

DRY GOODS.—Trade is now "between seasons," and it is as active as the time of the year would warrant. The wholesale houses seldom buy at all freely in the month of May, as it means June dating, while June purchases are on September dating. In cotton goods there is no change in values, and trade remains steady. Woollens are active, and mills engaged on blankets, hosiery and underwear are busily employed. It is said some of the factory owners are arranging for a night staff of employees. Reports from the country of retail conditions are very favorable, and indicate satisfactory conditions.

FLOUR AND FEED.—The flour market is excited and prices have advanced sharply. Manitoba patents are quoted \$6.30 and strong bakers \$5.95 per barrel. Large sales have been reported here to parties in Québec and the Maritime Provinces. Feed has not advanced with flour and remains quiet and unchanged at previous quotations.

GREEN FRUIT.—The cold weather has been unfavorable to trade conditions this week, and the consumption has not been up to the usual early May movement. At the Wednesday sales fair prices were realized for Washington navels, California seedlings, and blood oranges. Good stock lemons sold rather low. We quote: New Messina, fancy, 300s, 360s, \$2.50 to \$3; choice do., 300s, 360s, \$2.25 to 2.50. Bananas are in good demand at fair prices. The movement is increasing as the season advances. Strawberries of North Carolina are in the market, of good stock, and bringing 18 to 20c. per quart.

GROCERIES.—Most of the wholesale houses are actively engaged in distributing goods to the trade. Sugars at the advanced prices are free in movement. For California fruits there is fair demand. Dealers quoting prunes, 50/60, per lb. 7c.; do., 40/50, per lb. 7½c.; peaches, fancy, 25 lb. boxes, per lb. 9c. Canned goods are not so active, the range in values standing as follows: Tomatoes, 3 lbs. (1897), per doz. \$1.25; corn, 2 lbs., per doz. 90c.; peas, per doz. 90c.; beans, per doz. 85c.; pine apple, extra standard, per doz. \$2; do., standard, per doz. \$1.75; strawberries, per doz. \$1.50; peaches, 3 lbs., per doz. \$2; do., 2 lbs. per doz. \$1.30; plums, Green Gages, 2 lbs., per doz. \$1.15; do., Lombards, 2 lbs., per doz. \$1; do., Lombards, 3 lbs., per doz. \$1.40. Teas are without features of special interest.

HIDES AND SKINS.—There is a somewhat brighter feeling in the hide market, and although it has not crystallized into an advance in quotations, merchants are well satisfied with the trade prospects. There are no accumulations of hides at this point, and in fact some of the merchants are said to be pretty well sold ahead. Merchants are asking 8½c. per lb. for cured hides, and are paying 7½c. to butchers for green hides. Calfskins, as we intimated last week, declined 1c. per lb. There are few sheepskins coming forward. Lambskins are quoted 15c. Tallow remains quiet and dull, with prices nominal. From Chicago, May 3rd, buyers gave a fair amount of attention to the market for packers' hides, but owing to the extreme prices named by packers only a limited volume of business was transacted, closing firm at 11 to 11½c. for native steers, 10½ to 11c. for Texas, 9½ to 10c. for butt brand, 9½c. for branded cows, 8½ to 9c. for Colorados, 10½c. for heavy native cows, and 11c. for light do.

PROVISIONS.—The offerings of dressed hogs are limited to the satisfaction of butchers' requirements. There is active trading for the season of the year. Prices are firm, and although no advance in quotations has taken place, a stronger tone characterizes the market. Heavy meats are not in large supply. Long clear bacon is in good demand. Lard is scarce and firm in value.

WOOL.—The market is quiet and without change. There are some small deliveries of unwashed wool coming in, but this movement is of but a very limited nature. We elsewhere review the situation. A new series of sales opens in London, May 5th, and we are advised: "London, April 30th.—The week was a very quiet one in the wool trade, owing to the approaching series, which will open next week. It was rumored that several bales of fine Australasian greasy, which was shipped by America, stopped here, and will probably be offered at the coming sales. The arrivals for the fourth series aggregate 58,129 bales, including 9,000 forwarded direct. The imports of the

week were as follows: New South Wales 356 bales; Melbourne, 573; New Zealand, 13,781; Cape of Good Hope and Natal, 3,985; Fort Henry, 1,273. The offerings next week number 48,300 bales. The series is scheduled to close May 21st."

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 4th May, 1898.

ASHES.—There is still an absence of improved demand in this line, nor have the receipts, usually following the opening of canal navigation, come to hand, from which it is judged they must be seeking other markets, probably New York, as was recently noted with regard to the product of some Western makers. Prices are quoted at about \$3.60 to \$3.75 for first pots, \$3.25 to \$3.30 for seconds, and about \$4.75 for pearls.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—For cements there is an active demand. Stocks in store are quite exhausted, and one firm, who had 5,000 brls. of Belgian cement in the "Westmeath," just discharged, have already shipped it all out. Another moderate lot of English cement just landed, has also been all placed. Prices now quoted are ex-wharf, namely: \$1.90 to \$2.05 for Belgian, English \$2.15 to \$2.30. Firebricks are dull, as is general at this season; prices range from \$17 to \$22 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Receipts of new cheese are thus far small, only a few moderate lots of fodder cheese having yet come forward. The market seems a little firmer, with cable quotations 42 shillings for white, and 44 for colored, while stocks in Liverpool are reported some 22,000 boxes less than at this time a year ago. As nearly as can be indicated, the present range of prices would be about from 7¼ to 8¼c. The butter market rules easy, with 17c. the inside figure for creamery, dairy 15 to 16c., and good rolls 13½ to 14c. per lb.

DRY GOODS.—The 4th of May is considered a fair-sized day as regards aggregate of payments in the dry goods trade coming due, and all the indications tend to show that customers' paper is being well taken up this year. One leading house reports that up to noon to-day they could count on 75 per cent. of their customers' bills being provided for; another large house states they expect fully 65 to 70 per cent., and that their April collections were 30 to 40 per cent. ahead of April, 1896. Sorting business is showing some signs of falling off, though a few houses still report good business in this line. A certain amount of selling is being done of fall lines, principally Canadian woollens, so far.

FURS.—We learn of little new in this line. A fair number of mixed lots are reported to be still coming in. We quote: Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1 to \$1.25; marten, \$1.75 to \$2.25; fisher, \$4.50 to \$7; lynx, \$1 to \$2; otter, \$1 to \$12 for dark; pale, \$5 to \$7; red fox, large, \$1.30 to \$1.50; small, \$1; cross fox, \$3 to \$6; bear, cubs, \$3 to \$7; medium, \$7 to \$10; large, \$12 to \$15; 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.

	April 25	May 2
	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat	212,396	234,297
Corn	52,429	63,909
Oats	1,117,723	1,152,160
Rye	40,613	61,051
Peas	170,512	176,505
Barley	42,409	43,853
Total grain	1,636,082	1,731,775
Oatmeal	233	223
Flour	18,664	15,540
Buckwheat	93,150	99,019

GROCERIES.—The houses in the trade generally report a very fair steady distri-

bution of goods, with remittances coming in well. On Friday of last week, refiners again advanced sugars a sixteenth, making present factory price for standard granulated 4½c., second grade ditto, 4¼c.; yellows from 3 11-10c. upwards. The big freighter, "Westmeath," from Hamburg, brought some 5,000 pckgs. of foreign refined sugars, principally Austrian, in 200 and 100 lb. sacks, and mostly on order, it is said. Raw beet is stated to be a little easier in European markets, but Javas are reported very firm. Molasses is again firmer, a cable from Barbados to-day quoting 19½c., a gain of a cent and a half within the week, but local jobbers have not further advanced their figures. Some supplies of new rice have come to hand, for the local milling company, and prices in this line incline to increasing firmness. The starch manufacturing companies have agreed on a general advance of a quarter of a cent per lb. Rope is advanced a cent a lb. Tea jobbers are light buyers at the moment. Good medium Japans are scarce, and prices well maintained.

HIDES.—Receipts of hides continue light, but calfskins are plentiful, and there was some talk of a reduction in prices of this latter line, but no change has been made. Lambskins and clips have been advanced this week to 15c., as was predicted in last report. Hides are firmer in Chicago, but local dealers are still buying on the basis of 8c. for No. 1; calfskins 10c. for No. 1, and 8c. for No. 2, per pound.

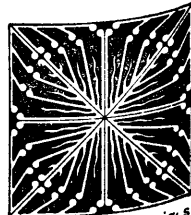
LEATHER.—The feature of the week in leather is the active English enquiry for both sole and black leathers. Local dealers, as well as Western tanners, report cable offers for stock, and considerable lots of sole are being shipped by outgoing steamers, while sales of glove grain are reported at half a cent advance. Advances from American centres also report good European demand. Several of the larger shoe manufacturing concerns here are busy taking stock, and the local demand is still somewhat dull. We quote: Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, 22½ to 23½c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 23 to 24c.; No. 2, 20 to 21c.; No. 1 slaughter, 26 to 28c.; No. 2, do., 24 to 25c.; 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., 18 to 20c.; juniors, 18 to 20c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calfskins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf-

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