

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 23rd Dec., 1879.

We have very little new to report in the Wholesale trade, which is as dull as well can be at the moment, and till after the New Year there will be very little business doing; it will, however, be noticed that almost all wholesale markets here are very firm, and, in some cases, a very considerable advance in prices is noted. The Nailmakers have advanced the price of ordinary sizes of cut nails to \$3.10 per keg, and 10 cents less on lots of over 200 kegs. Chemicals also show a considerable advance in heavy lines. We have had very severe frost, the thermometer indicating 26° below Zero on Sunday morning, since then we have had heavy snow; the St. Lawrence has "taken" some miles below the City, and the water is steadily rising here, so that, with the present degree of cold, we may expect the "Ice Bridge" to form in a day or two, which will cause a large number of buyers to come into town, and lend some activity to business.

ASHES.—Pots.—With a good demand, prices in the early part of the week were well maintained, lately however the demand has fallen off and prices are somewhat easier, the quotation to-day being \$4.70 to 4.75. **Pearls.**—There have been no sales reported since our last, the nominal quotation is \$5.50 to 5.55. The stocks at present in store are Pots, 553 brls; Pearls, 81 brls.

CATTLE.—The market yesterday was rather dull, most of the butchers having supplied their stock of Christmas beef during the week. Values were pretty well maintained and ranged from 2½ to 5c. Some fine cattle for export were taken at 4½ to 5c. Some of them weighing 2,000 lbs. **Hogs** dearer than on the previous Monday; sales averaging from \$4.85 to 5.05 per 100 lbs. **Dressed Hogs** are firmer and in better request, several car loads were taken at \$6.25.

DRY GOODS.—The Retail trade of the city as is usual at this time are doing a rushing business, but as far as the wholesale trade is concerned business is dull and confined to sorting up orders. Woollens and cottons are very firm and for orders coming in now an advance in price is expected. Remittances are fair, and merchants are preparing for stock-taking.

FURS.—Skins are coming in very sparingly; if they are held back in hopes of higher prices, these hopes are not likely to be realized, as to-day's advices from New York quote skins cheaper than what can be had for them here. We make a few changes in our list, and now quote. **Mink** prime, dark large \$1.25 to 1.40; ditto small, 75c. to \$1.00; **Marten**, prime, 75c. to \$1.00; **Beaver** prime dark, per lb., \$1.75 to 2.00; **Bear** large, \$7.00 to 8.00; ditto small, \$2.00 to 4.00; **Red fox**, \$1.25 to 1.40; ditto early caught, \$1.00 to 1.25; **Musk rat**, winter, 8 to 10c. **Lynx** prime large, \$1.00 to 1.50; **Skunk** prime dark, large, 75 to 90c; ditto white large, 25 to 50c; **Raccoon** prime, 40 to 60c; **Fisher** prime, \$5.00 to 7.00; **Otter**, prime dark, \$6.00 to 8.00.

FLOUR.—Receipts during the past week, 8228 brls.; total receipts from 1st January to date, 759,627 brls., being a decrease of 135,176 brls. on the receipts for the same period of 1878. Shipments during the week, 1,400 brls.; total shipments since 1st January, 721,357 brls., being an increase of 13,891 brls. on the shipments for the corresponding period of 1878. As is generally looked for at this season of the year, there has been no business doing on the Exchange beyond the supply of the local consumptive demand; prices are, if anything, a little higher, and most of the sales taking place are at our outside quotations. To-day the market is inactive and of a holiday character.

Superior Extra \$6.30 to 6.35; **Extra Superfine** 6.20; **Fancy** \$5.70 nominal; **Spring Extra** \$6.00 to 6.50; **Superfine** \$5.65 to 5.75; **Strong B kers Flour** \$6.25 to 6.50; **Fine** \$5.30 to 5.40; **middlings** \$4.40 to 4.50; **Pollard** \$3.60 to 3.70 nominal; **Ontario Bags** 3.00; **Oatmeal** \$4.70 to 4.75; **Cornmeal** \$2.90.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—Receipts during the week 76,195 bushels. Total receipts from 1st January to date 11,258,053 bushels, being an increase of \$3,963,234 bushels on the receipts for the same period of 1878. Shipments by rail during the week 39,395 bushels; total shipments from 1st January to date 10,422,438 bushels, being an increase of 3,714,456 bushels on the shipments for the same period of 1878. There is nothing doing; Canada Spring is quoted \$1.40 to 1.42; **Maize** is nominal, at 65 to 70c. **Peas** are a little firmer, latest transactions were from 79 to 80c per 66 lbs. **Oats** are quiet and steady at 32c. **Barley** is nominal at 60 to 70c.; and **Rye** at 84½c. less winter storage.

GROCERIES.—Teas.—Although there is very little of a consumptive or speculative demand at the present, the market is firm. At an auction sale yesterday Hysons chests sold at 30 to 31c.; half chests Imperial 32 to 30c.; half chests Gunpowder 33 to 38c.; chests Young Hysons 30 to 35c.; Japans in half chests 32 to 45c.; Congou 29 to 41c. These prices indicate strength in the market, as there were few bidders, and the owners would not repeat the lot. There is little doing except in small lots to retailers, a little demand is expected after the New Year. **Coffee** meets with a quiet consumptive demand at late quotations, Java is very firm at 32 to 33c. and likely to advance. **Sugars.**—The refinery is at present closed for cleaning and repairs. The prices of refined sugar are firm but not quotably higher, the demand quiet but considerable movement is expected in a week or two, we repeat our quotations of last week, **Paris lumps** 10½ to 11½c; **Granulated** 10½ to 10½c; **Grocers A.** 9½ to 10c; **Yellows** 8½ to 9½c. **Raw Sugars** are inactive, **Barbadoes**, 8½ to 9c; **Porto Rico**, 8 to 8½c. **Molasses** are dull and easier although they cannot be quoted lower than last week, there are more disposition shown to sell. **Syrups** are unchanged. **Rice** is in fair demand at \$4.30 to 4.55. **Spices.**—There has been considerable movement in **Black Pepper**, and price has advanced to 10½ to 11c; with this exception all articles on our list are unchanged. **Fruits.**—There has been a good demand for fruits and prices are firm. Valencia raisins have risen in value, they cannot now be bought under 7½ to 7½c; other fruits although very firm are without any change in values since this day week.

HIDES.—There is a good demand, under pressure of which prices have advanced 50c all round, and we now quote No. 1 Green Butchers Hides \$9.50; No. 2 \$8.50, and No. 3 \$7.50. **Sheepskins** are selling at \$1.40 to 1.50 each in lots.

HARDWARE.—General quietness is the prevailing feature of trade for the past week. The principal change being that Nailmakers have advanced their prices to \$3.10 per keg for ordinary sizes, and 10c less for lots over 200 kegs. All classes of Manufactured Iron are on the upward move. Tin plates are also advancing. Copper is dull.

LEATHER.—Prices continue firm but without any quotable change since this day week. The market is very quiet, as is generally the case at this season, and is likely to remain so till after the New Year. Stocks generally are ample, but without any excessive quantities in any one line of the trade. Last week's quotations are unchanged.

OILS.—The market for fish oils is very firm and the price of *Cod oil* has again advanced, we now quote Newfoundland 50 to 55c., and Halifax 47½ to 50c., with reported sales at outside quotations. *Seal* is quiet and steady, pale 50c.,

ditto straw, 37½ to 40c; ditto steam refined 57½ to 60c; **Petroleum.**—There has been no demand during the week except for the supply of city wants. A country demand is expected as soon as the Ice Bridge is formed. Prices are well maintained, although, to effect sales, some holders, who bought prior to the rise in the West, are disposed to meet buyers views. *Linseed oil* is the turn easier. We quote raws 75c., ditto boiled 79 to 80c.

PROVISIONS.—Butter.—Receipts for the past week 5,790 pkgs; shipments 2,605 pkgs. The market has been steady during the week, holders more disposed to meet buyers' views. Creameries Butter, 26 to 28c; Eastern Townships, 20 to 22½c; Brockville, 18 to 20c; Morrisburg, 20 to 22; Western, 15 to 19c. **Cheese.**—Receipts, 1,202 boxes; shipments, nil; market quiet with sales at 12 to 12½c for October and September make. **Pork.**—The late advance has been maintained: mess sells at \$17 to 17.50. **Lard** easier, Canadian selling at 10½ to 11c. **Bacon**, 9 to 10c. **Smoked Hams**, 11 to 12½c.

Wool.—There is a good enquiry for wool but the scarcity prevents much business being done. *Unassorted pulled* is worth from 28 to 30c., and *Greasy Cape*, 21 to 22c.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, 24th Dec., 1879.

In the ancient and easy-going times of two hundred years ago, we are told, men were wont to give twelve days to the celebration of Christmas. Or at least, the devotional proceedings which marked the day, and which were first and properly attended to, were succeeded by feasting, frolics and junketings which lasted far into a fortnight. Now-a-days, the time for such merry-makings has necessarily been abridged, in this country at least. Christmas is "in the air," so to speak, however, and so long as children exist no one can deprive the time of its happy and holiday-like aspect. It is emphatically "a good time," as a great writer has said, "a kind, forgiving, charitable time," and let us hope that no Canadian old Scrooge, in his miserable state of mind before Marley's ghost had converted him, will take a grovelling, mercenary view of the festival. Rather let it be, in the light of its Heaven-sent motto, a time of PEACE AND GOOD-WILL, generous good-will to the employees of the merchant, and the banker and the lawyer; between importer and retailer, salesman and customer, solicitor and client.

Holiday week has been an active one at retail in the city, but wholesale trade has been for the most part quiet. On the produce exchange, not much business has been done, and matters will be quiet until after New Year's Day. Christmas goods have met with prompt sale at close profits in many cases, at the hands of houses in the millinery, toys and fancy goods trade, and stationers report a good business. Stocks are quiet and firm: sales of Bank Toronto made at 118, and of Commerce at 114½; Building & Loan Co. at 90.

CATTLE.—The Christmas market was a busy-looking place yesterday, but scarcely the usual expected amount of business was done. Export trade appears to have cleared out our choicest cattle, and lessened the number of ultra fat beefs and muttons. Very little demand exists for export. First class steers have brought \$4.75 to 5.20; seconds, \$4.00 to 4.25. A fair supply of *Sheep* were offered; we hear of a sale