

John Roach, of Philadelphia, the famous shipbuilder, who died some weeks ago, was insured in the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York for \$10,000. He paid the company in all \$10,449 in premiums, and his heirs received in cash \$21,345. Thus his investment realized a profit of \$10,896.

## Commercial.

### MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, March 2nd, 1887.

We cannot yet report any very noteworthy improvement in wholesale trade, the expectations that business would be much better after the hurly-burly of elections not having thus far been fulfilled. That the unusually severe winter is answerable to a large degree for this state of affairs there can be little doubt. A letter from a leading merchant at an Upper Ottawa point says that they have had no roads since January 10th, and that farmers can hardly get beyond the limits of their own barnyards; other districts are very little better off. Late last week this section was again visited with another terrible storm, which continued all Sunday, blocking up all the roads again, and demoralizing railway traffic, trains on all lines having to be cancelled, and some of the smaller branches being still unopened. The "oldest inhabitant" and weather authorities say that this is the severest winter we have had for twenty years, not only as regards low temperature, but also as regards the quantity of snow, the observatory figures showing snowfall to date as reaching close on to ten feet on the level. It can therefore readily be

conceived how difficult traffic must be in the interior, and how the movement of merchandise and money must be retarded.

**ASHES.**—Values are still about as reported last week, viz., No. 1 pots \$4.15 to \$4.20; seconds \$3.50 to \$3.60; pearls, no recent transactions. The demand in Liverpool is slightly improved, and we hear of a sale of fifty barrels on an order from there at a fair price. Receipts up to date are a little ahead of last year, not that there is any increase in the make, but manufacturers have been induced to send in their ashes owing to high prices, instead of waiting till opening of navigation as usual.

**BOOTS AND SHOES AND LEATHER.**—Boot and shoe manufacturers report a good steady business doing, and the shipment of orders, from this out, will now proceed actively. In leather there is a rather better enquiry, and shoe manufacturers are now expected to buy more freely. The favorable English advices noted last week have led to some considerable shipments of splits and buff, which will help this market. Values rule pretty steady, though some shading would be done for round lots. We quote:—Spanish sole, B. A. No. 1, 24 to 26c.; do. No. 2, B. A., 20 to 23c.; No. 1 Ordinary Spanish, 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; No. 1 China, 22 to 23c.; No. 2, 21 to 22c.; ditto. Buffalo Sole No. 1, 21 to 22c.; ditto. No. 2, 19½ to 21c.; Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1, 25 to 29c.; oak sole, 42 to 48c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 38c.; ditto. heavy 32 to 36c.; Grained 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained 36 to 40c.; Splits large 22 to 28c.; do. small 16 to 24c.; Calf-splits, 18 to 32c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46 lbs.), 70 to 80c.; Imitation French Calf, skins 80 to 85c.; Russet Sheepskins Linings, 30 to 40c.; Harness 24 to 33c.; Buffed Cow, 13 to 16c.; Pebbled Cow, 11 to 15½c.; Rough 23 to 28c.; Russet and Bridle, 54 to 55c.

**DRY GOODS.**—Nothing of a novel character is to be noted in this line. Travellers are all home from first spring trip, but some of them have gone to Toronto to catch customers who may attend the spring millinery openings there this week. Montreal millinery houses will have their openings next week. Prices are well maintained in all lines, and cotton mills are all well employed, making to order only. Some houses report remittances as a little better, but there is no general improvement to be noted in this respect yet.

**FISH.**—The demand for herrings has been much smaller than usual at this season, green cod having apparently supplanted them to a large extent; sales of latter have been very large, still receipts have also been heavy, figuring, it is said, up to 2,000 barrels for last fortnight. Prices are somewhat easier. We quote:—Green cod \$5.00 for large draft; No. 1 large \$4.50; No. 1 ordinary \$3.50; dry cod \$2.75 to \$3.00; Labrador herrings \$5.25 to \$5.50 for choicest; Cape Breton \$5.50. North Shore Salmon, No. 1, \$17; No. 2, \$16.00; British Columbia Salmon, \$13.50; Lake Trout, \$3.75; no white-fish.

**FURS.**—Receipts in this line still continue light, and business is of a moderate character. Prices will not suffer any change till after London March sales. We still quote:—Beaver \$3.50 to \$4.50; bear \$12.00 to \$15.00; cub do. \$5 to \$6; fisher \$5 to \$6; fox, red, \$1 to \$1.20; fox cross, \$2.00; lynx, \$2 to \$3.50; marten, \$1.00 to \$1.25; mink, \$1 to \$1.25; muskrat, 10 to 12c.; racoon 40 to 60c.; skunk 40 to 80c. as to quality; otter, \$8 to \$12.

**HIDES.**—Prices of green hides still run at 7½, 6½ and 5½c. for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 respectively to dealers, with a considerable proportion of receipts turning out grubby; the market cannot be said to be very steady and a change is not improbable. A few sales of new calfskins are reported, and quotations for inspected

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are 13, 11 and 9c. respectively; sheepskins 85c. to \$1 as to quality.

**GROCERIES.**—Though the election excitement has pretty well subsided, business has not materially improved, the usual weekly blizzard having arrived on time last Friday, and again demoralized traffic by both rail and road. There is no question that country stocks are low, and that goods are wanted, and there is reasonable expectation that a good trade will be done as soon as communication gets fairly settled. Prices show very little change. Sugars are another sixteenth better, factory price for granulated being 6 to 6½c. as to lot, yellows 4½ to 5½c.; syrup still scarce and high; molasses held at 37½c. yet for choice Barbadoes. Teas are in fair demand, but nothing of a lively movement, and there is no enquiry from outside at the moment; coffees unchanged. Dried fruits dull at former figures, Valencia raisins 5½ to 6½c., currants also 5½ to 6½c.; prunes firm at

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