemlock, log run, culls out, \$14 to \$16. Railway Ties: Standard Railway ties, hemlock or cedar, 35 to 45c. each, on a 5c. rate to Montreal. Telegraph Poles: Seven-inch top, cedar poles, 25-ft. poles, \$1.35 to \$1.50 each; 30-ft., \$1.75 to \$2; 35-ft., \$2.75 to \$3.25 each, at manufacturers' points, with 5c. freight rate to Montreal. Laths: Quotations, per 1,000 laths, at points carrying \$1.50 freight rate to Montreal, \$2 to \$3. Shingles: Cedar shingles, same conditions as laths, X, \$1.50; XX, \$2.50; XXX, \$3. Nails.—Demand for nails is moderate, but prices are steady at \$2.30 per keg for cut, and \$2.25 for wire, base prices.

**Pipe—Cast Iron.** The market continues steady at \$33 for 8-inch pipe and larger; \$34 for 6-inch pipe; \$34 for 5-inch, and \$34 for 4-inch at the foundry. Pipe, specials, \$3.10 per 100 pounds. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

**Pipe—Wrought and Galvanized.** The market is steady, moderate-sized lots being: 1-4-inch, \$5.50 with 63 per cent. off for black, and 48 per cent. off for galvanized; 1/2-inch, \$5.50, with 59 per cent. off for black and 44 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 60 per cent. off for black and 59 per cent. off for galvanized: 3/4-inch, \$8.50; 1-inch, \$11.50; 1 1/4-inch, \$16.50; 1 1/2-inch, \$22.50; 1 3/4-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; 2 1/2-inch, \$57.50; 3-inch, \$75.50; 3 1/2-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

**Rails.**—Quotations on steel rails are necessarily only approximate and depend upon specification, quantity and delivery required. A range of

\$31.50 to \$32.50 is given for 60-lb., 70-lb., 80-lb., 85-lb., 90-lb., and 100-lb. rails, per gross ton of 2,240 lbs., f.o.b. mill. Re-laying rails are quoted at \$27 to \$29 per ton, according to condition of rail and location.

**Railway Ties.**—See Lumber, etc.

**Roofing.**—Ready roofing, two-ply, 64c. per roll; three-ply, 86c. per roll of 100 square feet. (See Building Paper; also Tar and Pitch).

**Rope.**—Prices are steady, at 9 1/2c. per lb. for sisal, and 12c. for Manila. Wire rope, crucible steel, six-strands, nineteen wires; 1-4-in., \$2.75; 5-16, \$3.75; 3-8, \$4.75; 1-2, \$6; 5-8, \$7.25; 3-4, \$8.50; 7-8, \$10; 1-in., \$12 per 100 feet.

**Spikes.**—Railway spikes are in dull demand and prices are steady at \$2.40 per 100 pounds, base of 5/4 x 9-16. Ship spikes are also dull and steady at \$3 per 100 pounds, base of 3/4 x 10-inch, and 3/4 x 12-inch.

**Steel Shafting.**—Prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is on the dull side.

**Steel Plates.**—The market is steady. Quotations are: \$2.15 for 3-16; \$2.25 for 1/4, and \$2.15 for 1/2 and thicker; 12-gauge being \$2.30; 14-gauge, \$2.15; and 16-gauge, \$2.10.

**Telegraph Poles.**—See Lumber, etc.

**Tar and Pitch.**—Coal tar, \$4 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing about 100 pounds, roofing tar, \$3.15 per barrel; roofing pitch, No. 1, \$1 per 100 pounds; and No. 2, 50c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$8.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, and \$4.75 per half-barrel; pine pitch, \$4 per barrel of 180 to 200 pound. (See building paper; also roofing.)

**Tin.**—Prices are 32c. to 32 1/2c.

**Zinc.**—The market is steady at 5 1/2 to 5 3/4c.

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Winnipeg, March 9th, 1909.

There is no doubt in the minds of the dealers and contractors but that this spring will be an exceptionally busy one in the building trades in Winnipeg and Western Canada, and from present indications it is very evident that this will be the case. The dealers are making every preparation for a busy season, and the number of projected buildings and structures are very large. There is no particular change in the prices on the local market as yet, but a sale of cement was put through last week to the city of Winnipeg of 20,000 barrels at a very low figure. The brick yards supplying the Winnipeg demand report that their capacity will be taxed this season. Their output is estimated at from 45 to 50 million brick. The brick yards are a very accurate thermometer of the building situation, and it is felt that 1909 will be the greatest building year in the history of Winnipeg, surpassing the banner year of 1906. The instrument dealers report active demand for transit and levels, and Messrs. E. R. Watts & Sons are kept very busy in their Winnipeg branch, with repair work, as theirs is the only place in Western Canada where instruments can be repaired and adjusted.

The prices on the local market are as reported below:—

**Anvils.**—Per pound, 10 to 12 1/2c.; Buckworth anvils, 80 lbs., and up, 10 1/2c.; anvil and vice combined, each, \$5.50.

**Bar Iron.**—\$2.50 to \$2.60.

**Beams and Channels.**—\$3 to \$3.25 per 100 up to 15-inch.

**Building Paper.**—4 1/2 to 7c. per pound. No. 1 tarred, 8c. per roll; plain, 6c.; No. 2 tarred, 6 1/2c.; plain, 5c.

**Bricks.**—\$11, \$12, \$13 per 1,000, three grades.

**Cement.**—\$2.65 to \$2.75 per barrel.

**Chain.**—Coil, proof, 1/4-inch, \$7; 5-16-inch, \$5.50; 3/8-inch, \$4.90; 7-16-inch, \$4.75; 1/2-inch, \$4.40; 3/4-inch, \$4.20; 1/2-inch, \$4.05; logging chain, 5-16-inch, \$6.50; 3/8-inch, \$6; 1/2-inch, \$8.50; jack iron, single, per dozen yards 15c. to 75c.; double, 25c. to \$1; trace-chains, per dozen, \$5.25 to \$6.

**Dynamite.**—\$11 to \$13 per case.

**Hair.**—Plaster's, 80 to 90 cents per bale.

**Hinges.**—Heavy T and strap, per 100 lbs., \$6 to \$7.50; light, do., 65 per cent.; screw hook and hinge, 6 to 10 inches, 5 1/4c. per lb.; 12 inches up, per lb., 4 1/4c.

**Iron.**—Swedish iron, 100 lbs., \$4.75 base; sheet, black, 14 to 22 gauge, \$3.75; 24-gauge, \$3.90; 26-gauge, \$4; 28-gauge, \$4.10. Galvanized—American, 18 to 20-gauge, \$4.40; 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.65; 26-gauge, \$4.65; 28-gauge, \$4.90; 30-gauge, \$5.15 per 100 lbs. Queen's Head, 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.65; 26-gauge English or 30-gauge American, \$4.90; 30-gauge American, \$5.15; Fleur de Lis, 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.50; 28-gauge American, \$4.75; 30-gauge American, \$5. Lead Wool.—\$10.50 per hundred, \$200 per ton, f.o.b., Toronto.

**Pipe.**—Iron, black, per 100 feet, 1/4-inch, \$2.50; 3/8-inch, \$2.80; 1/2-inch, \$3.40; 3/4-inch, \$4.60; 1-inch, \$6.60; 1 1/4-inch, \$9; 1 1/2-inch, \$10.75; 2-inch, \$14.40; galvanized, 1/4-inch, \$4.25; 3/8-inch, \$5.75; 1-inch, \$8.35; 1 1/4-inch, \$11.25; 1 1/2-inch, \$13.60; 2-inch, \$18.10. Lead, 6 1/2c. per lb.

**Picks.**—Clay, \$5 dozen; pick mattocks, \$6 per dozen; cleavishes, 7c. per lb.

**Pitch.**—Pine, \$6.50 per barrel; in less than barrel lots, 4c. per lb.; roofing pitch, \$1. per cwt.

**Plaster.**—Per barrel, \$3.

**Roofing Paper.**—60 to 67 1/2c. per roll.

**Lumber.**—No. 1 pine, spruce, tamarac, British Columbia fir and cedar—1 x 4, 2 x 6, 2 x 8, 2 to 16 feet, \$27.25, 2 x 20 up to 32 feet, \$38.

**Nails.**—\$4 to \$4.25 per 100. Wire base, \$2.85; cut base, \$2.90.

**Tool Steel.**—8 1/2 to 15c. per pound.

**Timber.**—Rough, 8 x 2 to 14 x 16 up to 32 feet, \$34; 6 x 20, 8 x 20 up to 32 feet, \$48; dressed, \$37.50 to \$48.25.

**Boards.**—Common pine, 8-inch to 12-inch wide, \$38 to \$45; siding, No. 1 white pine, 6-inch, \$55; cull red or white pine or spruce, 6-inch, \$34; No. 1 clear cedar, 6-inch, 8 to 16 ft., \$60; Nos. 1 and 2 British Columbia spruce, 6-inch, \$55; No. 3, \$45.

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Toronto, March 11th, 1909.

The slow movement of a between-seasons time characterizes several branches of the building trade. Timber and lumber, cement and brick, metal goods, are all affected in this way. In lumber, spruce and hemlock continue to supply the market in many directions where coarse pine was formerly used, and both are held fairly firm. British Columbia shingles are held firmer; white pine lath of 48 inches, scarce, and higher, the 32-inch are in market, as quoted in our prices current.

Advices from the United States respecting the drop in base price of structural steel are not yet definite. Matters still seem in a nebulous state, according to one account there has been a drop of \$4 per ton, another authority says only \$2.50. Boiler plates and boiler heads are lower here. No change in boiler tubes yet, but there will be, we are told. While there was a drop in pipe a few days ago, it is predicted that it must go up again before long.

The following are wholesale prices for Toronto, where not otherwise explained, although for broken quantities higher prices are quoted:—

**Antimony.**—Price lower, at 9 1/2c. Movement quite limited.

**Axes.**—Standard makes, double bitted, \$8 to \$10; single bitted, per dozen, \$7 to \$9.

**Boiler Plates.**—1-4-inch and heavier, \$2.20. Boiler heads 25c. per 100 pounds advance on plate.

**Boiler Tubes.**—Orders continue active. Lap-welded, steel, 1 1/4-inch, 10c.; 1 1/2-inch, 9c. per foot; 2-inch, \$8.75; 2 1/4-inch, \$10; 2 1/2-inch, \$10.60; 3-inch, \$12.10; 3 1/2-inch, \$15; 4-inch, \$18.50 to \$19 per 100 feet.

**Building Paper.**—Plain, 30c. per roll; tarred, 40c. per roll. A moderate demand can be now reported, for shipment about 1st April.