

Montreal, February 4th, 1909.

Number two foundry iron is selling at \$15.90 to \$16, delivered at Pittsburgh, as against \$16.40, which latter price was well maintained from November till a few days ago. At the same time, the price of sheets, billets and rivets has declined; but hardly any profit now remains over the cost of production. Evidences accumulate right along that before long there will be a readjustment. It is said that price cutting has been going on right along in an unofficial way, and there appears to be a feeling that it would be a wiser policy to pursue to have these reduced prices recognized as the true selling price, or market condition. Demand for pig is very light, indeed, but makers are holding firm at the prices recently established. It is said, however, that middle men who purchased heavily at the lower prices prevailing two or three months ago, are disposing of considerable tonnage at figures which are under those being asked by furnace men.

Middlesboro advices are to the effect that business has not picked up since the holidays in a satisfactory manner, but is now beginning to show activity. Stocks of Cleveland pig-iron are increasing more slowly than previously, and a decrease has even been reported for the first time for over a month. Some works have closed down, thus strengthening the market. It would seem that the tendency of prices is upwards, again, and the opinion is expressed that the low figure for January will mark the low figure for the year. Exports of pig-iron are light and it is long since so few vessels have been loading. Up to January 20th, shipments were only 42,795 tons, which was lower than in December or in January, 1908, or 1907, up to the same date.

The local market is fairly active, with a good enquiry for spring delivery, a number of larger consumers apparently having the purchase of supplies for the next two or three months under serious consideration. Some good sized lots have been closed for already, and others are under negotiation. The smaller consumers are apparently almost entirely out of metal, as they are constantly seeking to purchase carload lots or less to keep their plants in operation. Import prices are, of course, now based on figures prevailing in England and Scotland, and it is understood that Canadian producers are holding prices at a point which is close to this competition. This policy is a great improvement on that which is understood to have prevailed a year ago, when it is said they were accepting from \$1 to \$1.50 per ton less than import prices.

During the past week, there have been little or no changes in the local market for iron and steel, and partly finished material, as shown in the following list:—

**Antimony.**—The market is steady at 0 to 3%.

**Bar Iron and Steel.**—Prices are steady all round, and trade is dull. Bar iron, \$1.90 per 100 pounds; best refined horseshoe, \$2.15; forged iron, \$2.05; mild steel, \$2.00; sleigh shoe steel, \$1.90 for 1 x 3/4-base; tire steel, \$1.95 for 1 x 3/4-base; toe calk steel, \$2.40; machine steel, iron finish, \$2.10; smooth finish, \$2.75.

**Boiler Tubes.**—The market is steady, quotations being as follows:—2-inch tubes, 8 1/2 c.; 2 1/2-inch, 10 c.; 3-inch, 11 1/2 c.; 3 1/2-inch, 14 1/2 c.; 4-inch, 19 c.

**Building Paper.**—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounce, \$1.60 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.40 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, No. 1, 55c. per roll of 400 square feet; No. 2, 35c.; dry sheathing, No. 1, 45c. per roll of 400 square feet, No. 2, 28c. (See Roofing; also Tar and Pitch).

**Cement.**—Quotations are for car lots, f.o.b., Montreal. Canadian cement is \$1.55 to \$1.65 per 350-lb. bbl., in 4 cotton bags, adding 10c. for each bag. Good bags re-purchased at 10c. each. Paper bags cost 2 1/2 c. extra, or 10c. per bbl. weight. English cement is \$1.65 to \$1.85 per 350-lb. bbl. in 4 jute sacks (for which add 8c. each) and \$2.20 to \$2.40 in wood. Belgian cement is \$1.60 to \$1.65 in bags—bags extra—add \$2.10 in wood.

**Chain.**—The market is steady as follows:—3/4-inch, \$5.30; 5-16-inch, \$4.05; 3/4-inch, \$3.65; 7-16-inch, \$3.45; 1/2-inch, \$3.20; 9-16-inch, \$3.15; 1/2-inch, \$3.05; 3/4-inch, \$3; 7/8-inch, \$2.95; 1 inch, \$2.95.

**Copper.**—The market is steady at 15 to 15 1/2 c. per lb. Demand continues limited.

**Explosives and Accessories.**—Dynamite, 50-lb. cases, 40 per cent. profit, 18c. in single case lots, Montreal. Blasting powder, 25-lb. kegs, \$2.25 per keg. Special quotations on large lots of dynamite and powder. Detonator caps, case lots, containing 10,000, 75c. per 100; broken lots, \$1. Electric blasting apparatus:—Batteries, 1 to 10 holes, \$15; 1 to 20 holes, \$25; 1 to 30 holes, \$35; 1 to 40 holes, \$50. Wire, leading, 1c. per foot; connecting, 50c. per lb. Fuses, platinum, single strength, per 100 fuses:—4-ft. wires, \$3.50; 6-ft. wires, \$4; 8-ft. wires, \$4.50; 10-ft. wires, \$5. Double strength fuses, 1 1/2 extra, per 100 fuses. Fuses, time, double-tape, \$6 per 1,000 feet.

**Galvanized Iron.**—The market is steady. Prices, basis, 28-gauge, are:—Queen's Head, \$4.40; Comet, \$4.25; Gorbals' Best, \$4.25; Apollo, 10 1/4 oz., \$4.35. Add 25c. to above figures for less than case lots; 26-gauge is 25c. less than 28-gauge. American 28-gauge and English 26 are equivalents, as are American 10 1/4 oz., and English 28-gauge.

**Galvanized Pipe.**—(See Pipe, Wrought and Galvanized).

**Iron.**—Prices are rather higher, and the outlook is steady. The following prices are ex-store: Canadian pig, \$18.50 to \$19.50 per ton; No. 1 Summerlee, \$21 to \$22; No. 2 selected Summerlee, \$20.50 to \$21.50; Carron soft, \$20.25 to \$20.75; No. 3 Clarence, \$19 to \$20 per ton.

**Laths.**—See Lumber, etc.

**Lead.**—Trail lead is unchanged and steady, at \$3.70 to \$3.80 per 100 pounds, ex-store.

**Lead Wool.**—\$10.50 per hundred, \$200 per ton, f.o.b., factory.

**Lumber, Etc.**—Prices on lumber are for car lots, to contractors, at mill points, carrying a freight rate of \$1.50. At the moment, the market is exceptionally irregular and prices are uncertain. Red pine, mill culls out, \$18 to \$22 per 1,000 feet; white pine, mill culls, \$22 to \$25. Spruce, 1-in. by 4-in. and up, \$16 to \$18 per 1,000 ft.; mill culls, \$14 to \$16. Hemlock, log run, culls out, \$14 to \$16. Railway Ties: Standard Railway ties, hemlock or cedar, 35 to 45c. each, on a 5c. rate to Montreal. Telegraph Poles: Seven-inch top, cedar poles, 25-ft. poles, \$1.35 to \$1.50 each; 30-ft., \$1.75 to \$2; 35-ft., \$2.75 to \$3.25 each, at manufacturers' points, with 5c. freight rate to Montreal. Laths: Quotations, per 1,000 laths, at points carrying \$1.50 freight rate to Montreal, \$2 to \$3. Shingles: Cedar shingles, same conditions as laths, X, \$1.50; XX, \$2.50; XXX, \$3.

**Nails.**—Demand for nails is moderate, but prices are steady at \$2.30 per keg for cut, and \$2.25 for wire, base prices.

**Pipe—Cast Iron.** The market continues steady at \$33 for 8-inch pipe and larger; \$34 for 6-inch pipe; \$34 for 5-inch, and \$34 for 4-inch at the foundry. Pipe, specials, \$3.10 per 100 pounds. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

**Pipe.—Wrought and Galvanized.**—The market is steady, moderate-sized lots being: 1-4-inch, \$5.50 with 63 per cent. off for black, and 48 per cent. off for galvanized; 3/4-inch, \$5.50, with 59 per cent. off for black and 44 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 69 per cent. off for black and 59 per cent. off for galvanized: 1/2-inch, \$8.50; 1/4-inch, \$11.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1 1/4-inch, \$22.50; 1 1/2-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; 2 1/2-inch, \$57.50; 3-inch, \$75.50; 3 1/2-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

**Rails.**—Quotations on steel rails are necessarily only approximate and depend upon specification, quantity and delivery required. A range of \$31.50 to \$32.50 is given for 60-lb., 70-lb., 80-lb., 85-lb., 90-lb., and 100-lb. rails, per gross ton of 2,240 lbs., f.o.b. mill. Re-laying rails are quoted at \$27 to \$29 per ton, according to condition of rail and location.

**Railway Ties.**—See lumber, etc.

**Roofing.**—Ready roofing, two-ply, 64c. per roll; three-ply, 86c. per roll of 100 square feet. (See Building Paper; also Tar and Pitch.)

**Rope.**—Prices are steady, at 9 1-2c. per lb. for sisal, and 12c. for Manila. Wire Rope, crucible steel, six-strands, nineteen wires: 1/4-in., \$2.75; 5-16, \$3.75; 3/8, \$4.75; 1/2, \$6; 5/8, \$7.25; 3/4, \$8.50; 7/8, \$10; 1 in., \$12 per 100 feet.

**Shingles.**—See lumber, etc.

**Spikes.**—Railway spikes are in dull demand and prices are steady at \$2.40 per 100 pounds, base of 5/8 x 9-16. Ship spikes are also dull and steady at \$3 per 100 pounds, base of 3/4 x 10-inch and 3/4 x 12-inch.

**Steel Shafting.**—Prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is on the dull side.

**Steel Plates.**—The market is steady. Quotations are: \$2.15 for 3-16, \$2.25 for 1/4, and \$2.15 for 1/2 and thicker; 12-gauge being \$2.30; 14-gauge, \$2.05; and 16-gauge, \$2.10.

**Tar and Pitch.**—Coal tar, \$4 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing about 500 pounds, roofing tar, \$3.15 per barrel; roofing pitch, No. 1, \$1 per 100 pounds; and No. 2, 50c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$8.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, and \$4.75 per half-barrel; pine pitch, \$4 per barrel of 180 to 200 pound. (See building paper; also roofing.)

**Telegraph Poles.**—See lumber, etc.

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Winnipeg, February 1st, 1909.

Market conditions in Winnipeg are holding steady, and the demand although very light is fairly good for this time of the year, and the prospects seem bright for the coming building season.

There is an advance in the price of lumber reported at Vancouver, but up to date, has not affected the prices of lumber on the local market, although on inquiry from several dealers they state that the price of lumber will likely advance in the near future.

All contracts have now been signed for the Municipal Power work, and the successful contractors are now very busy getting in shape to start the work. It will take at least three months for the contractors to get in readiness to go ahead with work on the power plant.

The local labor market is very much overcrowded and due to the fact that the building season will not open for some time yet, a great many laboring men are having to depend largely on charity until such time as the building operations commence.

The following quotations are correct for this week:—

**Anvils.**—Per pound, 10 to 12 1/2 c.; Buckworth anvils, 80 lbs., and up, 10 1/2 c.; anvil and vise combined, each, \$5.50.

**Bar Iron.**—\$2.50 to \$2.60.

**Beams and Channels.**—\$3 to \$3.25 per 100 up to 15-inch.

**Building Paper.**—1/4 to 7c. per pound. No. 1 tarred, 84c. per roll; plain, 60c.; No. 2 tarred, 62 1/2 c.; plain, 56c.

**Bricks.**—\$11, \$12, \$13 per 1,000, three grades.

**Cement.**—\$2.65 to \$2.75 per barrel.

**Chain.**—Coil, proof, 1/4-inch, \$7; 5-16-inch, \$5.50; 3/4-inch, \$4.00; 7-16-inch, \$4.75; 1/2-inch, \$4.40; 3/4-inch, \$4.20; 1/4-inch, \$4.05; logging chain, 5-16-inch, \$6.50; 3/4-inch, \$6; 1/2-inch, \$8.50; jack iron, single, per dozen yards 15c. to 75c.; double, 25c. to \$1; trace-chains, per dozen, \$5.25 to \$6.

**Dynamite.**—\$11 to \$13 per case.

**Half-Plaster.**—80 to 90 cents per bale.

**Hinges.**—Heavy T and strap, per 100 lbs., \$6 to \$7.50; light, do., 65 per cent.; screw hook and hinge, 6 to 10 inches, 5 1/2 c. per lb.; 12 inches up, per lb., 4 1/2 c.

**Iron.**—Swedish iron, 100 lbs., \$4.75 base; sheet, black, 14 to 22 gauge, \$3.75; 24-gauge, \$3.90; 26-gauge, \$4; 28-gauge, \$4.10. Galvanized—American, 18 to 20-gauge, \$4.40; 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.65; 26-gauge, \$4.65; 28-gauge, \$4.90; 30-gauge, \$5.15 per 100 lbs. Queen's Head, 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.65; 26-gauge English or 30-gauge American, \$4.90; 30-gauge American, \$5.15; Fleur de Lis, 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.50; 28-gauge American, \$4.75; 30-gauge American, \$5.

**Lead Wool.**—\$10.50 per hundred, \$200 per ton, f.o.b., Toronto.

**Pipe.**—Iron, black, per 100 feet, 1/4-inch, \$2.50; 3/4-inch, \$2.80; 1/2-inch, \$3.40; 1/4-inch, \$4.60; 1-inch, \$6.60; 1 1/4-inch, \$9; 1 1/2-inch, \$10.75; 2-inch, \$14.40; galvanized, 1/4-inch, \$4.25; 1/2-inch, \$5.75; 1-inch, \$8.35; 1 1/4-inch, \$11.35; 1 1/2-inch, \$13.60; 2-inch, \$18.10. Lead, 6 1/2 c. per lb.

**Picks.**—Clay, \$5 dozen; pick mattocks, \$6 per dozen; clevises, 7c. per lb.

**Pitch.**—Pine, \$6.50 per barrel; in less than barrel lots, 4c. per lb.; roofing pitch, \$1. per cwt.

**Plaster.**—Per barrel, \$3.

**Roofing Paper.**—60 to 67 1/2 c. per roll.

**Lumber.**—No. 1 pine, spruce, tamarac, British Columbia fir and cedar—2 x 4, 2 x 6, 2 x 8, 8 to 16 feet, \$27.25, 2 x 20 up to 32 feet, \$38.

**Nails.**—4 to 4.25 per 100. Wire base, \$2.85; cut base, \$2.90.

**Tool Steel.**—3 1/4 to 15c. per pound.

**Timber.**—Rough, 8 x 2 to 14 x 16 up to 32 feet, \$34; 6 x 20, 8 x 20 up to 32 feet, \$38; dressed, \$37.50 to \$48.25.

**Boards.**—Common pine, 8-inch to 12-inch wide, \$38 to \$45; siding, No. 2 white pine, 6-inch, \$55; cull red or white pine or spruce, 6-inch, \$24; No. 1 clear cedar, 6-inch, 8 to 16 ft., \$60; Nos. 1 and 2 British Columbia spruce, 6-inch, \$55; No. 3, \$45.

**Flooring.**—No. 2 red pine, 4-inch, \$43; No. 3 red, 4-inch, \$38; No. 4 red and white pine or spruce, 4-inch, \$28; ceiling, No. 2 white pine, 4, 5, and 6-inch, \$55; No. 3 red pine, \$38.

**Lath.**—No. 1 red and white pine mixed, \$5.50; No. 2, \$4.75.

**Shingles.**—No. 1 British Columbia cedar, \$4.25; No. 2, \$3.75; band sawn, \$6.

**Rope.**—Cotton, 1/4 to 1/2-in. and larger, 23 1/2 c. lb.; deep sea, 18c.; lath yarn, 9 1/2 c.; pure Manila, per lb., 13 1/2 c.; British Manila, 11 1/2 c.; sisal, 10 1/2 c.

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