

It is said that parties in the United States have offered an option price for the pulp mills at Chatham, provided they can acquire the lumber lands lately under lease from the local Government by the late company. The figure named is \$350,000.

At the Blackcock Mines, in the Ymir district, work has started up again. Two shafts are down 150 feet and 200 feet respectively, and a tunnel to connect the two has now been completed for 540 ft. The vein varies from two to ten feet, and consists of galena and iron pyrites, and samples from the richer shoots average \$40 per ton, while the general average is about \$10. The company proposes to go ahead with development work as speedily as possible.

### MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, May 21st, 1902.

**Ashes.**—There is still an absence of any noteworthy European demand, and the market is again easier, local buyers for export claiming that they cannot afford to pay beyond \$4.25 for first pots, while seconds are quoted at \$3.75 to \$3.80. Pearls remain nominal at about \$6. Receipts continue very light indeed.

**Cements and Firebricks.**—A moderate movement is reported in small jobbing lots, but no recent big deals are reported. Receipts for week ending to-day are 3,500 barrels and 6,000 bags of Belgian and German cement, and 400 barrels of English; firebricks, 112,400. No receipts of American cements are yet reported. We quote: Belgian, \$1.55 to \$1.90; English, \$2.10 to \$2.20; German, \$2.20 to \$2.40; American, \$1.80 to \$2.10 for four bags, being equivalent to one barrel. Firebricks, \$16 to \$21.

**Dairy Products.**—Cheese shipments last week aggregated 26,033 boxes, being 6,500 more than corresponding week of 1901. Exports of butter were 6,389 packages, as against 6,072 packages a year ago. The cheese market shows no weakening, though the make should be now increasing materially. Fine old cheese is quoted at 11½ to 12c., and new at 11 to 11¼c. For prime creamery butter, 19½c. is paid for export, with jobbing prices from half a cent to a cent more.

**Dry Goods.**—Travellers' letters speak of a backward season in a good many sections, but wholesalers apparently do not find much room for complaint. Buyers have been reported in town since last writing from Quebec, Hamilton, Peterboro, Belleville, Napanee and some from Manitoba, mostly leading retailers, who have made some very fair purchases of jobs which are to be picked up at this season, when wholesalers are anxious to reduce stocks before the half-yearly stock-taking.

**Furs.**—Some few moderate assorted lots of raw furs are coming in, but principal receipts at present are spring rats. Prices remain steady, as lately revised,

and we quote as follows: Black bear, \$18 for large, \$13.50 for medium, \$7.50 for small; badger, 10 to 50c.; wild cat, 10 to 35c.; fisher, \$4 to \$6 for northern; western ditto, \$3 to \$5 for No. 1; red fox, \$150 to \$450 for northern; silver fox, \$50 to \$300; cross fox, \$5 to \$15; wolverine, \$1.50 to \$5; lynx, \$3 to \$7; marten, fine, British Columbia, \$3.50 to \$7; eastern, \$2 to \$4.50; mink, eastern, \$2.75 to \$4; western, No. 1, \$2.50 to \$3.50; fall rats, 8 to 10c.; winter, ditto, 10 to 15c.; spring, ditto, 12½ to 20c.; otter, \$12 to \$18 for fine north-eastern; No. 1 western, \$8 to \$12; coon, No. 1, black, \$1.50 to \$2.50; No. 1, dark, \$1 to \$1.50; skunk, 20c. to \$1.75 for prime according to stripe, etc.

**Groceries.**—The election excitement in Ontario is said to be affecting business in that direction, but trade generally is very fair. The sugar market is without a change, the low prices still prevailing, with no indication of an immediate change. Molasses is also easy at 24c.; a second cargo arrived to-day, comprising about 1,400 puncheons. It would appear that the frost damage to the Japan tea crop is more serious than first imagined. Settlements are said to be some 20,000 to 25,000 piculs short of this date last year, and local representatives of Japan houses have been advised by cable to hold stocks of old teas at firm prices. Valencia raisins recently bought in New York have been subject to half a cent advance, and reports of damage to the currant vines by the parasite, known as the peronosperos, are repeated. Pepper is advanced.

**Hides.**—The local buyers seem to have again patched up their differences, and prices of beef hides and calfskins, which advanced several weeks ago owing to the competition in buying, have been restored to the old level, dealers now paying 8c. for No. 1 beef hides, and 11c. for No. 1 calfskins. Sheepskins remain at 60 to 65c. each, and lambskins 15c.

**Leather.**—The month has been a quiet one in this line. Sorting business in boots and shoes has hardly been up to expectations, so that not a great deal of leather is being cut just now, but good demand for fall footwear is looked for. There have been no recent changes in prices, slaughter sole selling at 27c. for No. 1, and mfrs., No. 2, at 24½c.; black leathers are steady, and dongolas very firm. Continued good business is reported in the export of sole.

**Metals and Hardware.**—Business in these lines, while hardly so very active as a month ago, is still unusually good for the season, and values are firm in all lines. The stiffness in tin is unabated, and late sales of round lots are reported at 32c., net terms, which is equal to 34c. for jobbing lots. Lead, copper and spelter are unchanged. No very full supplies of plates are yet to hand, and Canada plates are very firmly held, \$2.75 being now the general asking price for 52 sheets in an ordinary way, while of sixties and seventies there are really few

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