

cult to obtain former prices. There is very little trading in cheese. Local requirements are small, and only a hand-to-mouth business is being done. In the country exporters are unwilling to pay the prices asked for cheese by salesmen, and the movement is almost at a standstill. Trade in eggs has been unsettled. The quantity coming forward has been more than sufficient to meet the demand. Western exporters have shipped large quantities of seconds here, which have a bad effect upon trade. Several export shipments are going forward this week, with it is said little chance of successful returns.

**DRY GOODS.**—The samples of colored cottons for the spring season of 1898 are now at hand, and manufacturers' agents are busy soliciting the trade for orders. The goods are certainly very creditable to the producers, and show many new and pretty designs. Prices are unchanged. In woolen goods there is a fair movement. Several houses have received good orders from Victoria, B.C., for heavy blankets, intended for the gold fields trade. Prices remain depressed in woolens.

**GRAIN.**—As compared with quotations last week, there has been a decline of 1 to 2c. per bushel in the price of wheat. This is the result of free deliveries in both Canada and the United States. Ontario farmers appear to be confining all their offerings of grain to wheat, and are holding back their stocks of oats, peas, and—where they have any—barley. There is a fair demand for wheat from local millers. Barley is dull. Oats are firm at an advance of 1c. per bush. Peas remain firm, but with a small movement. The statistician of the United States Agricultural Department estimates that "according to Beerbohm's estimate of this year's crop, there is a deficiency of 113,000,000 bushels in European countries as compared with their average product for the six year's 1891-1896—an average which includes the exceptionally small crop of 1891. To make up this deficiency little help is to be expected from India, Argentina, or Australasia for months to come, and in so far as Europe will have to import a larger quantity than usual, she will have to draw it mainly from North America, and especially from the United States, the Canadian contribution being relatively small. Official returns for Ontario and Manitoba give for these two Provinces an aggregate of 51,042,253 bushels. If the Argentine crop shall escape the ravages of locusts it seems likely to turn out unusually well, and from January, 1898, when the bulk of the harvest will be got in in Argentina, that country may have more or less wheat to export, as the latest mail advices represent the crop as being in fine condition and the weather highly favorable."

**HARDWARE AND METALS.**—Orders from country points are now beginning to improve. Travellers having been in the city during the Fair weeks are again on their different routes, and are meeting with moderate success. It cannot be said that the experiences of the wholesale houses during the Exhibition weeks were satisfactory. The number of visitors was about the same as last year, but orders were for some reason not as numerous nor as large. For the standard general assortment of hardware and tinware there is fairly good demand. The best movement at present is in fall specialties, such as axes, axe handles, cow ties, stove pipes, elbows and the like. In sporting goods there is an exceptionally brisk trade. A number of changes in price lists have been made as the result of an advance in pig lead. The discount on shot is now 12½ per cent. instead of 15 as formerly. Lead pipe discounts have been reduced from 30 to 27½ per cent. White lead (pure) is quoted at \$5.50 instead of 5.35 per 100 lbs. A slight advance in iron pipe has taken place, quotations being now \$1.87 to 8.75 per 100 feet, covering ½ in. to 2 in. measurement. The list in stamped wares has been revised, the discount now being 80 and 10 instead of 80. Through the change in prices this alteration will not materially affect values. For galvanized iron there has been a very active demand. Dealers have, in fact, found difficulty in supplying the demand. Trade in wire and cut nails is limited. Only a fair business is being done in barb wire and ordinary wires.

**HAY AND STRAW.**—Hay is abundant in the market, much of it inferior, because spoiled by rain. There is, in fact, an overplus of dark hay and clover hay, because Gooderham & Worts are not distilling this year and the number of horses in town has declined. The farmers would have abundance of hay to spare

and after-grass to feed stocker cattle, if they had them. As it is stockers are being bought up here from Montreal, while hay is being shipped hence to Buffalo. Prices for best hay are \$8 to 9 00; inferior, \$7 to 7 50; bundled oat straw, \$7.50 to 8.00, plenty of it in prospect.

**HIDES AND LEATHER.**—The situation has lost none of the strength which has characterized it for some time past. Merchants are paying 8½c. to butchers for hides, and are asking 9c. for cured. Green calfskins are quoted at 11c. per lb. For sheepskins 70c. is quoted. Tallow remains about as last; the market is depressed, but rendered tallow shows some signs of improvement. The advices from the Western States reported a firm market, although business latterly has been quiet, tanners holding back to await developments; still, as packers are sold close up to their cure they showed no disposition to hurry business, and prices were quoted unchanged and firm at 11½ to 11¾c. for native steers, 10c. for Texas, 10½c. for butt brands, 9¾c. for Colorado and branded cows, 10½c. for heavy native cows and 11c. for light ditto.

**PROVISIONS.**—The market is steady. Stocks are light and prices continue firm. Imports from the United States continue, and purchases of dry salted bacon and barrel pork, in the Western States continue. Western killings, according to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, Sept. 9th, represent a total of 295,000 hogs for the week, compared with 290,000 for the preceding week, and 235,000 for corresponding time last year, making a total of 3,390,000 since March 1st, against 7,730,000 a year ago—an increase of 1,660,000. Prices have been moderately reduced. The market has lost some of its buoyancy. The distribution of product is large, and stocks have been declining, but the supply is so liberal and the outlook so favorable to continued large manufacture that easy markets should not be a surprising feature in either meats or lard.

**WOOL.**—For the few lots of fleece wool coming to hand dealers are paying 20c. per lb. The market is very quiet and the movement very limited. Pulled wools bring, super, 20c. and combing 19c. per lb. The mills are fairly busy, but the prices of goods are said to be low.

#### MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Sept. 15th, 1897.

**ASHES.**—Some little demand has been reported for first quality of pots, but apparently not sufficient to stiffen the market any, and values are easy at \$3.05 to 3.15; of seconds there are few offering, and quotations range about \$2.80 to 2.85; pearls nominal, at about \$4.30 per cental.

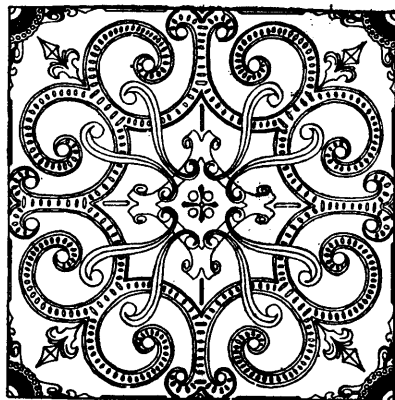
**CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.**—Since last writing no further important deals in cements are reported, but there is a moderate jobbing trade being done at steady prices. The advance in England, noted by us last week, is confirmed; local quotations are yet unaltered, but firmly held. We still quote \$1.00 to 1.95 for Belgian, and \$2.05 to 2.10 for British. Receipts for week ending this day are 2,050 brls. English, and 2,324 brls. Belgian. Receipts of firebricks are 38,300, and prices unchanged.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—The regular weekly exports of cheese continue to exceed the figures of last year, 57,599 boxes having been shipped last week, as against 32,000 for the corresponding week of 1896, while from New York the figures were only 17,655 boxes. The total local shipments to date foot up to 1,270,744 boxes, as compared with 1,002,333 to same date last year. Of butter, 17,328 packages were shipped last week, nearly 10,000 in excess of the corresponding week last year. The cheese market has not varied materially within the week. Latest cable advices say that the demand for both white and colored is rather quiet, but local figures hold pretty steady at 9¾c. for finest Western; 9½ to 9¾c. for Townships, and Quebec, 9½ to 9¾c. The demand for butter is rather slower, and values are hardly so well held, 19¾c. being about the extreme for choice creamery; Townships' dairy 14½ to 16¾c., and Western, 12 to 13c. The export demand for eggs is hardly as good as it was, and prices on the other side are off a penny a hundred, but local demand is fair at 13 to 13¾c. per doz. for strictly fresh.

**GROCERIES.**—The main interest at the moment seems centred in dried fruits, and in all lines there is decided tendency to advance. In Mediterranean goods this is mainly due to generally smaller crops, and the fact that old stocks are well cleaned up. Notably are scarcity and firmness true of currants, of which there is said to be hardly a barrel in first hands on spot. The Denia market for Valencia raisins is reported still advancing, and cable quotations for off-stalk are up to 18s. The "Avlona," the first direct steamer for this port, is reported filled up, and is just about leaving the above named port for Montreal. Some of the late booked orders coming by her are said to be a full shilling dearer than similar goods on the same vessel. Currants at primary points are momentarily a shade easier, but high prices still prevail. In Sultanias there has been a little fluctuation, but quotations just made figure out a cost laid down in quantity of about 7c. for common and 9c. for finest. The California market continues to show strength in all lines. Prunes have advanced about ¼ of a cent since opening, and large sizes are going to be scarcer than anticipated. First shipments for this market are expected early in October.

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