

FOREIGN TRADE INFORMATION.

The expansion of consumption of India and Ceylon tea is apparently keeping pace with the increase of production, as may be seen from the following table, showing the consumption in the United Kingdom and elsewhere of British-grown teas during the first nine months of the current and three preceding years:

	United Kingdom.	Foreign and Colonial Markets.
1897	£157,312,173	£34,859,215
1896	147,941,832	28,250,96
1895	138,761,454	25,002,230
1894	139,282,435	20,935,531

These figures show a total for the first three quarters of the current year of 192,171,388 lbs., as against 176,192,793 lbs., 163,763,684 lbs. and 160,187,966 lbs. for the corresponding periods of the three preceding years respectively.

To Great Britain the value of the exports of American wheels in 1897 was about 300 per cent. more than in 1896. The next most important market for the American bicycles is Germany; the third, British North America, and the fourth is Australia. To these four markets it is expected that business will make even a better showing than it has during the last two fiscal years, which increase was as follows:

	1896.	1897
United Kingdom	\$613,000	\$2,376,000
Germany	146,000	1,026,000
British North America	496,000	730,000
Australasia	85,000	693,000

The demand for machinery in Mexico, according to the *Revue du Commerce Extérieur*, Paris, is encouraging. The development of the mines has occasioned a field for all sorts of machinery and materials. There is also an opening for milling machines and those employed in the manufacture of sugar, distillation and brewing, in dyeing, spinning and weaving. Fire engines, motors, machinery for constructing canals, railroads and ports appear to meet with success.

In the Island of Elba there are six iron mines, which run along the coast in the western part of the island, and they are known as Rio Albino, Rio, Vigneria, Terranera, Ginevro, and Calamita. It is calculated that in the space of five centuries, down to the end of the first half of this century, eight million tons of ore have been exported from these mines, and that between 1850 and 1895 four million tons were exported, whilst it is calculated that the ore still existing reaches to nearly eight million tons.

The glass industry in the kingdom of Poland has made considerable progress recently, and there are at present twenty-nine glass furnaces (seven with direct wood fuel and twenty-two with gas) and eight fan furnaces at work. The total value of the productions in 1896 amounted to about 3,520,000 roubles, of which 690,000 were for crystal glass and articles of luxury, 450,000 for pressed glass, 780,000 for superior articles of lighting, viz., lamps, balls, tulips, screens and cups, and 718,000 roubles for hollow glass, wine, beer and brandy bottles, and window glass.

—When a boy hears people talking of "useful Christmas presents," he knows somebody is getting up an excuse for giving him something he doesn't want.—*Chicago Record*.

—Last year the United States produced 15,465,000 bushels of buckwheat, most of which was consumed at home. There are about 4,600 cakes in one bushel, making a total of 70 billion cakes in the whole crop.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 22nd Dec., 1897.

ASHES.—No transactions are reported for the week, and business is likely to continue very dull for the next several weeks. Stocks are thought to be small, however, in Britain, and some better demand is thought probable after the holidays. We quote first quality pots \$3.25 to 3.30; seconds, \$3; pearls, \$4.75 to 4.85 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—A very quiet week has been experienced in these lines, but some enquiry is likely to develop for firebricks

after the holidays, when the usual annual repairs to furnaces, etc., will be in order. We quote: British cement, \$2.10 to 2.20; Belgian, \$1.95 to 2.05; firebricks, \$17 to 22.00 per thousand, as to brand.

DRY GOODS.—Bright cold weather, with a moderate snowfall, has materially helped the Montreal retailer, and country stocks are also reported to be moving off very freely. Travelers are mostly at home getting spring samples revised, and the wholesale warehouses are not very busy, though some houses report quite a good sprinkling of letter orders for fancy lines of merchandise suitable for Christmas trade. In value of textiles, there are no present changes to be noted, but an advance in woollens may be looked for at no distant date.

FURS.—Receipts of raw furs are becoming somewhat freer, and moderate lots of fall rats, skunk, fox and mink, with some few bear skins, are reported. Prices continue according to the list revised last week. We quote:—Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1.00; marten, \$1.50 to 2.00; fisher, \$4.00 to 6.00; lynx, \$1.00 to 2.00; otter, \$1.00 to 12.00 for dark; pale, \$5.00 to 7.00; red fox, large, \$1.30 to 1.40; small, \$1.00; cross fox, \$3.00 to 6.00; bear, cubs, \$3.00 to 7.00; medium, \$7.00 to 10.00; large, \$12.00 to 15.00; skunk, 15 to 70c., as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c.; rats, fall, 7c. to 10c. kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Dec. 13, 1897.	Dec. 20, 1897.
Wheat, bushels	97,020	102,401
Corn, " "	65,896	64,241
Oats, " "	281,265	379,553
Rye, " "	25,998	38,140
Peas, " "	106,294	111,816
Barley, " "	30,823	33,907
Total grain	607,296	730,058
Oatmeal	61	218
Flour	11,780	12,636
Buckwheat	23,017	27,017

GROCERIES.—A good sorting distribution is still in progress, more particularly in holiday goods. The feature of the moment is the further strong advance in canned vegetables. It is reported that a sale of a 1,000 case lot of tomatoes has been made at \$1 a dozen tins for the Klondyke trade. In canned corn there is also increased firmness, 70c. being asked for some brands. A telegraph order to a western packer for a car lot of corn at an advance figure was declined, on the plea that a San Francisco house had made an offer for their balance of stock for Klondyke trade. Canned mackerel are quoted at \$4.65 to 4.75. Lobsters are very scarce. It is said there is only one lot in first hands here, being about 250 cases of extra quality whole meats in parchment-lined tins, which are held at \$9.20. Gallon apples are high; a recent sale of a 2,000 case lot is reported at \$2.25. Evaporated apples are firmer, and 10 to 11c. is asked in quantity, and for dried apples 5½ to 6c. An advance in currants is cabled from Patras, and dried fruits generally are steady. Sugars are not in such active demand, but the advance noted last week is firmly held and is likely to continue so, as the high winter freights are unfavorable to the importation of German refined. For cheap Japan teas there is rather a better demand, and the action of the Government tending towards a closer inspection of importations of low grade goods, is calculated to benefit holders of medium to cheap lines.

HIDES.—There has been some further strengthening in the hide market, and butchers are now generally realizing 9c. per lb. for their No. 1 hides, being an advance of half a cent. The demand is good from tanners, dealers quoting 9½ to 10c. Lambskins steady, at 85 to 90c. each; few calfskins are coming in.

LEATHER.—While business is not active at the moment, some of the larger shoe manufacturers are reported to be fair buyers of sole and dongola, and also some moderate lots of splits, pebble, and glove. Cable enquiries for sole are reported from England. Some dealers claim to be getting an advance in black leathers, and the market is a strong one, the further advance in hides helping to stiffen things. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, 22 to 23c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 22 to 23c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 25 to 27c.; No. 2 do., 21 to 23c.; common, 20 to 21c.; waxed upper light and

medium, 30 to 35c.; do. heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 32 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec do., 17 to 20c.; juniors, 15 to 17c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 22c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 12 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 12 to 16c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—A quiet time is reported in these lines, and until after the turn of the year no special enquiry can be expected. We hear of a sale of 50 tons of No. 1 Hamilton iron at \$16.50, but of nothing in other lines. Glasgow warrants are cabled noticeably firmer at 45s. 6d. Domestic bars remain unchanged, but there seems to be some anticipation that easier quotations may prevail after the new year. In wire nails there will likely be some little advance. Plates of all kinds are dull, and in tin, lead, copper, etc., there is not enough doing to warrant any change. We quote:—Summerlee pig iron, \$18.00 to 18.50; Carron, No. 1, \$18.00; No. 3, \$17.25; Ayrshire, No. 1, \$17.00; No. 3, \$16.50; Shotts, \$17.25 to 17.50; Carnbroe, \$16.00 to \$17.00, ex-store; Siemens pig No. 1, none; No. 2 Siemens, none; Ferrona, No. 1, \$15.00 to 16.00; Hamilton No. 1, \$16.00 to 16.50; No. 2, ditto, \$15.50 to 16.00; machinery scrap, \$14.00 to 15.00; common ditto, \$12.00 to 13.00; bar iron, Canadian, \$1.40 to 1.50; British, \$2.00 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.40; Low Moor, \$5; Canada plates—Pontypool, or equal, \$2.10 to \$2.15; 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets, \$2.25; 75 sheets, \$2.35; all polished Canadas, \$2.40; Terne roofing plate, 20x28, \$5.90 to \$6.00; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.25; No. 26, \$2.15; No. 24, \$2.05; Nos. 17, \$2; No. 16 and heavier, \$2.15; tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$5.60 to 5.70; charcoal, I. C., Alloway, \$3.15 to 3.25; do., I. C., \$3.90 to 4.00; P. D. Crown, I. C., \$3.60 to 3.75; do., I. C., \$4.50; Coke I. C., \$2.90 to 2.95 for standard, \$2.75 to \$2.80 for 100 lbs.; coke, wasters, \$2.70; galvanized sheets, No. 28 ordinary brands, \$4; No. 26, \$3.75; No. 24, \$3.50 in case lots; Morewood, \$5.00 to 5.10, tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 5½c.; No. 26, etc.; the usual extra for large sizes. Canadian bands, per 100 lbs., \$1.75; English ditto, \$2; hoops and bands, \$1.90 to 2.00. Steel boiler plate, ½ inch and upwards, \$1.85 to 1.90 for Dazell, and equal; ditto three-sixteenths inch, \$2.50; tank iron, ½ inch, \$1.50; three-sixteenths do., \$2.00; tank steel, \$1.75; heads, seven-sixteenths and upwards, \$2.45 to 2.50; Russian sheet iron, 9c.; lead, per 100 lbs., pig, \$3.65 to 3.75; sheet, \$4 to 4.25; shot, \$6 to 6.50; best cast-steel, 8 to 10c.; toe calk, \$2.25; spring, \$2.50; sleigh shoe, \$1.85; tire, \$1.90; round machinery steel \$2.25; ingot tin, 15½ to 16c. for L. & F.; Straits, 15½ to 15¾c.; bar tin, 16½ to 17c.; ingot copper, 12 to 12½c.; sheet zinc, \$5 to \$5.25; Silesian spelter, \$4.75; Veille Montagne spelter, \$4.75 to 5.00; American spelter, \$4.75; anti-mony, 9 to 10c.

OILS, PAINTS AND GLASS.—Business in these lines is very dull, as is only natural at this season, and no changes are to be noted in values. Glass is very firm at the advance last noted, with no discounts for 50 box lots as is usual. As showing the strength of the situation in this line, wholesale dealers are talking of entering into an agreement whereby they will decline to book import orders for less than 5,000 feet. We quote:—Turpentine one to four barrels, 49c.; five to nine barrels, 49c., net thirty days. Linseed oil, raw, one to four barrels, 43c.; five to nine barrels, 42c.; boiled, one to four barrels, 46c.; five to nine brls., 45c., net 30 days; olive oil, machinery, 90c.; Nfld. cod, 35 to 37c. per gal.; Gaspe oil, 30 to 32c. per gal.; steam refined seal, 45 to 47½c. per gallon in small lots. Castor oil, 10 to 11c. as to quantity. Leads (chemically pure and first-class brands only), \$5.37½; No. 1, \$5.00; No. 2, \$4.67½; No. 3, \$4.25; No. 4, \$3.87½; dry white lead, 4½ to 5c.; putty, red do., 4c.; No. 1 red lead, 4c.; genuine 1.55 to \$1.60 in bulk, \$1.70 to 1.75 in bladders, \$2 to 2.10 in tins; London washed whitening, 40 to 45c.; Paris white, 85 to 90c.; Venetian red, \$1.50 to 1.75; yellow ochre, \$1.25 to 1.50; spruce ochre, \$1.75 to 2.00; window glass, \$1.40 per 50 feet for first break; \$1.50 for second break; third break, \$3.10.