

DRY GOODS.—The sorting season is now fully opened, and merchants report a fairly active trade. Values are firm. The reports in the press of a smart advance in cottons, published this week, appear to be without foundation. The situation in primary market certainly does not warrant an advance in prices. The movement at present is subject to the weather conditions, and cold weather would do much to improve business in dry goods circles.

FLOUR AND FEED.—Trade remains unchanged. Values are about the same as reported a week ago. Manitoba patents are quoted \$5.10; strong bakers', \$4.80, and patents (winter wheat), \$4.30. Bran continues unchanged.

GRAIN.—The wheat market is firmer, quotations having advanced 1 to 2c per bushel during the week. Wheat is coming out freely at different points in Ontario. The quality, which has not been of the best, shows some little improvement. Barley is quiet, and without change. There is a fair movement in rye at a decline of 1c per bushel as compared with last week. Buckwheat is steady. There is no movement in corn. Peas are coming out slowly, but are in active request.

The stocks in store at Port Arthur on Sept. 25th were 781,583 bushels, and there were received 772,403 bushels, and shipped 486,298 bushels, leaving in store on October 2nd, 1,067,689 bushels.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—Trade is improving with the advancing season. Orders coming in range over a general assortment of supplies. The feeling in the country is more hopeful, and the prospects point to an active season's trade this autumn. Prices are firm and in a number of cases are advancing. American manufacturers of a number of lines have withdrawn quotations, and dealers look for higher prices. Metals are active. Jobbers find it difficult to supply the demand for galvanized iron. Block iron and sheet steel are moving freely, while for tin-plate and ingot tin there is good enquiry. In heavy hardware business has improved during the past few weeks, and stocks purchased early in the spring are now running low.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The situation remains practically without change. Merchants continue to pay 8½c for No. 1, Toronto inspected green hides, and are quoting cured at 8 3/4c per lb. Sheepskins are steady at 85c. Tallow is quiet and dull, with prices as previously quoted.

HOPS.—Buyers and sellers continue to be apart in their ideas of the value of hops, and as a result little or no business is being done. Brewers want to secure Canadian hops for 10 to 12c per lb., while growers are asking from 15 to 18c per lb. The samples coming forward show the best quality for a number of years past. Middlemen are in a quandary as to the situation, but say that no special movement can be looked for until Nov. 1st. The British Columbia crop of hops this year is very light, as the result of heavy rains, the aggregate yield, it is said, running fully 25 per cent. less than that of a year ago. Late English mail advices indicate a short crop. A letter dated September 18th, says of the Kent and Sussex yards: "Three weeks' picking has served to secure the bulk of the crop in these counties. Some results of the ingathering in a few typical cases, as compared with those of last season: One planter who last year grew 192 pockets has obtained only 80; another who in 1896 had 445 pockets markets only 241 this year. Another grower, with this year an additional 16 acres in bearing, finds his yield 100 pockets short of last year's crop. The weather of the past week has been a decided improvement upon that which prevailed during the earlier part of the picking, less rainfall having been experienced. Mould and the return of the aphides have, however, caused some anxiety, and are elements which induce growers to push forward the picking with all possible speed. The quality of the great bulk of the samples is excellent." The Waterville (N.Y.) Times, Sept. 28, reports as follows: "As

the growers continue to press their hops it is found that they are weighing less to the box than formerly, and there will be a shortage on this account in the total weight not before counted on. Some have found the shortage to be about two pounds to the box on an average. There have been a number of sales in this vicinity at 15c, which has been freely offered, many of the growers declining to sell at present."

PROVISIONS.—An active trade is passing. The lumbermen are evidently going into the woods with full vigor this year if orders for that industry given to merchants in pork products can be taken as a criterion. The demand for heavy meats is active and prices remain firm.

WOOL.—Trade is inactive. The movement in fleece wool is very limited. For pulled wools the Canadian mills are making more active enquiries. A letter from Philadelphia, Oct. 1st, says: "Markets continued strong and active, until prices were advanced to their present basis, which many buyers regard as higher than will show further inducement to continue buying ahead of their present wants. Consequently, during the past week, there has been less enquiry for wool, but a few large transactions have brought the aggregate of sales to large figures."

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Oct. 6th, 1897.

ASHES.—Receipts have again fallen off, hardly ten barrels having come in since last writing, it is reported. Prices, which fell off somewhat from the big advance of a fortnight ago, are reported fairly steady at from \$3.60 to 3.75, regular dealers offering the inside figures, though we hear of a few odd barrels being sold at the outside figures; very few seconds are coming in, and a nominal figure is \$3.20 to 3.30; pearls \$4.40 to 4.50 per cental.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The local factories are fairly employed as a rule, but sorting fall orders for footwear are small, the generally fine weather prevailing everywhere preventing much breaking into retail stocks as yet. Spring samples are being prepared, and in some cases are already in the hands of travelers. Quebec makers are reported well employed. Those manufacturers in the latter city who cater to the jobbing trade, and who have suffered more or less from the numerous recent failures in the West, have decided, and very wisely, to insist on shorter credit terms. There will be no further dating ahead, nor discounts beyond ninety days; for thirty days 6 per cent. will be allowed, sixty days 5 per cent., and ninety days, 4 per cent.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The week has not been nearly as brisk a one as last week, but a moderate aggregate of small orders is reported. Prices are steady at \$1.85 to 1.95 for Belgian, and \$2 to 2.10 for British. The receipts this week are small, only 185 barrels of English, but some large shipments are due next week. Firebricks are steady at \$16 to 21.00; receipts 16,000.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Cheese values have eased off from ½ to ¼c. per pound; but the movement is more active as a consequence. The exports last week footed up to 93,900 packages, as against 64,700 boxes last year for corresponding week, and the total exports for the season to date are nearly 330,000 boxes ahead of the same date in 1896. We quote:—Fine Western, 9½ to 9¾c.; Townships, 9½ to 9¾c.; Quebec, 9 to 9¾c. Of butter, the shipments last week amounted to 17,191 packages. The present figure for finest creamery is 19 to 19½c.; good dairy is in demand at 13 to 14c. for Western; Townships, 16 to 18c. The local demand for eggs is good, at 13 to 14c. for fresh laid, and for candled, 11 to 12c. A recent shipment is reported to the West Indies at a satisfactory price.

DRY GOODS.—Enquiry in a variety of quarters would indicate that payments on the 4th inst. show a good average of paper provided for, and we do not hear of a dry goods failure resulting from any default. This applies to country payments more particularly; city payments are hardly so good. A fair business is being done by all houses, but more broken fall-like weather is needed to induce more activity in sorting business.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Sept. 27, 1897.	Oct. 4, 1897.
Wheat, bushels.....	240,521	301,045
Corn, "	35,004	41,447
Oats, "	219,921	150,863
Rye, "	26,712	44,433
Peas, "	64,659	53,177
Barley, "	22,951	23,051
Total grain	609,668	604,016
Oatmeal.....	70	70
Flour	13,737	13,301
Buckwheat.....	1,053	1,390

GROCERIES.—The trade generally report a very good demand, with gratifying improvement in country remittances. Teas and sugars are very steady at last quoted prices, but a tendency to advance is strongly evident in a good many lines. The "Avlona," with direct supplies of currants and Valencia raisins, is not yet reported in the gulf, and she will probably be a few days later in arriving than first calculated. The market for California raisins is described "as stiff as starch," and the published advice from Eastern operators to hold off buying is said to come from those who have sold short, some of whom are said to be offering as high as \$200 a car to cancel orders. Some growers are said to be putting their raisins into store. Rains have delayed shipments; so far only one car of three-crown have been received here, costing about 6½c. laid down, and it will probably be a fortnight before further supplies are received. Seeded Californias will again be put on the market this season in pound cartons, to cost 10 to 10½c. laid down. A sharp advance is predicted as likely in California prunes. Canned fruits and vegetables are very firm all around. Some packers are now asking 90c. for tomatoes, and 85c. for peas; for new gallon apples \$1.85 is quoted in quantity from factory, very much higher figures than last year. Lobsters also are very scarce, and \$10 to 10.50 would be asked in a jobbing way for tails; we hear of a packer asking \$8.50 at the factory for wholesale lots. Salmon are still easy on the coast, at \$3.35.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—The only notable change in these lines is the advance in lamb-skins, which are now up to 60c. Beef hides are steady at 8c. for No. 1 to dealers, and 9c. to tanners, with receipts well absorbed; calfskins, 8 and 6c. Butchers only realize 1 to 1½c. on their rough tallow, and sales of rendered are slow at 3 to 3½c.

HOPS.—Both consumers and growers seem holding back, and there is but a moderate business passing. Choice Canadians are quoted at about 12 to 14c. per lb. Some very fine British Columbia hops have just been received here, for which nothing under 20c. would be accepted. Yearlings and old olds are not wanted, and prices are wholly nominal.

LEATHER.—The week has not developed any specially large sales; but there is a regular steady business being done in moderate lots at firm prices. Stocks of all lines of black leather are reported very light on spot, many tanners who formerly consigned to this market now shipping to England, whence they are apparently realizing satisfactory returns. Donorplas and other fancy leathers keep moving upwards. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, 22 to 23c.; No. 1 ordinary, 22 to 23c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 25 to 27c.; No. 2 do., 21 to 22c.; common, 20 to 21c.; waxed upper light and medium, 30 to 35c.; do. heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 30 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec do., 17 to 20c.; juniors, 15 to 17c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf. American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 22c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 13c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 12 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 12 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—A stiffness has developed in domestic bar iron, and \$1.35 is said to be the very lowest figure for car lots, while some of the rolling mills quote \$1.40; further advance is not anticipated. In pig iron, too, the tendency seems towards firmness, and nothing could be done now in Summerlee at \$17.50, as reported last week; a sale of Hamilton No. 1, of 40 tons, distributed delivery, is