

Montreal, January 23rd, 1908.

In the United States, there has been a considerably better inquiry for pig iron, and it is stated that fully 100,000 tons have been sold during the past few days, particularly by Southern furnaces. These are quoting lower prices than Northern furnaces are prepared to meet.

Local demand is fair, considering the season of the year, and a fair tonnage has been sold for prompt delivery. All Canadian furnaces are now in blast and producing regularly, the result being that the tonnage of import iron is limited to the special grades which customers desire for mixing purposes. Generally speaking, the feeling throughout Quebec and Ontario seems to be improving and a number of manufacturing establishments have recently taken steps to increase their output.

Antimony.—During the past week the market has steadied and prices are still 12½ to 13c. per pound. Demand is dull.

Bar Iron and Steel.—There is little doubt that, for large quantities, regular quotations would be shaded. Rolling mills are not very busy and any reasonable offer for a large quantity would probably receive consideration. Prices are still quoted as follows: Bar iron, \$2.15 per 100 lbs.; best re-fined horse-shoe iron, \$2.55, and forged iron, \$2.40; mild steel, \$2.20 per 100 pounds; sleigh shoe steel, \$2.20 for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$2.30 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$2.95; machine steel, iron finish, \$2.30.

Boiler Tubes.—The market holds steady, and dealers do not expect to see any decline in price, as boiler-makers are busy. Prices are as follows: Two-inch tubes, 8 to 8¼c.; 2½-inch, 11c.; 3-inch, 12 to 12¼c.; 3½-inch, 15 to 15¼c.; 4-inch, 19¼ to 19½c.

Cement—Canadian and American.—Canadian cement is 10c. lower, being quoted at \$1.80 to \$1.90 per barrel, in cotton bags, and \$2.20 to \$2.30 in wood, weights in both cases 350 pounds. There are four bags of 87½ pounds each, net, to a barrel, and 10 cents must be added to the above prices for each bag. Bags in good condition are purchased at 10 cents each. Where paper bags are wanted instead of cotton, the charge is 2½ cents for each, or 10 cents per barrel weight. American cement is steady at \$1 per 350 pounds, basis Lehigh mills, conditions being the same as in the case of Canadian mills, save that when the cotton bags are returned in good condition, only 7½ cents is allowed for them. American cement sold at \$2 to \$2.10 on track.

Cement—English and European.—English cement is unchanged at \$1.80 to \$2 per barrel in jute sacks of 82½ pounds each (including price of sacks) and \$2.10 to \$2.20 in wood, per 350 pounds, gross. Belgian cement is quoted at \$1.75 to \$1.90 per barrel, in wood. German is \$2.52 to \$2.55 per barrel of 400 pounds for Dyckerhoff.

Copper.—The market is gradually declining and quotations are now lower than for a long time past, being 15 to 15½c. per pound. Demand is dull and offerings are liberal.

Iron.—Dealers make the claim that they will not accept less than the following for carload lots: Londonderry is only offering for future shipments, and is quoted at \$24 f.o.b. Montreal for No. 1. Tor-

onto prices are about \$1.25 more. Summerlee iron is arriving, and is quoted at \$24 f.o.b. on cars, Montreal, for No. 2 selected, and \$25 for No. 1. No. 1 Cleveland is unobtainable at the present time, and Clarence at \$20 to \$21. Carion special, \$24; soft, \$23.75, to arrive.

Lead.—There has been a slight recovery in the market for lead during the past week and quotations are now \$3.95 to \$1.05 per 100 pounds. Supplies are apparently not too large.

Nails.—The market is steady and demand is dull. Cut nails are quoted at \$2.50 and wire at \$2.55, base prices.

Pipe—Cast Iron.—The market is next thing to dead, as nothing is used during the winter. Prices are steady at \$36 for 8-inch pipe and larger; \$37 for 6-inch pipe, \$38 for 5-inch, and \$39 for 4-inch at the foundry. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

Pipe, Wrought.—Trade continues on the dull side. Quotations and discounts for small lots, screwed and coupled, are as follows: ¼-inch to ¾-inch, \$5.50, with 53 per cent. off for black and 38 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 66 per cent. off for black and 56 per cent. off for galvanized: ½-inch, \$8.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1¼-inch, \$22.50; 1½-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; and 3-inch, \$75.50.

Spikes.—Railway spikes are not in very good demand, \$2.60 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at \$3.15 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 10 inch and 5½ x 12 inch.

Steel Shafting.—At the present time prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is very dull and lower figures would hardly be refused.

Steel Plates.—Demand is quite dull and a firm bid at lower figures than quotations would be considered. Quotations are: \$2.75 for 3-16, and \$2.50 for ¼ and thicker, in small lots.

Tin.—The market is a shade firmer, this week, and prices are about 1c. higher, at 31 to 31½c. per pound.

Tool Steel.—Demand is light but the market is firm. Base prices are as follows: Jessop's best unannealed, 14½c. per pound, annealed being 15½c.; second grade, 8½c., and high-speed, "Ark," 60c., and "Novo," 65c.; "Conquerer," 55 to 60c.; Sanderson Bros. and Newbould's "Sabon," high-speed, 60c.; extra cast tool steel, 14c., and "Colorado" cast tool steel, 8c., base prices. Sanderson's "Rex A" is quoted at 75c. and upward; Self-Hardening, 45c.; Extra, 15c.; Superior, 12c.; and Crucible, 8c.; "Edgar Allan's Air-Hardening," 55 to 65c. per pound.

Zinc.—The market shows a firmer tone and prices have advanced ¼c. per pound, being now 5¼ to 5½c.

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