

CIRCUSES.

To the Editor of the Journal of Commerce.

It is said that the circus which visited the city last week lightened the pockets of our citizens some \$30,000. Now I always like to see that children amuse themselves in this manner; but when I see ten thousand grown-up men and women taxing themselves in this way, I am forcibly reminded of the fable of the bee and the grasshopper. Do our city fathers consider they do right in allowing such temptations to extravagance to enter our city in these hard times? To be sure the license is high, and it puts a few hundred dollars into the city treasury. The circus man pays into the city coffers one or two hundred dollars, and the city appreciates his kindness by allowing him to take twenty or thirty thousand in return. Would it be out of place to suggest to our wise legislators the advisability of establishing a menagerie or zoological garden in connection with our new city park? We remember the great degree of amusement afforded by the seals placed in the fountain reservoirs last summer; and the amount of money the circus man takes from us in three or four summers would more than defray the entire cost.

Montreal, Aug. 24th, 1875.

ECONOMY.

Commercial.

MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Aug. 26, 1875.

The crop reports this week are much more favorable than had been expected in some quarters, considering the amount of rain that was supposed to have fallen. However the wet weather did not prevail over so extensive an area as had been imagined, and the harvest prospects are therefore quite encouraging. The wholesale trade of the city remains quiet. In some departments there is a better feeling than earlier in the season; but in others, there continues much cause for anxiety. The leather interest seems to have been suffering most this week; as several failures are reported. The grocery trade keeps quiet. Dry goods are also comparatively inactive.

ASHES.—Receipts at Inspection Stores from 2nd January to 25th August, 1875.—Pots, 11,003 brls.; Pearls, 1,006 brls. Deliveries during same period.—Pots, 8,014 brls.; Pearls, 1,371 brls. Stocks in store this evening.—Pots, 2,480 brls.; Pearls, 1,223 brls. First Pots have been in fair request, with sales at \$5.00 to \$5.10, while \$4.95 was reported for a few light tares. Seconds are at \$4.05 to \$4.10, and Thirds \$3.30.

First Pearls changed hands at \$5.47½. Seconds are nominal.

Boots & Shoes.—In these "hard" times, scarcely any wholesale house in general trade can escape becoming the subject of rumours; but we are glad to note that an enterprising house in this branch of manufacture, whose name has been freely used, is in a position to refute any and all reports that have been incorrectly made respecting it. Business remains quiet, and only customary orders are being filled; very little manufacturing is going on; many firms are discharging numbers of their employees, and reducing the days of labor. Our quotations are without change, as follows:

Men's kip boots \$2.75 to \$3.30; ditto French calf \$3.00 to \$3.75; ditto buff congress \$1.75 to \$2.25; ditto split brogans \$1.10 to \$1.25; ditto kip brogans \$1.40 to \$1.50; boys split brogans 90c. to \$1.00; ditto buff and pebbled congress \$1.40 to \$1.50; women's buff and pebbled balmorals \$1.20 to \$1.40; ditto prunella balmorals 75c. to \$1.75; ditto congress 75c. to

\$1.75; misses buff and pebbled balmorals 90c. to \$1.15; ditto prunella balmorals and congress 70c. to \$1.25; children's ditto ditto 60c. to \$1.00; ditto pebbled and buff balmorals 75c. to 85c.

CATTLE.—The prices of beef cattle were improved this week. Really prime beasts brought \$5.00 to \$5.35 per 100 lbs. live weight, and rates for ordinary grass-fed, ranged from \$4 to \$4.75. Ordinary milch cows have sold at \$23 up to \$35, while some extra quality brought as high as \$60. Spring lambs have been sold at \$2.20 up to \$3.37½. Sheep brought \$4 to \$5. Calves have been scarce, but sold at \$3 to \$7 each, according to quality. For distillery fed hogs \$6.50 per 100 lbs. live weight has been paid, while \$7.50 and \$7.80 were obtained for hard hogs.

Dry Goods.—Since the date of our last review there has been little improvement of importance in this branch of wholesale trade. Stocks are well assorted, but full goods continue to arrive. There is no disposition to press transactions, although the better weather of the past few days has had its effect; but the general depression throughout the country necessarily impedes the movement of stocks to any considerable extent. Remittances are not increasing sufficiently to warrant special notice.

FISH.—Cargoes of new season dry codfish are now beginning to arrive, although it will be some time yet before the large arrivals come forward. The quotations are \$1.75 to \$5.00. Labrador Herrings are nominal, and Canso also nominally \$4.00 to \$4.75. New Salmon in barrels is in limited stock at \$15 to \$16. Canned Lobsters \$1.40 to \$1.60, Salmon \$1.75 to \$1.85.

FLOUR.—The receipts by railway and canal for week ending 25th Aug., 21,755 brls. Total receipts from 1st Jan. to 25th Aug., 601,281 brls., against 637,235 brls. at corresponding date in 1874, being a decrease of 35,954 brls. Shipments via River St. Lawrence and other channels for week ending 25th Aug., 21,597 brls. Total shipments from 1st Jan. to 25th Aug., 441,267 brls., against 433,082 brls. at corresponding period of 1874, being a decrease of 52,415 brls. A better feeling has prevailed the past day or two, inducing a few round lots to be taken for export. There was a decline of about 5c. to 10c. on the week, but the market closes at about the same rates as on date of our last report. Extra Superfine has been sold at \$5.85 to \$6.00; Welland Canal Spring Extra brought \$4.40 uninspected, but an advance of 10c. is now required; Canada Spring Extras have ranged at \$5.35 to \$5.45. Superior Extra \$6.10 to \$6.20; Fancy \$5.60 to \$5.70; Superfine \$5.10 to \$5.15; Strong Bakers \$5.60 to \$5.75; Medium \$5.45 to \$5.55; Fine \$4.95 to \$5.00; Middlings \$4.40 to \$4.50; Pollards \$3.60 to \$3.75; Canada Bags have brought \$2.60; and City Bags \$2.75 to \$2.80.

FREIGHTS.—There is but little inquiry for grain freights to Liverpool and Glasgow on the spot, and the ocean tonnage seems limited. Fair rates for steam and clipper tonnage would be 5s. 6d. to 6s. per 480 lbs. for Grain. To London, 6s. is a nominal rate for Grain by steamer, and 2s. 9d. to 3s. per brl. for Flour. The prices by steamer to Liverpool are steady for Ashes: Pots 25s. and Pearls 30s. per gross ton; Butter and Cheese 40s.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—The receipts by Railway and Canal for week ending 25th Aug., 310,378 bush. Total receipts from 1st January to 25th Aug., 5,223,660 bush., against 5,324,206 bush. at corresponding date in 1874, being a decrease of 100,546 bush. Shipments via River St. Lawrence and other channels for week ending 25th Aug., 295,580 bush. Total shipments from 1st January to 25th Aug., 4,171,141 bush., against 5,591,227 bush. at corresponding period of 1874, being a decrease of 1,420,083 bush. There was a downward tendency in the English market, this week, which prevented any special shipping movement here. Prices have ruled without much alteration. \$1.27½ was offered for Canada Spring yesterday, but sellers are not inclined to concede. Corn is offering at 73c. Peas are nominally the same. Oats continue inactive. Barley nominal.

GROCERIES.—Coffee.—The stocks continue somewhat light, and prices are firmly maintained as a consequence. Java is held at 31c. to 33c. for old government. Maracibo is nominal at 27½c. to 29c., and Laguayra at 25c. to 27c. Teas are generally quiet, the movement being mainly confined to Japan; of the latter, 150 half chests new season 1875-76, were sold to-day at 56c.—said to be one of the finest parcels yet shown; 760 packages of good mediums brought 40c. yesterday, and 450 pkgs. at a shade under 41c. Several small transactions in better Mediums have been effected at 42c. to 46c.; there is more inquiry for this class of teas, and stocks are reported to be running low. Sales of about 700 packages Young Hysons have been reported at 24c. to 32c. of good quality, but disposed of at the prices quoted, under pressure; other lots are still offering. There have been few transactions in Blacks, and prices are purely nominal. Sugars.—All grades of sugar seem decidedly stronger, probably induced by improved prices in the United States. Perhaps, they are also affected by the rumored intention of the Canada Sugar Refinery to cease operations shortly, and discharge their hands,—the present state of the sugar duties discriminating in favor of the American refiners having brought about this necessity. It is to be hoped in the interests of an enterprising firm—but more especially of the manufacturing industries of the country, that this report is without foundation. Bright samples of Scotch Refined are quoted at 7½c. 8½c. with little in the market at inside rate. Cubas are quotable at 7c.; Bright Barbadoes at 7½c.; and Porto Rico at 7½c. There were sales of Demerara at 8c. but 8½c. is now asked, with but little stock in market. Rice.—Stocks continue fair, with a moderate business doing at \$3.90 to \$3.95 for Arracan and Rangoon. Spices are in sufficient supply for most kinds, to meet present requirements. Black Pepper is quoted at 13½c. to 14½c.; but other spices are without change.

FRUITS.—Valencia Raisins are held at 8c. to 8½c. Layer raisins are quoted at \$2.15 to \$2.50, and Loose Muscats at \$2.65 to \$2.90. Currants continue at 5½c. to 6c. Malasses quoted at 35c. to 38c. for Centrifugal, 40c. to 42c. for Muscovado, and 45c. to 47½c. for Barbadoes.

HARDWARE.—The business doing is in accord with the usual dullness at this season, though, of course, more than commonly depressed by the exceptional character of trade throughout the country. Patience requires to be made a virtue in this department, as in all others, while looking and hoping for an improvement in customer's remittances. The quotations are without special change, as follows:—Pig Iron, Eglington & Clyde, per ton of 2240 lbs. Canbroc, \$22 to \$22 50. Summerlee & Calder \$23 to \$23 50; Langloan & Gartsherrie \$23 to 23 50; American \$26 to 23; Hematite \$30 to 31; Bar, per 100 lbs. Scotch and Staffordshire, \$2 50 to 2 60; best do, \$2 65 to 2 75; Swedes and Norway, \$5 to 5 50; Lowmoor and Bowling, \$6 50 to \$7; Canada Plates; per Box, Glamorgan and Baid, \$5 to 5 25; Arrow \$5 50 to 5 75; Hutton \$4 75 to \$5; Tin Plates; per box—Charcoal 10c., \$9 to 9 25; ditto, 1X., \$11 to 11 25; ditto DC., \$8 to 8 25; Cooke 10c., \$7.00 to 7 50; 14 x 20, 25c. extra Tinned sheets Charcoal best No. 25, 14c. Galvanised sheets best brands No. 28, 9½. to 10c. Hoops and Bands per 100 lbs. \$3 to 3 25; Sheets best brands, \$3 50 to 3 75; Boiler Plates ordinary brands \$3 25 to 3 50 Best brands \$3 50 to 3 75; Russian Sheet Iron per lb. 16c. to 17c.; Cut Nails 3d Lath, \$4 75; ditto, 2d to 4d shingle \$3 95; ditto, 5d to 10d, \$3 45, ditto 12d and larger \$3 15; 100 keg lots, 5 per cent. discount. Cut nails patent Chisel pointed 25c. extra. Pressed Spikes \$4 25 to \$5; Shot Canadian \$7 to 7 25. Lead—per 100 lbs. Pig, \$6 50; do sheets \$6 50; do Bar, \$6 50; Steel, cast, per lb. 13½c. to 14c. Spring per 100 lb. \$5.00 to 5.50; Sleigh Shoe \$4.25 to 4.50; Tire ditto, 4.75 to 5.00. Ingot Tin, 24c. to 25c.; Ingot Copper, 22c. to 23c. Horse Shoes per 100 lbs. \$5.00 to 5.25; Proved Coil Chain ¾ in., \$6.00 to 6.50; Ankers, 7c. to 8c.; Anvils 10 to 12c. Iron wire per bd. \$2.00 to \$2.70; Window Glass, up 25 to united inches, \$2.20 to \$2.30; up