

—"The president of John Hopkins University," so The Pathfinder asserts, "is of opinion that the rapid increase of public libraries, and especially of the many subscription enterprises, which now deliver books, like ice or milk, at the door, leads to an excess of reading which is fast becoming not alone a craze, but a disease, endangering mental digestion. A prominent clergyman thinks that too much reading stops thinking and suppresses talking. Mr. Howells comes to about the same conclusion, and thinks that more chatting and less reading would be better for us. He thinks that books of fiction should not be placed in libraries till they are a-year old—in order to quell to some extent the popular fever for light reading."

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Nov. 13th 1901.

Ashes.—The little run of English demand, noted last week, did not result in any great amount of business, shipments only being reported at about 60 barrels, and outgoing steamers this week are not expected to take out as much. As showing how this once important trade has dwindled, it may be noted that the total receipts for the current year only a little exceed 1,200 barrels. We still quote first pots, \$4.40 to \$4.45; seconds, \$3.90 to \$4; pearls, \$6.75 to \$7.

Cements and Firebricks.—The week has been a quiet one in these lines, as regards amount of business doing, and the main attention of importers has been directed towards the getting of stocks off the wharves into warehouse. Receipts for the week ending to-day are 2,320 barrels of Belgian and German cement, and 47,000 firebricks. We quote: Belgian cement, \$1.70 to \$1.95; German, \$2.30 to \$2.50; English, \$2.25 to \$2.35; American, \$2.25 to \$2.50; Canadian Beaver brand, \$1.90; Star, \$2.20; Silicas, \$2.10; firebricks, \$16 to \$22.

Dairy Products.—There has practically been no recent variation in values of cheese, nor is much change looked for in the near future. Business doing is of a moderate, quiet character, principally in October goods. We quote fine Septembers, 9½ to 9¼c.; fine Western Octobers, 8½ to 9c.; Townships, ditto, 8¾ to 8½c.; Quebecs, 8½ to 8¾c.; under grades, 8 to 8½c. Export demand for butter is still good, with fair local enquiry, and prices are little changed. We quote fine fall creamery, 20½ to 21¼c.; held creamery, 18 to 19½c.; dairy makes, 14 to 16c. Cheese shipments last week were 60,102 boxes, being 21,500 boxes in excess of figures for same week a year ago. Butter exports were also fairly liberal, being 10,842 packages.

Dry Goods.—The first actual fall of snow, which fairly whitened the ground Wednesday morning, has given a fillip to retail trade in dry goods, clothing etc., and some of the city tailors report that the rush for winter overcoats is almost more than they can readily handle. Among the wholesale warehouses city buyers are more frequent visitors, looking for blankets and other comfort-giving necessities for the season. In the country travellers are said to be doing well, both in general and spring lines. General collections continue good, and the results of the good crops in the North-West are becoming apparent in freer remittances from that quarter.

Groceries.—Sugar is still the article exciting most interest, and we have to again report a weaker market. Following a cut in New York, the local refiners have reduced granulated, powdered, and cut cubes ten cents a cental, making the present factory price \$4.10; ordinary yellows have not been altered, and the range in these goods runs from \$3.35 to

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