

### Montreal Markets.

Flour—Trailing has been very quiet and confined to supplying the local demand. Export to the English market is not very promising at the present range of prices. Patent winter, \$5.05 to \$1.20; patent, spring, \$5.15 to \$5.25; straight roller, \$1.70 to \$1.85; extra, \$1.25 to \$1.35; superfine, \$1.00 to \$1.25; fine, \$3.50 to \$3.75; city strong bakers, \$5.00 to \$5.10; Manitoba bakers, \$1.60 to \$5.00; Ontario bags—extra, \$2.10 to \$2.20; superfine, \$2.00 to \$2.10.

Oatmeal, etc.—Granulated and rolled oats, \$1.60 to \$1.65 per barrel, and \$2.25 to \$2.75 per bag; standard and fine oatmeal, \$1.50 to \$1.60 per barrel, and bags \$2.17. Pot barley \$4.00. Pearl barley No. 1, \$7.25 per barrel \$3.75 per half bbl.

Bran and feed—Bran in car lots is quoted at \$16 to \$17; shorts, \$18 to \$19; middlings, \$20; feed, \$23 to \$26.

Wheat—No. 2 hard Manitoba wheat is quoted here nominal at \$1 to \$1.02.

Oats—Sales are light. No. 2 are quoted at 36c and No. 3 at 35c. There is scarcely any demand at present.

Barley—Feed barley is in a little better demand at about 45 to 47c per bushel. Malting barley is quiet at 54 to 58c.

Dressed hogs—Prices continue easy, as mild weather and approaching holidays combine to make holders rather anxious to clear. Car lots are offering at \$5.25 to \$5.50.

Pork, lard, etc.—Prices are easier. The extraordinary mildness of the season and the want of snow to make good sleighing to country places add very greatly to the feeling of depression. Canada short cut mess pork per bbl, \$15 to \$16; Mess pork, American, per bbl, \$13.50 to \$14; extra mess beef, per bbl, \$14.50 to \$15; hams, city cured, per lb, 10½ to 11c; lard, pure, in pails, per lb, 9½ to 10c; lard, compound, in pails, per lb, 7½ to 7¾c; bacon, per lb, 9½ to 10c; shoulders, per pound, 8¾c.

Dressed poultry—There is a good demand. Sales are made of turkeys at 10 to 11c. Chickens are selling freely at 7½ to 8c for prime stock. Geese are slow at 6 to 7c. Ducks, 8 to 9c.

Eggs—Lined eggs have sold very freely at 15c to 16c. Fresh held stock has brought 18 to 20c.

Butter—Township dairies have been quickly snapped up by city jobbers at from 18 to 20c. Western is quieter but moving slowly round 15 to 17c. Creameries 22 to 23½c.

Cheese—Shipments of Canadian cheese since the closing of navigation have amounted to 89, 541 boxes. Prices are now almost nominal, quotations are, finest western 11 to 11½, finest eastern 10½ to 11c, medium 10½ to 10¾c.

Apples—Good fruit range from \$2.50 to \$3 per bbl. Poor stock is selling at any price that it will bring. Dried apples very quiet at 4½ to 5c per lb as to quality and quantity. Evaporated apples 6 to 7c as to quantity.

Hides—Have been bought at both 4½ to 5c, the supply is very low. We quote: No. 1, 4¾c; No. 2, 3¾c; No. 3, 2¾c; tanners are paying 1c more; lambskins, 80c; calfskins, 7c.

Groceries—Japan teas are still very dull, but evidently there is some faith in the future of the market as one representative of a Japan house has received a cablegram telling him to withdraw all his teas from the market at present. Greens are very low in London, and mail

advices speak of a further decline in prices. Ceylons have also declined considerably; latest mail advices speaking of a drop of ½ to 1d per lb. The coffee market remains very quiet, stocks being lighter and sales being few in number. Quotations are: Rio, 18 to 20c; Java, 26 to 30c. Mocha, 27 to 30c; Jamaica, 18 to 20c; Maracaibo, 23 to 25c. Local prices are unchanged for sugars at 4½c for granulated and 3½ to 4½c for yellows at the refineries. In molasses, some Barbadoes has changed hands at 35c. Private cables just received state that Valencia raisins have advanced 2s per cwt. in London. New York prices have not, however, advanced as yet and the Montreal market shows no particular sign of a rise; stocks are low, and prices are pretty steady at 4½ to 5c. Currants at 5½ to 6c. Dates have advanced 1s per cwt in England, and local prices are a little firmer in consequence at 4½ to 4¾c.—*Trade Bulletin*, Dec. 26.

### The Three Essential Qualities in a Clerk.

"The *Northwest Trade* of this city, says the *Minneapolis Times*, recently invited answers from subscribers to a series of questions propounded to them, varying from an inquiry into the state of the roads to a feeler as to their thoughts on the subject of store loungers. One of the questions asked was, 'what are the three most essential qualities in a clerk?' and the answers to this question are instructive. There is a uniformity about them which suggests that here is a subject on which all men of business agree. It may surprise some to learn that country merchants are not looking for clerks who are 'smart'; none of them yearn for young men who have been to college, and none of them even mention that a successful clerk must be a successful liar. One merchant writes: 'The three important qualities in a clerk are honesty, politeness and cleanliness;' another says 'honesty and politeness and attention to displaying goods attractively;' a third names 'honesty, sobriety and faithfulness;' a fourth, 'honesty, civility, industry;' a fifth, 'honesty, kindness and patience without end;' a sixth, 'honesty, civility and industry.' So the whole series runs. Every merchant in the list wants his clerks to be honest. Every one thinks it of advantage that his clerks should be patient and polite, and each one demands that they attend strictly to business. These answers have a hopeful sound, because their sentiments are as binding on the principal as on the agent. We take it that every merchant who writes to *The Northwest Trade* is up on the precepts he enunciates. There can be no sanded sugar in these stores, for the clerk who does such a trick earns his discharge in the act. The politeness inculcated in these letters must also pervade the business houses presided over by the letter writers and this assures the clerks their rights as citizens. They cannot be imposed upon by their employers any more than they can be permitted to juggle for the rights of customers. And as honesty and politeness are the universal rule, so too is attention to business as taught by example and precept. There is no reason why the merchants should not take these lessons home to themselves as well as preach them to others, and as the country merchant is as consistent a being as his contemporary in any other line, no doubt they do."

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