

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Grain—There was considerable enquiry from local shippers for all kinds of grain, and a fairly active business was done. The tone of the market for oats was stronger and prices advanced ½c per bushel, with sales of car lots of No. 2 white in store at 23½c. There was also another round lot of No. 2 white oats offered for delivery in May at 26½c afloat, but the outside bid on the market was 26c. A fair trade was done in peas at 48½c to 49c.

Flour—There is a steadier feeling in Manitoba grades, while Ontario brands show no important change. Further cables from abroad were received to-day, but no sales were made. We quote: Winter wheat patents at \$1.80 to \$1.50; straight rollers at \$3.90 to \$4.10, and in bags, at \$1.90 to \$1.95. Manitoba spring wheat patents at \$1.60 to \$1.80; and strong bakers' at \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Bran—The demand for feed continues good and the market rules active and firm, with prices tending upward. Sales of Manitoba bran are reported at \$12, and shorts at \$13 per ton, including bags.

Oatmeal—Business in oatmeal was quiet and prices show no change, rolled oats being offered at \$2.70 to \$2.80 per barrel, and at \$1.35 to \$1.40 per bag.

Cheese—Receipts of fodder stock are coming in and selling to the local trade at 9½c. There has been no business for export.

Butter—Fresh creamery sells readily on local account at 20½ to 21c and roll dairy is steady at 13 to 14c. Hold creamery is slow of sale.

Eggs—Owing to the continued heavy receipts of new laid eggs and the already large stock on spot the tone of the market was weaker and prices ½c per dozen lower on the outside. The demand was fair and sales were made at 10½c, while this, figure would probably be shaded for round lots.

Maple Syrup—There was a fair demand for new maple syrup, and prices rule steady at 55 to 60c per tin, and at 5 to 5½c per lb. in wood. The demand for sugar is good, and all offerings so far have met with a steady sale at 8 to 8½c per lb., and bright old at 7 to 7½c.

Provisions—A fair trade is reported on local and country account for hams and bacon, and prices rule firm. We quote: Canadian pork, \$12.00 to \$13.00 per barrel; pure Canadian lard, in pails, at 6c to 6½c, and compound refined at 4½c to 5c per lb.; hams, 9½c to 11½c, and bacon 10½c per lb. —Gazette, March 31.

Foolish Mining Investments.

So many people are making hasty and foolish investments in mining ventures without proper enquiry, and without any knowledge of what they will get for their money, that they need to be protected from the rapacity of mining "sharks." Few persons are able to distinguish a genuine mining proposition from a fake; and supposing the mine to be real, few know whether they are buying promoters' treasury shares or development shares. For the sake of many foolish speculative people safeguards should be provided. In order to prevent the flooding of the markets with promoter's stock in mining companies, the Rosland Miner strongly favors a provision that all treasury shares should be so marked that any investor might be able to satisfy himself whether his money was going into development or merely into the promoters' pockets. And we find the Rosland Record exposing a pernicious sys-

tem of publishing bogus quotations, a system which has been encountered by the Vancouver World in connection with mining matters. "It is the practice," says the latter journal, "to publish what purports to be the market quotations for mining stocks by interested brokers and stock gamblers." By such a scheme, unscrupulous scoundrels can easily bull or bear the market at will. Steps are being taken in British Columbia, it is said to have this sort of thing stopped. —Monetary Times.

The Live Stock Trade

At London on March 29, cattle were in good demand and prices were fully maintained. Choice States steers sold at 12c, and Argentines at 11c. The market for sheep was weaker and prices declined ½c to ¾c per lb., choice being quoted at 11½ to 12c.

A private cable received from Liverpool reported the market for cattle firm, and quoted choice Canadian steers at 11½c, and middling at 10½c.

At the East End abattoir market Montreal, on March 29, the demand for cattle was only fair. The supply of cattle was not large and the quality was good. Choice butchers' cattle sold at 3½ to 4c, good at 3½ to 3¾c, fair at 3c, and common at 2½ to 2¾c per lb., live weight. Owing to the small receipts of sheep prices are higher, and sales were made at 4 to 4½c, mixed lots of sheep and lambs at 4½ to 4¾c, and lambs at 5 to 5½c per lb., live weight.

At the Point St. Charles stock yard, Montreal, on March 29, sheep and lambs were very scarce and wanted at full prices. There were about 200 live hogs offered, which met with a ready sale at \$5.25 to \$5.50 per 100 lbs.

At Chicago on April 2, hogs sold at \$3.75 to \$4.15, as to quality.

At the semi-weekly market at Toronto on March 30, offerings were light. There was a good demand for stockers for Buffalo. Beside the stockers which were sent through to Buffalo last Saturday there were 10 carloads sent to Chicago. Export cattle all sold at from 3½c to 4½c per lb., one or two choices going as high as 4½c per lb. Butcher's cattle sold at high figures. One dealer paid 4½c for three cattle weighing 3,289 lbs. The general run of good cattle sold from 3 to 3½c per lb., common selling down to 2½c and 2¾c per lb. Everything sold early. Good export bulls sold at from 3½ to 4c per lb. Stock bulls were steady at 2½c to 3½c per lb., and a little higher for extra choice. Only a few feeders changed hands. Prices were 3½c to 3¾c to 3½c for good half fat steers. The offerings of sheep were light. Bucks sold at 3 to 3½c per lb. and ewes at 3½c. Good grain-fed lambs, weighing from 90 to 110 lbs. sold at 5½ to 5¾c per lb. Those weighing heavier sold at 5c. The market for hogs was firm, choice selections of bacon hogs selling at 5½c per lb., sows at 3½c to 3¾c per lb., heavy and light hogs at 4½ to 4¾c, and stags at 2c to 2½c and boars at 2c. All kinds are wanted except stores.

Hides, Wool, Etc.

The Montreal Hide Association has been dissolved.

The Chicago market is reported by Hides and Leather as follows: "No. 1 buffs, free of brands and grubs, 40 to 60 lbs., strong at 8½c and 7¾c. Five or six cars changed hands on these terms since last report. At least two of these had about an even proportion 1's and 2's. An effort early in the week to establish an 8½ market proved futile, buyers declaring that the acceptance of an eighth cent advance would soon be followed by an 8½c asking price. One car of all No. 1 fall hides referred to last week sold at 8¾c."

Winnipeg Clearing House

Clearings for the week ending April 1, were 1,183,878; balances, 301,165. For the previous week clearings were 1,031,013. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were 930,561 and for the week two years ago, were 601,910. Clearings for month of March were \$1,239,593, compared with \$1,295,623 for March 1896, and \$2,929,493 for March 1895.

Bank clearings at other Canadian cities for the week ended March 25, were:

	Per cent.
Montreal.....	\$8,567,247. Increased 6.9
Toronto.....	5,929,878. " 8
Halifax.....	1,097,421. " 1.9
Hamilton....	608,091. " 11.9

Minneapolis Markets

Flour—The Market Record of March 31 reports the market quiet and steady. bids were too low to make much business. Prices are as follows, in bbls. f. o. b.: First patents, \$3.90 to \$4.10; second patents, \$3.70 to \$3.90; first clears, \$3.50 to \$3.50; second clear, 2.20 to \$2.40; Red Dog, per ton, 140 for lbs. just, \$9.00. These prices are 10c lower than a week ago.

Millstuffs—Bran in bulk, \$7.00 to \$7.35; bran in sacks, 200 lbs. \$8.00 to \$8.25; bran in sacks, 100 lbs. \$8.50 to \$8.75; shorts in bulk, 6.25 to \$6.50; shorts in sacks, 100 lbs. 7.75 to \$8.00 middlings, fine, \$7.25 to \$7.50. These prices are the same as a week ago.

Oats—Range mostly at 16 to 16½c for No. 2.

Barley—Quoted at 20 to 22½c per bushel as to quality for feed grade.

Flax—Quoted at 73c per bushel, a decline of 3½c on the week.

Hay—Prairie, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per ton, as to quality.—Market Record, March 31.

The stock of Herron & Evans general store, Duloraine, has been sold at 60½c, and accounts at 20½c to Evans & Scovin.

The April number of the *Delia* contains a splendid assortment of styles and fabrics that will be fashionable during the season. In the literary department a treat of particular interest to most women is a story by Margaret Nesbit, "The Art of Preserving Youth." The second paper by Mary Cadwalader Jones (Mrs. Frederick Rhineland Jones) contains the interest created by her March contribution on the Evolution of Dress. Mrs. Theodore Sutro discusses literature as a profession for her sex; J. Bell Linder describes a pretty "Rainbow" Drill for Children, and the general interest in bicycling is shown in an account of the latest attire therefor. The third and last of the Dental articles is devoted to Artificial Teeth. Sara Miller Kirby's Admirable Kindergarten Papers are also brought to a conclusion in this number. There is a delightful sketch of Easter in a Southern Town, and timely directions for the making of Five by Novelties, as well as for the Delt Embroidery now so popular. There is also another of Mrs. Haywood's papers on Ecclesiastical Embroidery. H. C. Wood tells about a original Leap Year Party. In addition to the regular article on Seasonable Cookery there is a practical paper on the Chemistry of Foods, by A. B. Longstreet. Household sanitation from a popular standpoint, by Witherspoon's Tea-Table Chat, a Revised New Books, and novel contributions in Sewing, Knitting, Crocheting, Lace-making, etc., are among other features.