

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—The report of this railway for the six months ending January 31st, last, was presented to the shareholders on the 30th ult., when the agreement for the acquisition of the Detroit and Milwaukee line was ratified. The gross receipts were shown to be £467,237 as compared with £401,628 for the like period of 1877. While the gross receipts had increased the gross working expenses had declined from £313,715 to £295,264. There was thus a surplus for the 1878 half-year of £49,628—showing an improvement over 1877 of £83,251, for the half-year. This satisfactory result the Directors attribute in part to the exceptional mildness of the late winter, and in part to care and economy of management, but mainly to the circumstance that during most of the half year the freight rates were maintained at a profitable standard, while the tonnage was heavier than usual. The chief increase in the earnings has been from the through and local freight business. The freight traffic of this half year contributed 65 per cent. of the total earnings, as compared with 54 per cent. in the corresponding half year of 1877.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, April 30th, 1878.

We cannot report much improvement in wholesale trade here since our last, but now that the Spring fleet is beginning to arrive, a fair degree of activity is looked for among all branches of business. Flour has been dull of sale. There has been some enquiry for wheat. Groceries have been quiet and business done has not been up to expectations, while prices as a rule have favoured buyers. Hardware is getting more active. Leather has been quiet, and stocks are accumulating. In dry-goods a fair sorting up trade has been experienced, and wholesale dealers are pleased with the business done this year so far as it has gone. A favorable symptom in trade is an improvement in remittances.

ASHES.—*Pots.*—There has been a fair demand for pots this week, prices have been steady and sales of firsts have been from \$3.92½ to \$4.00; seconds and thirds are neglected. *Pearls.*—We hear of no sales taking place and no arrivals, the nominal price of firsts is \$5.75 to \$6.00; Stocks at present in store are Pots 3292 brls; Pearls 400 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—For light sorts of summer goods there is still a fair demand, and as stocks are getting well reduced in the hands of country dealers a good sorting up is fully anticipated; prices are without any quotable change. Men's stoga boots \$1.75 to \$2.50; ditto kip boots \$2.50 to \$2.75; ditto French calf, \$3.25 to \$4.00; ditto buff congress, \$1.60 to \$2.20. Boys split brogans 95c; to \$1.00; ditto buff and pebbled congress, \$1.20 to \$1.60; women's buff and pebbled congress, \$1.20 to \$1.60; ditto Prunella ditto 60c to \$1.75; ditto congress 60c to \$1.50; Misses buff and pebble bals 75c to \$1.20; childrens buff and pebble bals 65c to \$1.00.

CATTLE.—There was a fair supply of first class cattle in market yesterday, but the demand was not very brisk, butchers held off with the view of bringing down prices, consequently sales were comparatively few and ranged from 4 to 5c. Hogs were not in large supply, sales reported at \$4.30; per 100 lbs.

DRY GOODS.—A fair number of small orders are being received, and wholesale houses appear to be pretty well satisfied with the amount of business done so far this season, and also with the continued improvement in remittances. The clothing trade has been active. A good sorting up trade is now looked for and a fair number of country buyers have been in the city, and this combined with orders sent in by travellers on the road, makes things look more lively.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The wholesale trade are pretty well supplied with orders, but there is nothing like what may be called activity to report, prices are without any material change but for the most part are in buyers favor. We quote *Bi Carb Soda* \$3.25 to 3.40 per 112 lb keg, *Soda Ash*, 1½ to 1½c per lb.; *Cudbear*, 11 to 18c per lb.; *Arrow root*, 13 to 15c per lb.; *Borax*, 9 to 10c per lb.; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 25c per lb; do *Ground*, 27 to 29; *Caustic Soda*, \$3 to 3.25 per 100 lbs. *East India Senna*, 11 to 18c per lb.; *Sugar of Lead*, 12 to 14c per lb.; *Bleaching Powder*, 1½ to 1½c per lb.; *Madder*, 8 to 9c per lb.; *Alum*, 1½ to 2c per lb.; *Copperas*, 1 to 1½c per lb.; *Sulphur*, 3½ to 3½c per lb.; *Brimstone*, 2½c per lb. *Epsom Salts*, \$2 to 2.25 per 100 lbs., to arrive \$1.60; *Sal Soda*, \$1.10 to 1.20 per 100 lbs., to arrive \$1.05; *Saltpetre*, held at \$8.50 to \$9.00 per 112 lb. keg, with upward tendency; *Blue Vitriol*, 5½ to 6c per lb.

FISH.—There is very little fish in stock here, all is in the hands of the retail trade. Salmon alone being in supply, but is at present unsaleable. Wholesale prices are consequently nominal.

RAW FURS.—Muskrat are arriving freely and command our quotation, other furs are not in much supply and prices are without any quotable change since this day week. We quote *Beaver*, per lb., \$1.00 to 1.30; spring ditto \$1.50; *Otter*, \$4.00 to 5.00; *Fisher*, \$4.00 to 6.00; *Mink*, dark prime, \$1.25 to 1.50; ditto pale, 75c; *artin*, 75c; *Large black Bear*, \$6 to 8; *Small ditto*, \$3.00; *Red Fox*, \$1.10; *Cross Fox*, \$1.50 to 2.50; *Silver Fox*, \$20; *Spring Muskrat*, 15c; *Lynx*, \$1.50 *Skunk*, dark prime, 30 to 60c; *Raccoon*, 30 to 60c.

FREIGHTS.—The first ships of the Spring fleet are now beginning to arrive, but as yet there have been no engagements of tonnage reported. By next week we hope to be able to quote rates.

FLOUR.—Receipts during the past week 16,780 brls.; total receipts from 1st January to date 168,385 brls., being an increase of 14,744 brls. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1877. Shipments during the week 1891 brls.; total shipments from 1st January to date 51,682 brls., being an increase of 4770 brls. on the shipments for the corresponding period of 1877. The price of flour this week has been on the whole firm and well maintained, but the demand has been sluggish. There has been very little shipping demand as yet, and nothing but small sales to the local trade were reported to-day at the following rates. We quote: *Superior extra*, \$6.00 to 6.15; *Extra*, \$5.75 to \$5.80; *Fancy*, \$5.30 to 5.35; *Strong bakers flour*, \$5.25 to \$5.45; *Spring extra*, \$5.15 to \$5.20; *Super*, \$4.80 to 4.85; *Pine*, \$4.20 to 4.30; *Pollards*, \$3.15 to 3.40; *Middlings*, \$3.75 to 3.90; *Oatmeal* \$4.35 to 4.45.

GRAIN.—*Wheat.*—There has been some enquiry lately for this grain, but so far without resulting in much business, holders are asking for No. 1 Toronto Spring, \$1.24 to \$1.25; No. 2, \$1.20. *Maize*, holders are asking 55c to 60c; *Peas*, 81c to 82c; *Oats*, 34c to 35c, but these quotations in the absence of wholesale transactions, are nominal.

GROCERIES.—*Teas.*—The Tea market has been dull, and transactions this week have not amounted to much; Japans have been only in limited demand at 22½c to 37½c, high grades of

Japan are unsalable, and low grades which are most asked for are in small supply; Young Hysons are also moved to a small extent at 47½c to 50c; Black Tea, now that navigation has opened has met with some enquiry at 23c to 25c; *Coffee*, there has been about the usual jobbing demand at our quotations, Java, 29c to 30c; Maracaibo, 21c to 23c; Mocha, 30c to 34; *Sugar*, the market for Sugar this week has been quiet and perhaps a shade easier—transactions however have been limited, stocks are by no means heavy, and holders in the present state of the market are not pressing sales. Scotch refined 7½ to 8½; American granulated 9½ to 10c; dry crushed 10½ to 10½c; raw sugars are nominal. *Molasses* are dull and in small demand, some small sales of Barbadoes reported from 42½ to 44c; Trinidad 35 to 38c. *Syrup* 42½ to 60c, according to quality. *Rice* 45 to 60c. *Spices* as usual have only been in jobbing demand and small sales only reported within our range of quotations. Black pepper, 9½ to 10½c; White pepper, 19 to 22; Cassia 16 to 22c; Cloves, 39 to 45c; Mace 75 to 80c; Nutmegs, 65 to \$1.00 according to quality; Pimento 13 to 13½; Jamaica ginger, 18 to 21c. *Fruit.*—Holders have been pressing sales to clear out stocks, and few Valencia Raisins are now in the market and cannot be bought under 5½ to 6c. with this exception our quotations of last week are unchanged. Layer raisins \$1.50 to 1.60; Sultanas, 6½ to 8½c; Currants, 5 to 7c; firm. Figs 12 to 14c; Taragona Almonds 14 to 15c; Filberts 7½ to 9c; Walnuts 7 to 11c. *Salt.*—Very little doing just now, holders are asking for coarse 60 to 67c. and for factory filled 90c. to \$1.00.

HIDES AND PELTS.—Heavy hides are very little asked for, but there is a good demand for lights which are scarce, prices keep steady at \$7, \$6 and \$5.00; for Nos 1 and 2 and 3 respectively. *Lambskins*, 10 to 20c. *Calfskins*, 8 to 10c.

HARDWARE.—As the season advances business seems gradually to improve. The demand for general goods is quite equal to past season and at present merchants seem as if they wanted a little more profit on their goods. Pig iron is being enquired after, a few moderate sized sales have been made within range of quotations. Other lines are nominally unchanged. We quote *Pig Iron.*—Per ton, Gartsherrie, \$19.50 to 20.00; Summerlee \$19.00 to 19.25; Langloan; \$19.00 to 20.00; Eglinton, \$18.00 to 18.50; Clyde, \$17.50 and 18.00; Hematite, \$26.00 to 27.00. *Bars.*—Per 100 lbs., Scotch and Staffordshire, \$1.80 to 1.90; Best, ditto, \$2.00 to 2.50; Swedes and Norway, \$4.50 to 5.00; Lowmoor and Bowling, \$6.00 to 6.25. *Canada Plates.*—Per box, Glamorgan and Budd, \$3.40 to 3.60; Arrow, Penn and Garth, \$3.40 to 3.50; Hatton, \$3.20 to \$3.30, no demand for Canada plates: *Tin Plates.*—Per box, Charcoal, 1c; Bradley, \$6.50; to 6.75; ditto, other brands, \$5.75 to 6.00; Charcoal IX, \$7.75 to 8.00; Charcoal DC, \$4.75 to 5.00; Coke, 1c, \$5.00 to 5.25; *Tinned sheets*, No. 26, Charcoal, Cookley K, or Bradley, 11 to 11½c per lb.; ditto, Coke, 9½ to 10c; Galvanized sheets, 7½ to 8c. *Hoops and Bands* Per 100 lbs, \$2.40 to 2.50. *Sheets.*—Best brands, \$2.50 to 3.50. *Boiler Plates.*—\$2.50 to 3.00; *Russian Sheet Iron*, 9 to 10c.; *Cut nails.*—Per 100 lbs., 12 dy to 7 in., \$3.00; ditto, 5 dy to 10 dy, \$3.30; Shingle nails, \$3.80; Lath nails, \$4.60, Lead, Pig, per 100 \$5.00 to 5.25; Sheet, \$5.25 to 5.50; Bar, \$6.50 to 7.00; Shot \$6.25 to 6.75; Steel, cast, per lb., 12 to 15c; Spring, per 100 lbs., \$3.50 to 4.00; Tire per 100 lbs. \$3.00 to 3.50.; *Sleigh shoe*, \$2.75 to 3.00; *Ingot Tin*, 18 to 20c; *Ingot Copper*, 19 to 20c; *Horse shoes*, per 100 lbs., \$3.37½ to 3.50.

LEATHER.—The business of the week has been but small and prices are weaker on the whole. In *Sole leather* there are large shipments being made to England with a fair prospect