

4 1-16c. and yellow at 3½c. per lb. The raw markets are stronger and cables report a firm tone in the market. In spices local trade is quiet, but foreign markets have shown activity, with higher quotations. Teas have continued in active movement on speculative account. There has been a better enquiry for canned fruits this week; canned vegetables remain quiet and as yet attract only nominal interest. Coffee is quiet and prices unchanged.

HIDES AND SKINS.—February is usually a dull month in the hide trade. Receipts are of inferior quality, and tanners are not inclined to purchase supplies except for immediate requirements. Canadian tanners find it difficult to sell their product at full rates, and are not disposed to turn dear hides into cheap leather. In the American markets dealers show a readiness to sell at present prices rather than hold for a possible advantage, although this does not necessarily show lack of faith in future values. Hides are in only moderate receipt, and a fair volume of transactions have kept stocks pretty well cleaned up. Toronto merchants continue to pay 6½c. for green hides, and quote cured and inspected at 7½c. Sheepskins are quiet. Tallow remains dull; values depressed.

PROVISIONS.—The week's trade in provisions has shown some improvement, as compared with the volume of movement the past several weeks. Heavy products are in better enquiry, and several fairly large transactions in this class of meats are reported. For barrel pork there is a moderately active demand. Values remain very steady and few changes of importance are reported. The deliveries of dressed hogs have been limited and packers say the winter season is almost closed. In another column we refer to the pork-packing industry at greater length.

WOOL.—During the week a car of Canadian fleece wool was shipped to the United States; another car is now in preparation, and these shipments will probably close the season. A few stray lots of wool are being offered from country points, but do not meet with ready demand. Wool merchants are not disposed to carry Canadian fleece wool into next season, as the trade stands in a peculiar position, the difficulties having been augmented by the uncertainties of tariff legislation in the United States.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 17th Feb., 1897.

ASHES.—The market lacks activity, and values are easier. Some transactions are reported in first quality pots at \$3.30, and 3.35 would probably be the present outside limit for quotations; second pots, \$3 to 3.05; pearls, nominal at \$4.50. The shipment of a lot of 37 brls. is reported during the week, but little other business is reported.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—Some few enquiries are heard regarding prices for spring arrivals of cements, but dealers are yet unable to make quotations. The time for the receiving of tenders for the supply of the 83,000 brls. required by Government has been extended a month, but the condition requiring the deposit of a certified cheque for \$20,000 with tender seems to bother a good many would-be tenderers. For the season there is a fair city demand for cement in small lots, and former quotations hold. Bricks are also in fair request at \$16.50 to 22.50 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Some of the country creameries are said to be already turning their attention to fodder cheese, a subject to which we refer elsewhere; but no offerings of these goods are looked for here for some weeks yet. Actual trading on spot is very light, as there is really no stock available. Some considerable shipments of the cheese held here on English account have been made during the past week or so. There is little new in butter; what fine creamery is being offered finds ready sale at 19½ to 20c.; rolls, 12 to 13c.; Townships dairy, 13 to 16c.; Western ditto, 10 to 12c. New laid eggs are easier at 15 to 16c.; limed, quoted at 11 to 11½c. per dozen.

FISH.—The demand continues to improve, and in some lines of pickled fish there threatens to be a decided scarcity, notably in green cod, while any brisk demand would speedily clean up the local stocks of salmon. We quote:—No. 1 large herring, \$4.25 to 4.75; lower grades, \$3 to \$4; green cod, \$5 for No. 1, and \$5.50 for No. 1 large; No. 2, \$3.50; dry cod, \$3.75 to

4.25; North Shore salmon, \$12.50 to 13.50; sea trout, \$7 to 7.50; fresh herring, \$1.00 to 1.25 per hundred for large, 60 to 80c. for small; haddock and cod, 3 to 3½c. per lb.; finnan haddies, 5½ to 7c., as to quality; boneless cod, 5½c.; skinless cod, 4½ to 5c.

FURS.—The remarks of last week still apply. Offerings of raw pelts are just moderate, and dealers are apparently not very anxious buyers. We quote for prime skins: Black bear, choice only, \$15 to 20; cubs and yearlings, \$1 to 5; fisher, \$5 to 7.50 as to color; red fox, \$1.20 to 1.50; cross do., \$4 to 10, depending on size and beauty; silver do., \$20 to 50; lynx, \$1.50 to \$2; marten, \$1.50 to 2.25; mink, \$1 to 1.50; muskrat, winter, 10 to 13c.; fall, 6 to 9c.; coon, 60c. to \$1; black do., \$1.75 to 2.25; skunk, black, 75 to 90c.; short stripe, 50 to 60c.; long stripe, 20 to 30c.; white, 5 to 15c.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Jan. 25th, '97.	Feb. 15th, '97.
Wheat, bushels.....	445,659	447,568
Corn, "	25,265	24,436
Oats, "	179,785	295,601
Rye, "	50,270	52,150
Peas, "	140,424	148,000
Barley, "	41,730	56,472
Total grain	883,133	1,025,233
Oatmeal.....	144	1,809
Flour	37,144	52,121
Buckwheat.....	27,950

GROCERIES.—There is not the business doing in this line which is looked for at the season. The demand is of intermittent character, some days being marked by fair orders, but on the whole business is just of a moderate sorting character, and large orders are the exception. For canned goods and other Lenten specialties, there is, of course, more enquiry; and some little renewal of demand for dried fruits is also looked for about this season. Canned goods generally are held very firmly; for best brands of tomatoes 80 to 85c. is now being asked in a jobbing way; peas, 75c.; corn, 55 to 65c.; peaches have been lately advanced, and are scarce; for 2 lbs. \$1.75 is quoted, and 3 lbs., \$2.75. Lobsters are in very light supply, and firm at \$9 to 10.50 per case as to style of package and quality; salmon, \$1.25 to 1.35, for standard brands. Dried fruits are steady at old quotations, with the exception of dried and evaporated apples, which are very easy in price, owing to the still plenty of green fruit; good quality dried apples are obtainable at 2½c., and evaporated at 4 to 4½c. per lb. Gallon apples are dull and low in price for the same reason. The situation as regards sugar shows some little sign of improvement. Outside markets are steadier, granulated having advanced an eighth the end of last week in New York. Locally quotations have not yet been altered, but refiners are evidently firmer in their ideas; the demand, too, is slightly better, and stocks in the country must be pretty well run down, considering the little business there has been done the past six or eight weeks. Both the refineries are again at work, though still having a good deal of stock in store. Teas are rather quiet at the moment, though there is no break in prices. Reports regarding molasses are somewhat conflicting; a decline of 10c. is cabled from the island, and some holders seem disposed to make a concession on recent prices for wholesale lots, but others claim that there is much less stock here than a year ago, and hold steadily to 28 to 29c. for round quantities of choice Barbadoes and Porto Rico; the jobbing quotations are as given last week.

HIDES.—American advices continue to be of a very firm tone, No. 1 buff hides being quoted at 8½c. per lb. in Chicago, it is said, but the level of the local market is unchanged, dealers quoting 7½ to 8c. to tanners, at which figures present receipts are being fairly absorbed, but there are some 8,000 to 10,000 fall hides still in store, which have cost more than present offerings. Dealers continue to buy on the basis of 7c. for No. 1. Calfskins are coming in rather more freely, and quote at 7c. per lb. for No. 1, and 5c. for No. 2. Lambskins still 90c. each.

LEATHER.—Rather more enquiry is noted, with fair business going forward in sole, dongolas, etc., but the ordinary run of black leathers remain dull, comparatively few of these goods being now cut for spring and summer wear, colored leather and dongolas having largely displaced them. The general tone of the market is quite firm, sole leather men in some cases disposed to an advance, on the strength of

American advices regarding dry hides, which report an advance of half a cent in New York. No. 2 manufacturers' sole is firmly held at 21c. in quantity, and No. 1 slaughter 23 to 24c., with some asking 25c. for heavy. Western crimping splits about 20c., and light 22 to 24c. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 22 to 23c.; do. No. 2, 21c. to 22c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 25c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; common, 17 to 18c.; waxed upper light and medium, 26 to 29c.; do. heavy, 24 to 27c.; grained, 25 to 30c.; Scotch grained, 25 to 30c.; western splits, 20 to 25c.; Quebec do., 15 to 17c.; juniors, 13 to 15c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 22c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 14c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 11 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 11 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—The demand for these goods is still of a light character, and we hear of few orders yet being booked for spring importation of pig iron, plates, etc. A few small sales, from five tons to car lots of Summerlee pig iron, are reported at quotations, and one firm controls about all the stock in this line. Very little business is reported in tin and Canada plates, galvanized sheets, etc., consumers apparently awaiting the final settlement of the loss on the Crathern & Caverhill stock, in which is a considerable quantity of these goods. The discount on galvanized and annealed wire has been increased to 25 per cent. We quote: Summerlee pig iron, \$20 to 20.50, ex-store; Carron, \$19.50; Ayrshire, \$18.50; Shotts, \$18.25 to 18.50; Carnbroe, \$18.50 to 19.00, ex-store; Siemens pig No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Ferrona, No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Hamilton No. 1, \$18.25 to 18.50; No. 2, ditto, \$18.00; machinery scrap, \$15.00; common do., \$12.00 to 13.00; bar iron, Canadian, \$1.40 to 1.45; British, \$2.00 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.40; Low Moor, \$5.00; Canada plates—Pontypool, or equal, \$2.40, 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets \$2.50; 75 sheets \$2.60; all polished Canadas, \$2.60; Terne roofing plate, 20x28, \$5.75 to 6.00; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.25 to 2.30; No. 26, \$2.15 to 2.20; No. 24, \$2.05 to 2.10; Nos. 17 to 20, \$2; No. 16 and heavier, \$2.30; tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$5.60 to 5.70; charcoal, I. C., Alloyway, \$3.75; do. I.X., \$3.90 to 4.00; P. D. Crown, I. C., \$3.60 to 3.75; do. I.X., \$4.50; Coke I. C., \$2.90 to \$3.00; coke, wasters, \$2.70; galvanized sheets, No. 28, ordinary brands, \$4.25; No. 26, \$4.00; No. 24, \$3.75 in case lots; Morewood, \$5.00 to 5.10; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 5½c.; No. 26, 6c.; the usual extra for large sizes. Canadian bands, per 100 lbs., \$1.75; English ditto, \$2; hoops, \$2.15. Steel boiler plate, ½ inch and upwards, \$1.85 to 1.90 for Dalzell, and equal; ditto three-sixteenths inch, \$2.50; tank iron, ½ inch, \$1.50; three-sixteenths do., \$2.00; tank steel, \$1.75; heads, seven-sixteenths and upwards, \$2.45 to 2.50; Russian sheet iron 9c.; lead, per 100 lbs., pig, \$3.15 to 3.25; sheet, \$4 to 4.25; shot, \$6 to 6.50; best cast-steel, 8 to 10c.; toe calk, \$2.25; spring, \$2.50; sleigh shoe, \$1.85; tire, \$1.90; round machinery steel \$2.25; ingot tin, 16 to 17c. for L. & F.; Straits, 15½ to 16½c.; bar tin, 16½ to 17c.; ingot copper, 12½ to 13c.; sheet zinc, \$5 to \$5.25; Silesian spelter, \$4.50; Veille Montagne spelter, \$4.75; American spelter, \$4.50; anti-mony, 8½ to 9c.; bright iron wires Nos. 0 to 8, \$2.60 per 100 lbs.; annealed and oiled do., \$2.65; galvanized, \$3.15; the trade discount on wire is 25 per cent. Barb and twisted wire and staples, \$3 per hundred for Quebec province, freight paid on half-ton lots; for Ontario points, \$2.85, freight paid up to 25c. per hundred.

OILS, PAINTS AND GLASS.—There has been some stiffening in turpentine, quotations having been advanced one cent. Some further trading in round lots of fish oils is reported, though the country demand for this line of goods is very light. Stocks in first hands are now small, and it is said 35c. per gal. would be asked for Newfoundland cod oil in fair quantity by some. In other lines the old figures continue. We quote:—Turpentine, one to four brls., 43c.; five to nine brls., 42c., net 30 days. Linseed oil raw, one to four brls., 46c.; five to nine brls., 45c.; boiled, one to four barrels, 49c.; five to nine barrels, 48c., net 30 days; olive oil, machinery, 90c.; Nfld. cod, 34 to 36c. per gal.; Gaspe