

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Nov. 8th, 1898.

ASHES.—The week has developed still a further advance, and first quality pots have been sold up to \$4.80 to 4.90; seconds, about \$4.10, but none coming forward. A lot of 12 barrels pearls came in a few days ago, the first received for some time, but they inspected seconds. Receipts have been a little large, some 50 bbls. having come in last Saturday, and some smaller lots since. Stock in store at date, 95 barrels of pots.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The demand for cements is quiet at the moment, and there is the probability that a good deal arriving will have to be stored. We quote: English, \$2.10 to 2.20; Belgian, \$1.90 to 2.00. Bricks are quoted at \$15 to 20, according to quality.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—We have to announce an active week in cheese shipments, which brings up the aggregate to end of last week to 1,472,959 boxes, figures which top the very large figures of the corresponding date last year by 9,585 boxes. Prices are a shade easier than a week ago. We quote finest colored 1½ to 1½c.; finest white, 1½c.; Townships, 1½ to 1½c.; Quebec, 1½c. to 1½c. per lb. The movement in butter is a comparatively light one, but prices are just about as before; we quote creamery 22 to 23c.; Townships, 21 to 22c.; Western, 19½ to 20c. per lb. Eggs are in good request at 16c. for ordinary stock, while strictly fresh bring 17 to 18c. per dozen.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Wholesale men seem satisfied with the amount of trade that is being done, but in common with other lines, they find collections somewhat slow. Heavy chemicals are all firm, and the sedan are stronger, notably bicarb, which we advance. Cream tartar is weaker, and along with tartaric acid, has seldom been so low. Quinine is somewhat easier, also carbolic acid, Camphor has dropped a little in price. We quote:—Sal soda, \$1.15 to 1.25; bicarb soda, \$2.60 to 2.70; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$2; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 8½ to 10c., cream tartar crystals, 19 to 21c.; do. ground, 20 to 22c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 35 to 39c.; do. powder, 38 to 40c.; citric acid, 60 to 65c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.50 to 2.75; sugar of lead, 10 to 12c.; bleaching powder, \$2.75 to 3.25; alum, \$1.75 to 2.00; copperas, per 100 lbs., 95c. to \$1.10; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.75 to 3.00; roll sulphur, \$2.50 to 2.75; sulphate of copper, \$4.25 to 4.75; epsom salts, \$1.40 to 1.60; saltpetre, \$3.50 to 3.80; American quinine, 25 to 30c.; German quinine, 30 to 35c.; Howard's quinine, 35 to 40c.; opium, \$1.50 to 5.00; morphine, \$2.10 to 2.40; gum arabic, sorts, 25 to 40c.; white, 50c. to 75c.;

carbolic acid crystals, 30 to 45c. per lb.; crude 90c. to \$1 per gallon; iodide potassium, \$3.90 to \$4.25 per lb.; iodine, re-sublimed, \$4.75 to 5.00; commercial do., \$4.25 to 4.75. Prices for essential oils are:—Oil lemon, \$2.50 to 2.75; oil bergamot, \$3.75 to 4.25; orange, \$3.50 to 4.00; oil peppermint, \$4.00 to 5.00; glycerine, 18 to 20c.; senna, 12 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 65 to 70c.; American do., 63 to 68c.; insect powder, 25 to 35c.

DRY GOODS.—There is now pretty general complaint among wholesale dealers that sorting business is quiet. The prolonged spell of fine open weather is making itself felt in this line of trade as well as in shoes and clothing. Letters from commercial travellers, particularly those up west, are full of the difficulties found in doing business, and speak of comparatively unbroken retail stocks. As may be fairly presumed there is no improvement in collections.

FURS.—European markets are dull, and the tone of letters from that quarter somewhat depressed. The recent London sales of furs show an all round decline in prices. On Nov. 29th the London sale of salted sealskins takes place, when there will be offered 7,500 Alaskas, 32,800 Copper Island and 70,000 Nor-West coast skins. We give the following quotations for average prime skins. Extra qualities will bring more, and unprime skins less: Beaver, per lb., \$3; bear, per skin, \$8 to 10; ditto cub, \$2 to 4; fisher, \$1.50 to 3; red fox, 75c. to \$1; lynx, \$1 to 2; martens, 75c. to \$1; muskrat, 50c. to \$1.50; mink, 8 to 10c.; otter, \$3 to 12; raccoon, 25 to 75c.; skunk, 25 to 50c.

GROCERIES.—The one event of the week in this line is the drop of a full quarter cent in sugars, which went into effect on Monday afternoon; granulated is now 4½c. at the factory; yellows, 3½ to 4½c., but there is a decided scarcity of bright goods. This out in prices is said to be due to a decline in New York. Syrups are not altered in price. There is some tendency to increased firmness in the prices of dried fruits. Direct importations were light this fall, the total supply of Valencia raisins thus far having been only about 70,000 boxes, and these, as well as direct shipments of currants, have been already distributed; further supplies of these goods will be shortly due, via New York and Halifax. An advance of a shilling in Valencias is reported from Denia, and with the present light stocks there is no inclination to shade quotations as given last week. While there is no fuss or excitement in teas, there is a moderate outgo at steady prices.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—Local prices for hides are quite unchanged, and No. 1 green hides are being bought by butchers at 4c. per pound; tanners are light buyers at 4½c. The price of lambskins is being kept up to 65 to 70c. each, though they are much depressed in the United States, being quoted in Boston at 30 to 50c.

Tallow is quoted at 5½ to 6c. for rendered; rough, 3c. per pound.

LEATHER AND SHOES.—The continued fine weather has materially affected retail sales of shoes, and as a consequence sorting business is quiet with manufacturers. The factories are not likely to be very busy till after the turn of the year, when making of spring stock will actively begin. Quebec manufacturers are also reported quiet. In leather the movement is but a small one; some moderate lots of sole and light upper are selling, but splits and heavy upper are likely to be dull for some time. Shipments of about 50 tons of No. 3 sole, of which there has been some accumulation here, have been made to England during the past fortnight. We quote:—Spanish sole B. A. No. 1, 19 to 22c.; do. No. 2 to B.A., 17 to 19c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 18 to 20c.; No. 2, 18 to 17c.; No. 1, slaughter, 19 to 22c.; No. 2, do., 18 to 19c.; American oak sole, 39 to 43c.; British oak sole, 38 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 24 to 26c.; ditto, heavy, 30 to 24c.; grained, 24 to 26c.; Scotch grained, 25 to 27c.; splits, large, 14 to 18c.; do., small, 12 to 14c.;

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