

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS

From our own Reporter.

MONTREAL, March 13th 1877.

There have been several very bad failures in the city since the date of our last, and the commercial atmosphere is filled with rumours that other and larger wholesale houses are in difficulties, and although the failures have been chiefly confined to the grocery trade, they have caused a general distrust and we may almost say a general disinclination to do business, until there are better prospects of placing goods with some degree of certainty of payments being met when due.

Dry goods people have been moderately busy filling orders sent in by travellers. Hardware is dull with very little movement. Leather quiet with prices in favor of buyers. Flour almost neglected but prices well maintained. Nothing doing in grain. A heavy decline in prices of furs in the London sales is noted. Butter and cheese are unchanged but the market is rather weaker. Weather last week was very stormy and a good deal of snow fell, which, however, was in great degree melted before the frost returned on Friday afternoon, it is now cold and seasonable with moderately good roads.

ASHES.—*Pots*.—The market for Pot ashes has experienced very little variation since the date of our last report. The receipts have been ample and a fair amount of business was done in firsts & prices ranging from \$4.00 to 4.10 chiefly at \$4.00 to 4.05 at which the market closes; Seconds are in limited supply sales reported at \$3.50. Nothing doing in thirds. *Perls*.—In the absence of any sales this description of ash is quite nominal. Stocks at present in store are Pots 3305 brls; Pearls 844 barrels.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The business in this branch of trade has been fair but without much real activity. Wholesale dealers complain a good deal about remittances, and in the existing state of trade they are by no means disposed to press heavy sales. Quotations are without change. We quote Men's kid boots, \$2.75 to 3.00; do. calf do., \$3.25 to 3.50; do. split brogans \$1.00 to 1.20; do. kip do., \$1.30 to 1.40; do. buff Congress, \$1.50 to 2.00; do. brogans and Oxford ties, \$1.40 to 2.25; do. prunella Congress, \$1.20 to 1.75; women's pebbled and buff Balmorals, \$1.20 to 1.75; do. prunella Bals, \$0.60 to 1.60; do. Congress, 60c. to \$1.75; do. do. buskins, 50 to 90c.; do. kid slippers, 80c. to \$1.50; misses pebbled and buff Bals, \$1 to 1.20; do. prunella do. 70c to \$1.25; do. do. Congress, 60c. to \$1.00; infants' cacks, 25c. to 50c.

CATTLE.—The market this week has been very bare of cattle, for which there has been an improved demand, and the prices realized were higher than those obtained last week, the range being from \$4.50 to 5.50 per 100 lbs. live weight, most of the cattle offered being of a superior quality. *Hogs*.—No live hogs offering. *Dressed Hogs* have been dull of sale, latest sales were at \$6.00 to 6.50 per 100 lbs.

DRY GOODS.—Wholesale houses are moderately busy on orders sent in by travellers, but there is not much, if any, improvement in the amount of business transacted this spring as compared with that of 1876. Very few buyers have as yet been in town, those who have been are disposed to curtail their orders as much as possible. Clothing is quiet and with unsatisfactory remittances, wholesale houses are not disposed to push for trade at present.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Until nearer the opening of navigation little activity is expected and beyond the usual jobbing trade there is nothing doing but quotations are pretty

well maintained. We quote *Bi Carb* \$3.75 to 0.00; *Sal Soda* \$1.40 to 1.50; *Caustic Soda* \$3.75 to 4.00 *Soda Ash* 1½ to 2c.; *Copperas* 1 to 1½c; *Alum* 2 to 2½c; *Epsom Salts* 2½c; *Saltpetre* \$8.00 to 8.50; *Brimstone* \$2.75 to 3.00; *Sulphur* \$3.50; *Bleaching Powder* 1½ to 2; *Blue Vitriol* firm at 6½ to 7c; *Cream Tartar* ground 30 to 32c; *Cream Tartar Crystals* 26 to 27c; *Borax* 12 to 14c *Madder* 10 to 12c.

FISH.—The market for fish has been very dull, few sales of any consequence transpiring, and there is very little enquiry, stocks are pretty well reduced. *Dry Cod* \$5.00 to 5.50; *Green Cod* No 2 \$5.00; No 1 \$6.00; *Drafts* \$8.00; *Labrador Herrings* \$5.75 to 6.00; *Salmon* \$12. \$11 & \$10 for Nos 1. 2 and 3. respectively.

RAW FURS.—The latest cable report from the London Fur sales show a heavy decline in the price of Furs. On Skunk the decline is 10 per cent. on Martin 25 per cent. on Mink 15 per cent. on Lynx 35 per cent. on Bear 30 per cent. on Silver Fox 30 per cent. Muskrat a further decline of 10 per cent. There is nothing doing here just now and prices are nominally unchanged. *Beaver* \$2.00; *Black Bear* \$4.00. to 10.00 according to size; *Fisher* \$6.00 to 9.00; *Silver Fox* \$25.00 to 60.00; *Cross Fox* \$2.00 to 5.00 *Red Fox* \$1.25 to 1.50 *Lynx* \$1.50 to 2.00; *Dark Labrador Martin* \$5.00. *Pale Martin* \$1.25 to 1.50; *Prime Dark Mink* \$2.00 ditto second \$1.00; *Muskrat*, winter, 15c; *Muskrat* spring 25; *Raccoon* 40 to 60. *Skunk* 25 to 60c.

FLOUR.—Receipts during the past week 10,216 bbls: total receipts from 1st. January to date 80,786 bbls. beings an increase of 15,814 bbls. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1876. The Flour market has been dull and inactive all week indeed so small has the amount of flour been as hardly sufficient on which to base quotations holders as a rule however are very firm in their views especially for fall wheat flour but for which the demand has been very limited. At the close of the market to-day there was apparently no improvement and the following were the closing quotations. *Superior Extra*, \$7.10 to 7.20; *Extra*, \$6.80 to 6.90; *Fancy* \$6.60 to 6.70; *Spring Extra* \$6.30 to 6.35; *Superfine*, \$6 to 6.10; *Strong Bakers Flour*, \$6.60 to 6.75; *Fine*, \$5.60 to 5.70; *Middlings* \$5.20 to 5.40; *Pollards*, \$4.75 to 5.00; *Oatmeal*, steady 5.50 to \$5.65; *Cornmeal*, \$3.10.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—Receipts during the past week 300 bushels. There has been actually nothing done in this grain and quotations are quite nominal. The same remark applies to all kinds of grain for which it is impossible to give reliable quotations till the spring demand begins a little nearer the opening of navigation *Seeds*.—*Clover* \$8.50 per bushel per car load; *Timothy* \$2.50 to 2.60.

GROCERIES.—The failures in this trade during the past week have had an injurious effect on business and at the moment there is very little doing, and not much improvement need be looked for till confidence which is sadly shaken has been somewhat restored. *Teas*. Stocks as a rule are generally beyond the requirements of trade and in consequence prices are kept down and are about the same as they were before the extra duty was imposed; the only enquiry is for Japans for the immediate requirements of the retail dealers and of a quality worth about from 30 to 55c. *Coffee*.—Stocks continue small but sufficient for present requirements; *Java* 29 to 31c; *Maracaibo* 22½ to 24c; *Ceylon* 25 to 28c; *Mocha* 34 to 36c; only small sales are reported within our range of quotations. *Sugar*.—Market has been quiet and demand confined to the wants of the retail trade, prices rule weak in consequence of pretty heavy arrivals from Scotland and the U. S. *Scotch Refined* 9 to 10½c according to sample; *American granulated* 11 to 11½c; *dry crushed* 11½c; *English white sugar* has been selling at

10 to 10½c; raw sugars are still dull and without any particular demand, only small sales transpiring at from \$9.50 to 9.75. *Molasses*.—Stocks are small, which gives strength to the market, sales are only in small quantities; *Barbadoes* 46 to 47c; *Muscovado* 40 to 42½c; *Sugar house* 28 to 33c. *Syrups* are without change of any consequence, say from 44 to 48c; *amber syrups* 55 to 60c. *Rice* has been in less demand this week and is weaker, sales from \$4.25 to 4.50. *Spices*, only a small jobbing trade reported, although from scarcity some kinds are firm: *Black pepper* 11 to 11½c; *White Pepper* 20 to 21c; *Pimento* scarce and firm at 11 to 12c. *Cassia* 18 to 20; *Jamaica Ginger* 20 to 25c; *Nutmegs* 80 to 95c; *Fruits*. There is little improvement to notice in this branch of the grocery trade, transactions are small and prices not encouraging to Importers. *Layer Raisins* \$1.47½ to 1.50; *Loose Muscatels* \$1.70 to 1.75; *Valencias* 6½ to 7½; *Sultanas* 8½ to 9; *Seedless* 6½ to 7½; *Currants* are firm at 5½ to 6½; *Figs* 8 to 10c.; *Dates* 6 to 7c. for *Muscal*, S. S. *Almonds* 11½ to 14; *Bordeaux Walnuts* 6 to 8; *Grenoble* do 12½ to 14c; *Filberts* 8½ to 9½c.

HARDWARE.—There is no perceptible change in business since the date of our last report. Heavy Goods are dull and slow of sale, English prices for Tin plates have been if anything slightly less lately, and the prices we quote are pretty general for fair lots. We quote *Pig Iron*—*Gartsherrie* \$22.00 to 22.50; *Summerlee*, and *Calder* \$21 to 21.50 *Eglington*, and *Clyde* \$19.50 to 20. *Hematite* \$26.00 to 27.00. *Bars*—*Scotch* and *Staffordshire*, \$2 to 2.10; best do, \$2.20 to 2.30; *Swedes* and *Norway*, \$4.75 to 5.50; *Lowmoor* and *Bowling*, \$6.00 to 6.50. *Canada Plates*—*Swansea* and *Budd*, \$3.60 to 3.75; *Penn* and *Garth*, \$3.75 to 4.00; *Halton* \$3.40 to 3.60. *Tin Plates*—*Charcoal* 1C, \$6.75 to 7.25; ditto, IX, \$8.75 to 9.25; ditto DC, \$6 to 6.50 *Coke* 1C, \$5.75 to 6.25; *Boiler Plates*, ordinary brands \$3.00 to 3.25; do. best brands, \$3.25 to 3.50; *Lowmoor* and *Bowling*, \$7.50 to 8.00; *Galvanized Iron*—Best brands No. 28, \$8.50 to 9.50; *Hoops and Bands*, \$2.90 to 2.75; sheets, best brands, \$2.90 to 3.10; *Pressed Nails*, \$7.00; *Cut Nails*, 12d to 7in., \$3.00; ditto, 5 d to rod, \$3.30; do., 2½d to 4d, \$3.80; 100 keg lots 5 per cent. discount. *Pressed Spikes*, \$4.00 to 4.75; *Steel cast*, 12 to 13c; *Spring steel*, \$3.50 to 4.00; best do. warranted, \$6.00 to 6.50; *Tire* ditto, \$3.50 to 3.75; *Ingot Tin* \$20 to 21; *Ingot Copper*, \$21 to 22; *Horse Shoes* \$4.00 to 4.50; *Lead Pig*, \$5.50 to 6.00; sheet do., \$6.00 to 6.50; bar do., \$6.25 to 6.75.

LEATHER.—Transactions during the past week have been on a small scale, and the leather market has been dull and inanimate. Quotations are however unchanged. We quote: *Hemlock Spanish sole* No. 1B. A. 24 to 25c; do. No. 2, 22 to 23c; No. 1 *Orinoco* 24. to ooc; No. 2 ditto 22 to 23c; *Zanzibar Spanish sole* No. 1 22 to ooc; do. No. 2 19 to 20c; *Buffalo sole* No. 1, 21 to 22; do. No. 2, 19 to 20c; *Hemlock slaughter* 26 to 28c, waxed upper light and medium 32 to 38c; do. heavy 30 to 34c; *grained upper* 35 to 37c; *splits large* 25 to 30c; do. small 16 to 22c; *calfskins* 27 to 36 lbs., 55 to 70c; do 18 to 20 lbs. 50 to 65c; *sheepskin linings* 24 to 30c; *harness* 22 to 26c; *buffed cow* 14 to 16c per ft.; *enamelled cow* 17 to 18c; *patent cow* 17 to 19c; *pebbled cow* 14 to 16c; *rough leather* 23 to 25c.

OILS.—In fish oils there is very little movement and stocks are limited. *Cod Oil* 60 to 62½c; *Seal Oil* pale 60c; ditto straw 55c, ditto steam refined 65c; *Menhadden oil* 45c; *Cocoa nut oil* 9½c; *Palm oil* 8½ to 9c; *Lined raw* 58c; ditto boiled 61c; *Olive oil* 90c to \$1.10; *Petroleum*.—The reduction in price has caused quite a demand for this article and country dealers are laying in pretty large stocks. Carloads are still procurable at 15½c; half cars and small lots 17 to 18c; and single barrels 20c.