

GRAIN.—The last few days has developed considerable strength in wheat. Manitoba wheat is firm. There is a steady market for barley at 33 to 36c. per bush. Buckwheat remains without change. Corn is a little firmer. There is a stronger feeling in oats at 31c. per bush. Peas are firmer at 56½ to 57c. per bushel.

GREEN FRUIT.—The weather has been all that could be desired by the trade. The season for navel oranges is about over. The quality of the lemons offered in the market is good, but supplies are not large. It is expected that the supply imported via Montreal this year will not be large and firmer prices are looked for. The Wednesday sale was well attended and prices realized were satisfactory. In bananas there is a large trade doing and six cars, it is said, will be distributed from Toronto this week. A good movement of pineapples is looked for this month. It is impossible to say what the effect of the war will be upon the trade. The chances favor a large crop of pineapples in Florida this year, while from the West Indies and Jamaica good receipts may also be looked for. Imports have been large and increasing this past few years.

GROCERIES.—A fair business is doing in general supplies. An advance in the price of sugar has led to a strong movement of this staple, which is a delightful relief to the inactivity which has existed since the commencement of the year. The tariff announcement found no excessive stocks here. Teas are rather slow of movement so far as present consumption is concerned. Fair orders are being booked, however, for fall importation. Merchants note that the volume in Japan promises to be large. There is not an abundant supply of California prunes and some of the sizes are out of the market. We quote: 70/80, per lb. 6½c.; 60/70, per lb. 6½c.; 50/60, per lb. 7½c.; 40/50, per lb. 8c. According to advices by mail from London, stocks of currants in that market on April 1st amounted to 6,892 tons, against 8,713 tons on the same date last year and 13,244 tons on April 1st, 1896. Of Valencia raisins, London had 984 tons on April 1st, compared with 637 tons on the same date in 1897 and 623 tons in 1896. Of sultanas, London's stock on April 1st was 49 tons in 1898, 50 tons in 1897 and 249 tons in 1896. The primary market for Tarragona almonds has quieted somewhat, the damage to the crop evidently not being as severe as at first supposed.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The market has taken a turn for the better. The expected decline in green cow hides was arrested, and merchants are still paying 7½c. for No. 1, Toronto inspected. There are no large supplies of hides held here, and considerable sales reported at 8c. have relieved the market and dealers are asking 8½c. per lb. Calfskins remain in unchanged supply, but a decline of 1c. bringing them down to 9c. per lb. was announced on Thursday. Sheepskins are nominal. Lambskins are quoted at 15c.; there are few, if any pelts in the market. In the United States, importers' stocks are small, and as receipts are only very moderate, with the general impression that should hostilities break out between Spain and the United States, it would interfere with the movement of supplies from primal markets, holders showed no anxiety to make sales, prices being firmly maintained. From Chicago, April 18th, only a limited volume of business was transacted, as tanners were purchasing on a hand-to-mouth basis; but as packers showed no anxiety to make sales values were well maintained, closing at 10½c. for native steers; 9½c. for Texas; 9½ to 9¾c. for butt brands; 9½c. for branded cows; 8½ to 8¾c. for Colorados; 9½c. for heavy native cows, and 10c. for light ditto.

PROVISIONS.—In few seasons has the Easter consumption been larger or the trade more satisfactory. All lines are moving actively. Values remain without change. Dressed hogs have not been in as good supply, the offerings having diminished no doubt on account of the pressure of farm work. Packers look for an increase in deliveries within a week or two. We quote, selected weights \$5.75 to \$5.50 to \$6.00 per cwt. The movement depends almost entirely on weather conditions.

WOOL.—There is no change in the local wool situation. Business in Canadian fleece is of a nominal description. The talk is all of the new clip and its prospects. The Canadian mills remain busy and are taking fair quantities of pulled wools.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 13th April, 1898.

ASHES.—Business is dull, and offerings small, the weekly receipts of late only averaging from 25 to 30 brls. Some fair lots are expected by first Western boats, when the canal opens. We still quote \$3.45 to \$3.60 for first pots, seconds, \$3.15 to \$3.25, pearls about \$4.75 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—For cements there is quite a brisk local demand in small to moderate lots, but stocks are quite small, and some brands are quite run out. Of English makes there is practically none available, and for deliveries to arrive, prices are advanced to \$2.25 to \$2.35; for Belgian, quotations are \$1.95 to \$2.10. First steamer from Antwerp, with new supplies, is timed to sail the 15th inst; London and Newcastle steamers will follow later. The awarding of the government contracts, for 120,000 brls., for which tenders were to be opened Saturday, has not been completed; so far as can be learned, two Montreal firms have been awarded lots of 37,000 and 10,000 brls. respectively, but figures have not transpired. Bricks in good demand, at \$17.00 to \$23.00 as to brand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Under rather freer receipts, butter has eased off a little in price, about half a cent or so, and 21 to 21½c. per lb. is about the present figure for finest new creamery, with under grades at 20 to 21c. There is a scarcity of new dairy makes, and really good butter of this sort would bring pretty close to figures realized for creamery. In cheese there is still a total absence of activity, with prices of fine makes ranging about 7¼ to 7¾c. per lb. The Liverpool cheese market is reported lower than it has been for some years at date, while for butter, in the same market, prices are a good deal higher than for a good many years past.

DRY GOODS.—Since last writing we have enjoyed a spell of simply delightful weather, almost too fine for the season of the year, it is feared, but the results have been very favorable to the city retail dry goods men, the milliners, and the clothiers, who have all benefited by the general desire of womankind to don something new in the way of Easter apparel. Country roads, too, have dried up rapidly, under a warm sun, and country stocks are being well broken into, with the result that general remittances are coming in well. Wholesalers report a steady run of sorting orders, but nothing very much is as yet being done in fall goods. With regard to prices nothing new is reported.

FURS.—Fair offerings of mixed lots of raw furs continue to be offered from interior points, but a few weeks from now will close the season. We quote: Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1 to \$1.25; marten, \$1.75 to \$2.25; fisher, \$4.50 to \$7; lynx, \$1 to \$2; otter, \$1 to \$12 for dark; pale, \$5 to \$7; red fox, large, \$1.30 to \$1.50; small, \$1; cross fox, \$3 to \$6; bear, cubs, \$3 to \$7; medium, \$7 to \$10; large, \$12 to \$15; skunk, 15 to 70c, as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c; rats, fall, 7c. to 10c.; kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

GROCERIES.—Roads in the interior of the province are becoming fairly settled, and travelers are now moving about freely, with the result that jobbers report a more liberal distribution of goods, while collections are also coming in fairly. There has been further movement of teas to the United States, some local importers reporting very fair sales to both New York and Chicago, of Japans principally, and values are well held. Private mail advices from Yokohama houses to Montreal agents, just to hand, say that everything points to the likelihood that the market, which opens about the middle of May, will rule distinctly firm for all common to medium grades. London advices indicate a rather easier feeling in Indi-

ans and Ceylons. Business in coffees is quiet; we quote Rio, 8 to 13c.; Santos, 9 to 14c.; Mocha, 20 to 24c.; Java, 20 to 24c.; per lb. In sugar quotations there has not been any marked advance; on Monday prices were put up a sixteenth, making factory price for standard granulated 4 7-16c.; Austrian ditto, 4 3-16c.; yellows, 3 9-16 to 4c. The demand from jobbers is fair, but hardly so brisk as a week ago. In molasses there is nothing specially new; Barbadoes is still quoted at figures equal to 23c. per gal., cost laid down, and Antigua at 17½ to 18c. In the local market jobbers now quote Barbadoes at 24 to 25c. as to lot. Rice inclines to firmness. Canned goods are rather inactive at \$1.20 for tomatoes, corn, 85 to 90c.; peas, 90c.; salmon, \$4.60 to \$4.80 per case for standard brands.

HIDES.—The market for beef hides is rather weaker, in sympathy with the decline in the West, but so far local quotations remain as they were. At the usual weekly meeting of the Hide Association, on Monday, the question of a reduction in prices was discussed, but no action was taken, and a further meeting was held this afternoon at which it was apparently decided to continue present prices for the meantime, namely, 9c. per lb. for No. 1 beef hides, 10 to 11c. for No. 1 calfskins, 10c. each for lambskins, and \$1.00 to \$1.05 each for sheepskins. Some moderate lots of country hides are reported, but, on the whole, receipts are on the small side.

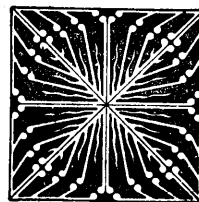
LEATHER.—Nothing in the way of change is to be noted here. It is now a sort of between seasons time, and no special demand is looked for for several weeks. Stocks are in limited and healthy shape, and value steadily held. We quote: Spanish sole B.A., No. 1, 24 to 25c. do. No. 2, 22½ to 23½c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 23 to 24c.; No. 2, 20 to 21c.; No. 1 slaughter, 27 to 28c.; No. 2, do., 24 to 25c.; common, 20 to 21c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 30 to 35c.; do. heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 32 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec do., 20 to 21c.; juniors, 18 to 20c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calfskins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 24c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebble cow, 13 to 13½c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove-grain, 12 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

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