9½c. for native steers, 8½ to 8¾c. for butt brands, 8¾c. for Texas, 8½c. for branded cows, 7¾ to 8c. for Coloradoes, 8¾c. for heavy native cows and 9¼c. for light ditto. Calfskins are moving slowly in the local market. There is nothing new to report of sheepskins. Tallow remains dull.

PAINTS AND OILS.—Trade is at a fair season's average. There is a moderate enquiry for prepared paints. White lead is in good demand. The movement is largely in the higher grades ; the poorer qualities are only in fair request. The Association price, $5.15, net cash, 30 days, is being strictly adhered to. Turpentine remains rather low in price. The primary markets have been dull, but recent mail advices indicate some improvement. As a result of the change in the duty merchants predict that linseed oil prices will advance. We quote.: Raw, 41c; boiled, 44c., net cash, 30 days, f.o.b., Toronto. There exists a good demand for dry colors. In ochre, siennas, oxides and reds there is a free movement. The price of red lead remains high ; merchants are quoting 4½c. pet cask. The Paris green season, so far as the wholesale trade is concerned, is in full swing. The movement to the retail trade is large, although the consumptive demand is just beginning to materialize. For the ordinary grades 13 to 14c. is the ruling quotation. The best English makes are sold at a fraction higher. Values in castor oil are firmer ; merchants quote 9c. in case lots.

PROVISIONS.—There is little that is new to report of pork products. Trade is active. Prices remain firm at about last week's quotations. The N. Y. *Journal and Bulletin of Commerce*, 24th inst., says: Provisions have continued dull and declining throughout the week, or rather until Thursday, under heavy receipts at all points, and nearly 20 per cent. larger at all Western packing points than a year ago, being 420,000 up to Thursday, against 350,000 for the week ending the same day a year ago, making the biggest run by considerable for the summer packing season. Against this declining tendency there has been no resistance, as the bull packers have either sold out, expecting to get back their lines cheaper, or have averaged down their holdings without attempting to support the market, being inclined to let hogs get as low as possible with products until receipts let up.

WOOL.—There is every indication of a short and brisk wool season this year. The offerings at present are much larger than usual at this season of the year. Every effort is being made by farmers to market their wool while the American market is open to Canadians. The weather has, in many districts, been too cold for washing purposes, and the quantity of unwashed wool received here is larger than usual. Values are unsettled, as merchants are in a quandary to know what will be done by Congress in regard to the tariff. In the meantime transactions are reported at these prices: Good washed merchantable fleece, 22c. ; rejects, 16c. ; unwashed wool, 13c. per lb. So soon as merchants receive enough wool to complete a shipment deliveries are at once made to the United States, and the warehouses here contain very little wool.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 27th May, 1897.

ASHES.—The dulness in the market is unrelieved, and exports are confined to a few small lots of several barrels each. Prices are more less nominal at $3 to 3.10 for first pots ; seconds, $2.80 to 2.85 ; pearls, about $4.40 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—It was fully expected that some amendment of the recently increased duty on cement would have been made among the other changes of the tariff just announced, but apparently the 12½c. per 100 lbs. is to stand. The demand continues pretty steady for moderate lots, and prices are unchanged. Receipts for the week ending today are nil ; for last week the figures are 2,800 brls. of English, and 4,950 of Belgian. Firebricks are moving out fairly at $16 to $21. Receipts this week, 72,000 ; last week, 103,000.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The cheese market is again easier. The cable quotation is down today to 53s. in Liverpool, and 9c. per lb. is about the extreme figure for finest Western here, with a range downwards to 8½c. for French-Canadian make. New grass butter is now coming in pretty well, and shippers are buying a little more freely. New creamery is quoted at about 16½c., with an odd choice lot bringing 17c. ; Townships dairy, 13 to 15c. Eggs are in steady demand at 9 to 9½c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—The late cold, raw, rainy weather has affected business, both in the city and country, and the wholesale warehouses are comparatively quiet at the moment. A good many houses are preparing for the half-yearly stock-taking. The proposal to reduce the duty on white and printed cottons, etc., when imported for shirt-making purposes, has created much adverse criticism among cotton mill men and wholesalers, and as the result of a large meeting, held to-day, an influential delegation goes to Ottawa tomorrow to interview the Government on the matter.

FURS.—The next London fur sales begin June 16th. Advices regarding the Leipzig fair are to hand, and are to the effect that red fox sold very well ; fisher, sea otter, mink, muskrat, and beaver, sold moderately well ; coon and marten sold slowly ; possum, otter, bear and lynx sold badly ; raccoon also realized unfavorably, and skunk was in poor demand. In the local market there is nothing new. We quote, for prime skins: Black bear, large choice, $10 to 15.00 ; medium, $9 to 12.00 ; small, $4 to 7.00 ; marten, large, $2 ; small, $1.50 to 1.75 : mink, winter, 75c. to $1.25 ; spring, 60c. to $1 ; fisher, $5 to 7 : red fox, $1.10 to 1.40 ; cross do., $2 to 5 ; otter, winter, up to $12 ; spring do., $5 to 8 ; skunk, 20 to 60c., as to stripe, etc. ; lynx, $1 to 1.75 ; muskrat, spring, 17 to 20c ; winter, 10 to 14c. ; fall, 5 to 10c ; coon, 20c. to 60c.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	May 17, '97.	May 24, '97.
Wheat, bushels......	407,025	366,493
Corn, "	16,114	22,713
Oats, "	664,423	632,606
Rye, "	55,465	61,395
Peas, "	257,787	274,444
Barley, "	....	32,375
Total grain	1,400,814	1,380,026
Oatmeal............	14,507	3,587
Flour	27,262	26,306
Buckwheat..........	32,430	32,337

GROCERIES —The week has been a broken one, and trading on the whole of a moderate character. There have been some arrivals of high grade Japan teas, ranging in price from 22 to 32c., but trading in these has been limited. The general local demand for teas of all kinds is not of a very active character, but there has been further fair business done with the United States at good prices. There are further arrivals of new molasses, and prices are again lowered, Barbadoes being now quoted in a jobbing way at 24c. per gallon, in puncheons ; barrels, 26½c. ; half barrels, 27½c Porto Rico, 25c. in puncheons, and the usual advance for barrels and half-barrels. The demand for sugars continues to be surprisingly slow, and the St Lawrence refinery is still shut down, with ample manufactured stock on hand, while the Canada refinery is reported only making certain lines. There is, apparently, a good deal of speculative sugar still about, and Acadian granulated is being jobbed at 4 cents. Local refinery prices are unchanged at 4½c. per lb. for standard granulated, and 3⅜ to 3¾c. for yellows. Dried fruits continue very dull. In canned goods there is fair business doing in tomatoes and peas at 75 to 80c., and corn, 60 to 65c. Peaches are in demand, and firm at $2.75 for 3 lbs , and $1.75 for 2 lbs.

HIDES.—The feature of the week in this department is the reduction of a full cent in calfskins, dealers now paying 8c. per lb. for No. 1, and 6c. for No. 2. The demand for these skins has been light, and it is estimated the company has some 20,000 in store. Hides are in rather better demand, orders received about absorbing present receipts, the quotation to tanners being 8½c. for No. 1, but there is quite an accumulation of old stock in store.

LEATHER.—Boot and shoe manufacturers are apparently awaiting the results of the canvass for fall orders, and have not yet begun to buy