cult to see where they are to get their money out of the business. For heavy goods suitable to mining use there is good demand. In the coming summer's trade, it would appear that light shoes, in the make of which vesting material has been used, will be popular.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Of dairy butter there are large receipts, but stocks have been rapidly absorbed and prices are firm. Offerings of creamery butter are increasing and some of the factories have doubled their output within the past few weeks. Prices remain about as reported last week. We quote: Rolls, 18 to 19c. per lb. and prints, 19 to 20c. per lb. There are no dairy tubs in the market. Creamery tubs are quoted at 20 to 21c. per lb. and prints at 22 to 23c. per lb. Mail advices from London, dated March 11th, report "there is very little Canadian creamery now in the United Kingdom, but at Manchester some of the 'Choicest' fresh made realize 104s. to 106s." The outlook for the future of the trade is somewhat brighter. Our London report continues: "The sudden closing of the Australian market by the arrival of the 'Britannia' (s) on Monday next, with virtually the last shipment of the season, will deprive the market of an average of 9,250 cwts. per week, or about one-third of the total Danish weekly supply. This deficiency, unless made up from some other quarter, ought to have a very important elevating influence on prices. It is worthy of mention that the imports of foreign butter during January and February this year, according to the Board of Trade returns, are 18,097 cwts. below the same months of last year, so that it looks as if the Australian deficiency would not be made up from foreign sources." Cheese is dull and the movement in local trade circles is very quiet and the trade rather uninteresting. Sad news came from Liverpool in the announcement that 15,000 boxes of Canadian cheese had been sold by auction at 37s., which price is equal to about 6½c. per lb. This transaction must have entailed considerable loss, as the cheese could not have cost the seller less than 9c. per lb. The low prices have somewhat increased consumption, but have not resulted in an increase in values. In the local trade about 8 to 8½c. per lb. is asked. Eggs are coming in freely and are selling down very low in price, dealers quoting them in the local market at 10 to 10½c. per dozen. At these prices dealers are not free buyers. At outside points it is reported values are down to 8c. per dozen, and picklers are beginning the season's operations. It is not likely that local egg men will begin their work for the year until after Easter.

GRAIN.—Business has been rather dull during the week and there are few features of interest to report. Transactions in wheat are limited, but values remain as last quoted. Deliveries from first hands are almost *nil* so far as outside points are concerned. The roads are almost impassab'e. Local offerings are in somewhat better condition. The principal interest of the United States markets has centred in the Leiter transactions. All the wheat of this interest it is said will be in movement soon after the opening of navigation. At a meeting to consider the marginal price on wheat Mr. Leiter said that he had a contract for wheat via Montreal as low, Chicago to Liverpool, as 11 32-100c. per bushel. That was on a contract recently made by Lohrke. That, however, was not an all-rail contract. It developed that wheat had been laid down at Liverpool from Chicago all-rail at a little under 15c. per bushel, 14 49-100c. per bushel. Peas are dull and 1 to 2c. per bushel lower in price. Corn remains unchanged. Rye is dull at a decline in prices. The barley market is "off" and the malting season is all but closed for the year.

GREEN FRUITS.—There is a good demand for oranges, and, indeed, prices should favor a large consumption. In a retail way it is possible to sell navel oranges at 25 to 30c. which formerly brought 50c. and even 75c. per dozen. Old Country markets, for marmalade oranges, have been high, and it is difficult to say whether we can expect another shipment from that source this year. We quote:—Washington navels, 96s, 112s, 126s, $3.25 per box: Washington navels, 150s, 176s, 200s, 216s, $3.50 per box; California seedlings, 150s, 176s, 200s, 216s, $2.50 per box; California seedlings, 126s, 250s, $2.25 per box. There is a stronger tendency in oranges. The coming Montreal sales are drawing the attention of the trade. It is not thought importations will be excessive this year. We quote:—New Messina, fancy, 300s, 360s, $2.75 to 3.00; new Messina, choice, 300s, 360s, $2 50 to 2.75. The movement in bananas is gaining ground in view of the mild weather; four cars represents the extent of the market here last week. Fancy fruit is quoted $1.50 to 2.00 per bunch.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The hide market is on a much more satisfactory footing. Merchants have reduced the price of green hides to 8c., and it seems that, in spite of the strong spirit of competition which recently existed in the market, the standard price is being closely adhered to. Sales of cured hides were made during the week at 8c. per lb. This leaves a margin of ¾c. per lb. for the merchant, and if it can only be continued in these days of small profit there should be no cause for complaint. Calfskins are also off 1c. per lb. in value, and merchants quote 10c. to butchers for green skins. Tallow is quiet and rather dull, with values unchanged. Advices from Chicago, March 22nd, state the demand for packer hides was quiet, the few orders received being for small lots, but as offerings were not large values were fairly well maintained, closing at 10½ to 10¾c. for native steers, 9½ to 9¾c. for light Texas, 9¾ to 10c. for heavy do, 9½ to 9¾c. for butt brands, 9¼c. for branded cows, 8¾c. for Colorados, 10c. for heavy native cows, and 10¼c. for light do.

PROVISIONS.—For the season of the year the receipts of dressed hogs are plentiful. It seems certain that there are large supplies still held in the country. The hogs marketed this year have been much lighter than usual and are fully ten to 15 pounds per head under that of last year. This is the result of the discrimination in prices between light and heavy hogs. It would seem that the farmers have gone to extremes, and many hogs are marketed which are of lighter weights than the packers can use with advantege. This has affected the production of long clear bacon and barrel pork, the supply of which will probably be limited next year. If the lumber trade and mining industries continue to increase in importance there will be a shortage in these stocks, and the discrimination in prices may be next year of the opposite nature. Dressed hogs are quoted at about $6 per cwt.

WOOL.—The mills remain very busy and are taking fair supplies of wool. Some interest is being excited in the new season for fleece wool. It is reported that growers hold exaggerated ideas of values which must be removed if the movement next summer is not to be one of serious loss. The London wool auction sales continue to be well attended; competition is animated and prices remain at the base established at the commencement of the series.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 23rd March, 1898.

ASHES.—Dullness is still the prevailing feature, and receipts are very light. There is no doubt that the high inspection charges are militating against the ashes trade at this point, with the result that a number of Western makers of potash are now shipping all their product to New York, where there is no public inspection, dealers in that market being allowed to inspect and grade their own ashes, and it is claimed that such branding is quite satisfactory to the European consumer, and means the netting to the maker of at least 15 cents a hundred more than he can get on ashes shipped to this market. When the make of ashes began to show considerable diminution some years ago the inspection charges were increased, with the permission of the Government, and now, with the cooperage, insurance, etc., the charges run up to $1.50 a barrel, and sometimes more, which is quite a material handicap against this port.

CEMENTS, FIREBRICKS, ETC.—With the more open weather attention is being directed to outdoor work, and there is rather more demand for cements, stocks of which are not calculated to be in excess of wants till new shipments arrive, and quotations are very firm at $1 95 to 2.05 for Belgian, and $2.10 to 2.20 for British. Bricks are qoted $17 to 22.00 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There was an auction sale of some 15,000 boxes of Canadian cheese in Liverpool on Monday, reports of which were anxiously looked for. The results have been rather better than anticipated, the prices realized being slightly above the cable quotation, and giving a little more heart to holders here. Trading, however, is still very dull, and it is somewhat difficult to establish a spot quotation; about 7¾c. would be the figure for finest. Good grades of butter bring good prices; fine new creamery is in active demand at 21c.; held stock, 18 to 20c.; good roll butter is scarce and has realized 17 to 18c. There is a plethora of eggs, and new laid are down to 11c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—Some improvement is shown in the city retail trade. In wholesale circles business is well sustained for the season, and though the greater proportion of spring shipments of dry goods have been made, there is still quite a steady influx of orders reported, both from travelers and by mail. Recent English letters contain nothing of special note with regard to values, and in domestic products there has been no recent revision of quotations, though some manufacturers of tweeds claim to be getting a little better figures, and the advance in the London wool market, elsewhere noted, may lead to some advance here.

FURS.—Cable advices regarding the Hudson Bay Company's collection of raw furs, which were sold in London last week, are as follows: The comparisons are with figures of last March sales, and as a rule are about equal to the figures realized at the sales in January. Otter, same as last March; fisher, 12½ per cent lower; silver fox, 25 per cent. higher; cross fox, same as March, 1897; red fox, 10 to 15 per cent. higher; white fox, 25 per cent. higher; marten, 10 per cent. higher; mink, 25 to 30 per cent. higher; lynx, 7½ per cent. higher; wolf, 20 per cent. higher; bear, 15 to 20 per cent. higher; skunk, 20 per cent. higher. Sale still in progress. We quote:—Mink, large dark $1.50; small, do., $1.00 to 1.25; marten, $1.75 to 2.25; fisher, $4.50 to 7.00; 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 1.50; 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.

	March 14, 1898.	March 21, 1896.
Wheat, bushels......	461,084	93,295
Corn, "	22,403	43,587
Oats, "	563,335	915,910
Rye, "	59,161	42,084
Peas, "	182,294	128,274
Barley, "	42,819	38,492
Total grain	1,331,096	1,261,742
Oatmeal	3,417	63
Flour	43 215	20,311
Buckwheat..........	60,231	54,984

GROCERIES.—Country letters report business and collections as somewhat affected by the general break-up of the roads, and, as is usual at the season, wholesale trade is not particularly brisk. As regards values, there is little fresh to note. Sugars and teas both continue somewhat dull. In the former line refiners do not report any improved demand, and quotations remain at last week's level, namely, 4⅜c. per lb. for standard granulated, Austrian refined 4 to 4⅛c., and yellows ranging from 3¼ to 3⅞c. We learn that some moderate orders are being forwarded for German and Austrian refined sugars, for shipment by first direct vessels, which it is calculated will cost about $3 75 to 3.80 per cental laid down here. Quotations for teas continue to be steadily held, despite the continued dullness in the demand, and some stocks held here on New York account, are being shipped back to that city, it is said, as affording a better market. Molasses seems rather unsettled on the Island, and apart from the 1,000 puncheon lot reported bought on refinery account, there seem to be few Montreal orders yet placed for new stock. Local quotations for car lots of Barbadoes are from 26 to 27c. per gal., and in a jobbing way 28c. Coffees are not very active. We quote:—Rio, 10 to 11c.; Santos, 11 to 12c.; Mocha, 23 to 25c.; Java, 27 to 30c. Dried fruits, generally, are dull, with the exception, perhaps, of California prunes, for which there is good demand, and coast prices are reported firmer. Stocks of Valencia shelled almonds are about exhausted and parties who have cabled orders report a difficulty in getting even small lots.

HIDES.—The weakness in the hide market, noted last week, has developed into a decline in price of half a cent, dealers now buying on