

MOLASSES.—Demand dull and without any activity.

Our quotations are unaltered. We quote:

Clayed, per gallon.....	33c. to 35c.
Muscovado, "	37 to 40
Syrups, "	46 to 50

FRUIT.—Limited lots have been moved to supply the Western trade; but we cannot report the market active. Stocks are light. We observe quotations in the New York market have considerably advanced again, and stocks are much decreased. We quote: Layers \$1.95 to \$2.10 for small parcels; round lots \$1.85 to \$1.90; M.R. \$1.75 to \$1.80; round lots \$1.65 to \$1.70; Valencias 7½c. to 7½c.; Currants 5½c. to 6½c.

SALT.—At auction on the 1st, 1,500 bags of Liverpool were offered, of which 300 were placed as follows: 200 at 59 and 100 at 58. About 30,000 bags in market.

RICE.—No sales unless of a retail character; quotations nominal, \$3.35 to \$3.45 per 100 lbs.

THE SHIPPING FOR 1865.

HAVING taking a retrospective glance at last year's shipping business in our last issue, we think it may not be altogether uninteresting to our readers to take a prospective view of the shipping of the year upon which we have just entered. The question is frequently asked "What are the prospects?" but rarely answered intelligibly. Nor do we pretend that we can solve the knotty problem. We would however venture to express our ideas on the subject in the hope that they may prove useful to those interested in this branch of commerce, as supplying data from which every thinking mind may draw its own conclusions.

We feel convinced that the arrivals of Ships next Spring will be small compared with last year which was behind previous seasons. From last year's experience in homeward freights from this port, ship-owners will be very chary as to sending their vessels here in the Spring, more especially as they are not likely to have the same inducement in the shape of paying outward freight which they had last season, importers having wisely curtailed their orders for spring importations.

It is true that should the Bank of England continue to reduce its rate of discount, this is likely to induce a speculative demand for grain and flour which would enhance their value; but this demand, should it arise, can be easily supplied by the continent, and so prices of our produce will be prevented from taking a very sudden or extensive advance.

We do not think that it is likely the Quebec rates of freight will operate against us as they did last fall, as money being comparatively easy, and stocks of timber at home large and well assorted, there will not be the same anxiety to ship which existed then while the small amount of tonnage likely to be here will assist in equalizing rates, or it may perhaps even throw the balance in favor of Montreal, and so induce the first class tonnage to come up from Quebec for cargoes.

The prospects for the fall we think are much brighter, as trade will then have resumed its normal condition, and the large stocks of produce held at home now, will then have become pretty low. Prices may therefore advance there so as to leave a margin to operators either here or on the other side, and thus shipments will be induced alike remunerative to shipper and ship-owners. Certain it is that very much will depend on the harvests at home and in this country; and we think the probabilities are against such a yield as farmers there received from their last harvest.

Again, the importations of every class of goods are likely to be heavier in the fall as stocks must then have become low, and this will give profitable outward employment to ships, which, secured, and with the prospect of fair homeward rates, owners will not scruple to send their ships out "seeking."

We are glad to see that the prospects of good employment for vessels of large tonnage brighten in England at the opening of a new year, as the effect will be to draw that class of vessels from Canadian waters, allowing smaller vessels to reap the benefit of a trade for which they are better adapted.

— The property on St. Sacrament street, Montreal, between the Montreal Telegraph office and St. Nicholas st., occupied by Alfred Brown, Alfred Rimmer, John Leeming, Leeming & Buchanan, and Phillips & Co., three separate stores of 36 feet front each, 50 feet depth, were sold by auction last week at \$28,400, one-fourth cash. Balance in three or five years. This strikes us as a very low price for property so eligibly situated. The purchaser was Mr. J. H. Joseph.

ENGLISH MARKET FOR BREADSTUFFS.

THE Liverpool Circular of Messrs. Segar & Tuncliffe, of January 6th, contains the following brief but succinct review of the British grain market for 1864:

"The story of the year is soon told. Beginning with what were supposed moderate prices, 9s. 3d. good Winter Red, and 8s. 10d. per 100 lbs. for Amber Milwaukie Wheat, 2½s. 9d. per barrel for extra State Flour, its course from the first still proved weak and failing, and so continued. The possibility of our being drawn into war for Denmark, and the singular fact of a few cargoes of wheat being purchased for shipment to Australia, had their effect, but only for the time. The immense crop of wheat in 1863, followed by a good yield in 1864, rendered the Liverpool market of secondary importance to the English consumer, and dear money, 8 per cent. to 9 per cent., and rather considerable foreign imports throwing their weight into the same scale, there was a gradual decline until, in November, the respective figures stood so low as 7s. 6d. to 7s. 9d., and 7s. 4d. to 7s. 6d. per 100 lbs., 19s. per barrel, and 26s. per 480 lbs. From that date the exhaustion of stocks in New York, and the apparent certainty of very little to come from thence until the re-opening of canals in May next, have led to a more hopeful tone, better prices, and a better demand, and we close at 8s. 3d. to 8s. 6d. for Winter Red, and 8s. 2d. to 8s. 4d. per 100 lbs. for Amber Milwaukie Wheat, 2½s. 6d. per barrel for extra State Flour; the prices for Wheat being much the same as they were in June last."

Bardgett & Pecard's London circular of Jan. 7th, epitomises the present and prospective condition of English Produce markets thus:

The stocks of English Wheat still on hand are large, but chiefly in the hands of the wealthier farmers, who will thrash sparingly, at present very low rates. The arrivals, too, from abroad are certain to be light for many weeks to come, so that some improvement in price might be reasonably looked for. On the other hand, the stocks of Foreign Wheat and Flour in store at the different ports on the 31st December, show a total of eighteen million bushels, which is nearly half a year's average consumption of Foreign Breadstuffs, serving to dissipate all fear of scarcity; and it is evident, from the temper of the trade, that any attempt on the part of holders to obtain an advance will be vigorously resisted by buyers. Whatever improvement in prices, then, may take place, it will be very gradual, so long as the growing crop continues to promise well.

The total imports at Liverpool of Breadstuffs in 1864, compared with 1863, are stated as follows:

	WHEAT.		FLOUR.	
	Quarters.	Sacks.	Barrels.	
1863.....	1,460,207	238,790	840,130	
1864.....	1,535,181	413,788	579,877	

The following is an interesting comparative statement showing the stocks of Breadstuffs at the three leading markets in Britain on the 31st December, 1863 and 1864;

	1863.		1864.	
	WHEAT.	FLOUR.	WHEAT.	FLOUR.
	Quarters.	Barrels.	Quarters.	Barrels.
London	329,319	93,219	329,319	93,219
Liverpool	366,112	138,408	366,112	138,408
Glasgow	223,685	39,851	223,685	39,851
	919,116	291,278	919,116	291,278

	1863.		1864.	
	WHEAT.	FLOUR.	WHEAT.	FLOUR.
	Quarters.	Barrels.	Quarters.	Barrels.
London	403,985	77,371	403,985	77,371
Liverpool	618,026	128,169	618,026	128,169
Glasgow	305,836	45,184	305,836	45,184
	1,326,128	250,674	1,326,128	250,674

Excess in 1864 equal to 3,262,864 bus. Wheat, and 11,632 brls. Flour. Reduced to Wheat the entire surplus would be equal to 3,320,979 bus.

Imports of American Breadstuffs, from 1st January, 1864, to 31st December, 1864, and for the six foregoing years, at the Port of Glasgow:

	PRODUCE FROM CANADA AND UNITED STATES.			
	WHEAT.	FLOUR.	PEAS.	I. CORN.
	Qrs.	Brls.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1864.....	275,326	272,483	14,158	730
1863.....	200,526	303,769	14,363	28,397
1862.....	482,186	407,767	24,884	92,292
1861.....	293,883	294,048	25,521	67,931
1860.....	237,910	227,927	38,987	30,167
1859.....	18,579	49,802	12,316	
1858.....	112,391	218,797	13,146	14,322

Summary of business in American Breadstuffs in the Glasgow market for the last two years:

	WHEAT.		FLOUR.		WHEAT.		IND. & FLOUR.		
	Bolls.	280 lbs.	qrs.	qrs.	Bolls.	280 lbs.	qrs.	qrs.	
Stocks in Store (1863	447,372	67,723	274,478	45,923					
end of (1864	611,728	52,709	345,396	30,245					
Stocks equal to (1863	21	9	17	20					
Week's Cons. (1864	31	7	22	18					
Average Week- (1863	18,266	7,072	14,437	2,313					
ly imports..... (1864	23,102	6,889	16,718	1,417					
Cons. & export (1863	1,078,334	368,153	815,281	120,879					
of the year..... (1864	1,436,978	373,228	798,410	89,853					
Average Weekly (1863	20,788	7,080	15,679	2,325					
Cons. & export (1864	19,942	7,177	15,354	1,718					

	Best American		Best Baltic		Extra Barrel		Best White		Best Mixed	
	Wheat, 240 lbs.	Wheat, 240 lbs.	Wheat, 240 lbs.	Wheat, 240 lbs.	Flour, 196 lbs.	Flour, 196 lbs.	Peas, 280 lbs.	Peas, 280 lbs.	I. Corn, 260 lbs.	I. Corn, 260 lbs.
Average Prices in 1859	24s	26s	26s	6d	22s	20s	6d	21s	20s	6d
" 1860	30s	6d	32s	30s	6d	21s	6d	21s	6d	21s
" 1861	30s	6d	32s	31s	6d	21s	6d	20s	6d	21s
" 1862	27s	6d	29s	28s	21s	6d	18s	21s	6d	18s
" 1863	22s	6d	24s	25s	18s	6d	17s	6d	17s	6d
" 1864	21s	22s	6d	23s	6d	18s	6d	17s	6d	17s

THE LEATHER MARKET.

The leather market has been very quiet during the past week. There have not been any transactions worthy of special notice.

In Spanish sole there is no change to report for the past week, sales being trifling and receipts light. Prices are unchanged.

For slaughter sole a limited demand exists, which it is difficult to supply, owing to the small amount of stock offered.

Harness leather has a fair inquiry, and the quantity on hand is much reduced; quotations unaltered.

Upper leather is without demand, and prices are nominal.

Calfskins of desirable weights and quality have a limited call at lower figures.

In other descriptions of leather there is nothing doing.

PRICES CURRENT.

Hemlock, Buenos Ayres, Sole No. 1.....	18 to 19
Do. do. do. No. 2.....	15½ to 16
Do. Ordinary Spanish, Sole No. 1.....	17 to 18
Do. do. do. No. 2.....	15 to 16
Do. Slaughter do. No. 1.....	17 to 19
Do. do. do. No. 2.....	15 to 16
Do. Buffalo Sole, No. 1.....	00 to 00
English Oak Bends.....	50 to 60
Do. Satin Calf, per doz. XT.....	\$25 00
Do. do. do. XX.....	\$27 50
Waxed Upper--Light.....	30 to 32
Do. Heavy and Medium.....	26 to 28
Kips--Whole.....	35 to 45
Do. In Sides.....	27 to 35
Splits--Large.....	20 to 30
Do. Small.....	15 to 18
Waxed Calf--30 to 36 lbs. per doz.....	55 to 65
Do. 18 to 27 do.	45 to 55
Do. French.....	90 to 110
Harness.....	19 to 21
Enamelled Cow, per foot.....	15 to 16
Patent Cow, do.	16 to 17
Buffed Cow, do.	11 to 13
Pebbled Cow, do.	13 to 14

Leaf Tobacco.

— There has been no change in this article during the week. Holders are still inclined to wait the action of Congress in respect to the proposed imposition of a tax on Leaf. There are no transactions on which to base quotations, which are therefore nominal at 7c. to 14c. for Kentucky, and 5c. to 5½c. for Canada.

— It seems the Great Western Railway Company publish their weekly statement of earnings only when the figures are favorable. Last week no statement appeared. The reason was, that, as compared with the corresponding week of last year, there was a deficiency of \$23,000, or about forty per cent. decrease. This is, of course, attributable to the passport regulations; but it is a small piece of business to suspend their usual returns, because they happen to be on the wrong side.

— It is said that the Great Western Railway Co. are about to transfer their account from the Bank of Upper Canada to the Bank of Montreal.