case at the close of the month. Business has been delayed a little owing to the shortage in barbed and galvanized wire, manufacturers of which have been some four or five weeks behind their orders. Orders placed now cannot be filled much before the 10th of next month. There is one factory in Montreal now, but this devotes its attention chiefly to the local and Quebec trade, and it gets its raw material from the States, so that it makes but little difference to the general situation here in Toronto. Apart from this feature, trade has been highly satisfactory. Letter orders have been probably more numerous than in any previous April. Usually the travellers, who are out during February and March, snap up all the early spring orders but this apparently has not been the case this year. The heavy metals trade is also pretty active, and in fact is increasing as river navigation gets into full swing. Latest advices from Glasgow stated that the pig iron market was comparatively steady, there being more enquiry from consumers, though chiefly for current requirements.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Fair receipts of hides are coming forward, and as the demand, though not brisk, is fairly steady, stocks are not accumulating to any extent, and prices remain fairly good. Tallow is steady.

LEATHER.—Prices remain the same as have been quoted for two or three weeks past, and business is somewhat slow.

LIVE STOCK.—There has been comparatively heavy offerings at the cattle market lately, which have been disposed of at satisfactory prices. Several carloads have been sold for shipment from Montreal. Butchers' cattle are in somewhat light supply, a good demand existing, however. Prices of sheep and lambs are firmer owing to keen demand. Calves also are eagerly enquired for.

PROVISIONS. — Butter continues very weak, most of it selling at 13c. Creamery is easier, solid packed in pounds fetching 18½c. to 19c. Cheese is quiet and easy at 9¼ to 9½c. In hog products there is no change in prices, the market remaining firm with a fair trade being transacted. Eggs are steady at 11c.

WOOL.—No improvement is to be noted in the local market, and hardly any business is being done either in fleece or pulled wools. The third series of London sales took place on the 30th ult., when a good representative assortment, amounting to 12,074 bales was offered. The demand was chiefly from the home trade, but fairly good bidding by French buyers caused keen competition. Prices were generally firm and at times showed slight advances, some merinos being 5 per cent. dearer. Good Queensland was active and in demand. Fine crossbreds were steady, but common and coarse grades were 5 per cent. lower, at which prices they were in strong demand for Yorkshire. Cape of Good Hope and Natal was in good request at unchanged prices.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, May 1st, 1901.

ASHES.—The opening of navigation has not wrought any improvement in the demand, and the market rules as dull as ever. In pearls not a transaction has transpired for a number of weeks. No. 1 pots are quoted at about $4.25, and seconds at about $3.75 per cental.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The butter market is not quite so weak, some export enquiry having arrested further decline, but 17½c. is about the extreme figure for creamery, and old stock is not wanted. There is some moderate demand for new white cheese at 8½ to 8¾c., but offerings are small. Cheese shipments to Liverpool