

In the local market, demand is quiet, but business is going forward steadily and prices show little change. A moderate tonnage is moving for prompt delivery. Good inquiries are being received for spring delivery, but purchasers are looking for low prices, and in most cases are holding off until satisfactory figures are quoted. It is thought, however, that a considerable buying movement will take place for May and June deliveries here.

Antimony.—The market is steady at 10½ to 11c. per pound.

Bar Iron and Steel.—The market on mild steel, sleigh shoe, tire and machine steel has declined 5c., that on toe calk having declined 10c. Bar iron, \$2 per 100 lbs.; best refined horseshoe iron, \$2.25, and forged iron, \$2.15; mild steel, \$2.05; sleigh shoe steel, \$2.05 for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$2.05 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$2.50; machine steel, iron finish, \$2.15.

Boiler Tubes.—The market holds steady, demand being fair. Prices are as follows: Two-inch tubes, 8 to 8¼c., 2½-inch, 11c.; 3-inch, 12 to 12¼c.; 3½-inch, 15 to 15¼c.; 4-inch, 19¼ to 19½c.

Building Paper.—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounce, \$2 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, No. 1, 60c. per roll of 400 square feet No. 2, 40c.; dry sheathing, No. 1, 50c. per roll of 400 square feet, No. 2, 32c.

Cement—Canadian and American.—Canadian cement is generally quoted at \$1.85 to \$1.90 per barrel, in cotton bags, and \$2.10 to \$2.20 in wood, weights in both cases 350 pounds. There are four bags of 87½ pounds each, net, to a barrel, and 10 cents must be added to the above prices for each bag. Bags in good condition are purchased at 10 cents each. Where paper bags are wanted instead of cotton, the charge is 2½ cents for each, or 10 cents per barrel weight. American cement is steady at \$1.10 per 350 pounds, basis Glens Falls or Lehigh mills, cotton or paper bags. When the cotton bags are returned in good condition, only 7½ cents is allowed for them. American cement sold at \$2 on track.

Cement—English and European.—English cement is unchanged at \$1.75 to \$1.90 per barrel in jute sacks of 82½ pounds each (including price of sacks) and \$2.25 to \$2.35 in wood, per 350 pounds, gross. Belgian cement is quoted at \$1.70 to \$1.80 per barrel in bags, and \$2.05 to \$2.10 per barrel, in wood.

Copper.—The market for copper is unchanged. Prices are 15½ to 16c. per pound.

Iron.—Summerlee iron is \$23 for No. 2 selected, and \$24.50 for No. 1, and No. 3 Clarence or Cleveland, \$20; Carron, special, \$24, and soft \$23.75. Quotations are for car lots, f.o.b., for immediate delivery. Lower prices may be had for future delivery.

Lead.—The market is steady and unchanged, this week, at \$4 to \$4.10 per 100 pounds.

Nails.—Demand for nails is steady, prices being \$2.30 per keg for cut, and \$2.25 for wire, base prices.

Pipe—Cast Iron.—The market is next thing to dead, as nothing is used during the winter. Prices are steady at \$36 for 8-inch pipe and larger; \$37 for 6-inch pipe, \$38 for 5-inch, and \$39 for 4-inch at the foundry. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

Pipe, Wrought.—The market is firm but duller. Quotations and discounts for small lots, screwed and coupled, are as follows: ¼-inch to ¾-inch, \$5.50, with 54 per cent. off for black and 38 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 66 per cent. off for black and 56 per cent. off for galvanized: ½-inch, \$8.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1¼-inch, \$22.50; 1½-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; and 3-inch, \$75.50; 3½-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

Spikes.—Railway spikes are not in very good demand \$2.60 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at \$3.15 per 100 pounds, base of ¾ x 10 inch and ¾ x 12 inch.

Steel Shafting.—At the present time prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is very dull and lower figures would hardly be refused.

Steel Plates.—Demand is quite dull and a firm bid at lower figures than quotations would be considered. Quotations are: \$2.75 for 3-16, and \$2.50 for ¼ and thicker, in small lots.

Tar and Pitch.—Coal tar, \$4 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing 575 to 600 pounds; coal tar pitch, No. 1, 75c. per 100 pounds, No. 2, 65c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$4.35 to \$4.50 per barrel of about 280 pounds; pine pitch, \$4.25 per barrel of 180 to 200 pounds.

Tin.—Tin is steady, at 32½ to 33c. per pound.

Tool Steel.—Demand is light, but the market is firm. Base prices are as follows: Jessop's best unannealed, 14¼c. per pound, annealed being 15½c.; second grade, 8½c., and high-speed, "Ark," 60c., and "Novo," 65c.; "Conqueror," 55 to 60c.; Sanderson Bros. and Newbould's "Sabon," high-speed, 60c.; extra cast tool steel, 14c., and "Colorado" cast tool steel, 8c., base prices. Sanderson's "Rex A" is quoted at 75c. and upward; Self-Hardening, 45c.; Extra, 15c.; Superior, 12c.; and Crucible, 8c.; "Edgar Allan's Air-Hardening," 55 to 65c. per pound.

Zinc.—Zinc is steady at \$5.25 to \$5.50 per 100 pounds.

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Toronto, March 5th, 1908.

The wintry aspect of the country checks any activity in demand for building materials, while the immediate construction jobs are neither so numerous nor so large as a year ago. But with April or May will begin a number of structures. Churches and schools in Toronto, new factories and extensions of existing ones outside, besides Government work at various points.

Bricks and cement maintain their price. Roofing and building paper, pitch and tar, while quiet, are firm. Among metals there are no startling changes, although tin and copper are subject to fluctuation from speculative causes as before. In New York there are increased deliveries of late into almost all consuming channels of iron, steel and other metals. Timber and lumber are firm, pine especially so, hemlock showing ease in some quarters. Spruce easier at the moment, with prospect of stiffening in spring.

Efforts were made a fortnight ago, and again a week ago, to create an impression that but little copper is available in America, whereas the reverse is the fact. A so-called independent copper interest has been thus trying to boom the price while secretly accepting low prices in Europe. At the end of February tin advanced £1 in Singapore, closing at £129 c.i.f., London. A sharp advance took place in London, too, and a small supply was temporarily cornered in New York. The following are wholesale prices for Toronto, where not otherwise explained. Higher prices are quoted for broken quantities:—

American Bessemer.—Fourteen-gauge, \$2.45; 17, 18, and 20-gauge, \$2.60; 22 and 24-gauge, \$2.65; 26-gauge, \$2.80; 28-gauge, \$3.

Antimony.—Quiet, but inquiries are coming in more freely; we quote 11½ to 13c.

Bar Iron.—\$2.10 base, from stock to the wholesale dealer.

Beams and channels, \$2.75 to \$3, according to size and quantity; angles, 1¼ by 3-16 and larger, \$2.65; tees, \$2.90 to \$3 per 100 pounds. Extras for smaller sizes.

Boiler Heads.—25c. per 100 pounds advance on boiler plate.

Boiler Plates.—¼-inch and heavier, \$2.50. Supply probably adequate and quotations still firm.

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