

MONTREAL MARKET.

MONTREAL, May 25.

During the past week business in all departments has been brisk, and houses have been busy filling orders. Merchants are now going home by every steamer to purchase fall goods. Yesterday being Her Majesty's birthday was generally observed as a holiday, all stores being closed; to-day the excitement consequent on the Fenian raid has brought business almost to a standstill.

HARDWARE.—Most of the houses are busy making up orders for summer and fall importations. Tin Plates have advanced about 25c. per box, other quotations remain the same. There is a healthy tone in the market, orders are coming in freely by mail, and payments are generally satisfactory.

GROCERIES.—No great amount of business has been done this week in groceries, except in Japan Teas, which have advanced from 1c. to 2c., in other grades the demand has only been for local wants. Coffee—market is well supplied, and 16c. is now being paid. Rice—a considerable amount of speculation in this article during the week, and quotation now stands at \$3.70. Sugar—with a considerable amount offering, holders are still stiff in their demands. Grocery grades are quoted 7½c. to 8½c. Refined is unchanged.

MOLASSES are dull and not much enquired for. Centrifugal has been sold at 26c. to 26½, other kinds are nominal.

HIGH WINES.—The market has been very quiet, with only small sales at 52½ to 53c.

SALT.—Fine salt is scarce, coarse is in fair demand at 45c. to 50c. for old; new has not yet begun to arrive. Buyers are offering 50c., holders asking 55c.

TOBACCO.—The trade has been very brisk in this line of business, at last week's quotations, which were: Fancy Brights, 45c. to 50c.; Brights, 30c. to 45c.; Mahogany, 25c. to 30c.

OILS.—Pale Seal has advanced to 72½c. to 75c. Old stock is about 5c. lower. Tinged and straw, according to colour, is quoted 57½c., 60c., and 62½c. Linseed steady, 72½c. for raw and 77½c. for boiled. Olive oil is now held at \$1.12½ to \$1.17½. Petroleum continues very quiet, and only small sales are reported at 25c. to 26½c.

FISH.—Some considerable sales of Dry Cod are reported at \$5.25 to \$5.50. Salmon nominal at \$12 to \$14. Canso Herrings \$3.75 to \$4.25. Labrador Herrings dull at \$4.25 to \$4.50.

FRUIT.—Lager Raisins are very scarce, and are held at \$2.60. Valencia 8½c. to 9c. Currants, (old) 4½c. to 5½c.; new 6c. to 6½c. Walnuts 6c. to 9c.

LIQUORS.—Brandy imports have been light, and Hennessy and Martels bring \$2.20 in wood; '68 vintage is held for 2.37½ to \$2.40. Gin—DeKuyper's is firm at \$1.47½. Rum is in light demand at \$1.90 to \$2.00, and Demarara at \$1.70 to \$1.75.

LEATHER.—There has been an active demand all week for Leather, especially split and upper. Prices are firm and receipts limited.

WOOL.—The season for Clipped Wool is now commenced, but there have as yet been no quotations that are reliable. The following are the prices in this market:—Fleece, nominal; Pulled, super. 26c. to 28c., No. 1, 20c. to 23c., Black 23c. to 66c.

FLOUR.—A considerable amount of business has been done during the week in shipping lots, but prices, have been, on the whole, rather easier, with the exception of Extra, which was higher on Monday. There was very little business done on 'Change to-day, owing to Fenian rumors, and the market closed dull and nominal at Monday's rates. Extra, \$5 to \$5.20; Fancy, \$4.75 to \$4.80; Ordinary Supers. from Canada Wheat, \$4.35 to \$4.40; medium and Strong Supers. from ditto, \$4.45 to \$4.75; Supers. from Western Wheat. (Welland Canal), \$4 to \$4.40; city brand of superfine (from Western wheat), \$4.40 to \$4.45;

Canada superfine No. 2, \$4.25. Oatmeal very quiet and prices are unchanged.

GRAIN.—Wheat—U. C. Spring, a sale of 12,000 bush on Saturday on p.t.; no sales reported in other grades. Peas, per 66 lbs.—A large amount have changed hands at about 83 to 86 cents. Corn—Nominal. No transactions. Barley—Nominal at 50c. Oats—37 to 39c. Market was rather higher in the early part of the week, but is now easier.

PROVISIONS.—Cheese 14 to 15c. Market quiet. Butter—New, 20 to 21½c. Old, 17 to 19c. business limited to city wants. Pork—has been very firm, with large sales, at quotations. Mess \$28 to \$28.50; thin mess \$25 to \$25.50; prime mess \$19.50 to \$20; extra prime \$19. Lard—13½ to 14c.; prices firm. Eggs—13 to 13½c.

Market has been well supplied and hardly so active as last week.

GOOD BUTTER.

There is nothing connected with dairying more certain than the fact that everything a cow eats or drinks affects the flavor of the milk and butter. Turnips, carrots, onions, cabbage, grass, hay, bran, or corn meal, each give, when eaten by the cows, a distinctive property to the milk, which continues in a greater or less degree in the butter and cheese into which it is manufactured. The color of butter (well and properly made) depends more upon the feed given to the cow than upon all other causes together. In testing butter, it does not require an expert to trace bad flavor to its original cause. Stagnant water asserts its presence by its unmistakable musty odor; all pungent vegetables proclaim their ascendancy; the fine, sweet grasses, impart that delicious fragrance which gives to butter the highest value. A cool, dry, well-shaded and well-ventilated milk room is also a matter of great importance. Milk kept in a close, musty, or unclean room, will certainly be greatly injured.

In Dutchess County, N. Y., those farmers who enjoy the highest reputation for fine butter ignore washing, but it must be taken into account that their butter is sold and consumed immediately after it is made. From observation and experience, we conclude that butter for immediate use, if well-worked and treated properly, has a higher flavor when not washed, but when packed for keeping any length of time, it ought to be well washed in pure, cold, spring water. The high grades of rich, yellow Irish butter, made for export, are always washed; the lighter and more delicate Holstein, made for immediate consumption, generally is not washed, and keeps poorly.

One of the greatest faults at the West in making butter, is that too much salt is used. A large amount of Western butter is cured with coarse salt. This fault has been pointed out very often, but it still exists to a great extent. Butter salted, so as to be pleasant to the taste, will bring five cents per pound more in some markets than it would sell for if there had been a quarter of an ounce more salt to each pound. The coarse salt of commerce is not pure; besides, being hard to dissolve in butter, it continues to be gritty and unpleasant to the taste. It is not generally clean, nor does it amalgamate with the butter or cheese fully. Liverpool salt, of Ashton brand is the best. The amount of salt used by most good butter-makers is one ounce to a pound of butter, but the salting only plays a very limited part of the process of making good butter. Over and above every other consideration, scrupulous neatness must be observed in milking, in the management of the cream, in churning, in working the butter, in packing, and in everything else.

The kind of cooage used in packing butter for market is of special importance, and this is overlooked in most Western localities. One of the reasons why Western butter is at a low standard in markets abroad, is that the cooage is very poor. Many farmers and dealers do not

generally patronize the best coopers, but the cheapest ones. There is a prejudice in Eastern markets against all butter in packages known as Western, even though the article be quite good. We advise the use of the New York "Welsh Tub," the "Half-firkin Tub," and the hundred pound "Firkin." The former should be made of white ash or white oak; the two latter of white oak only; the Welsh Tub with flat hoops; the other two spoken of with round hoops, not mere straps with rough bark and large knots, but nice and smooth second growth hickory, with smooth, shikey bark, free from lumps, each hoop a half-pole, and all uniform in size and color; the wood to be free from sap and of uniform color, everything neatly and well done.

Size of Firkins should be 22½ inches high, 13½ inches diameter of head, outside to outside, 16 inches diameter of bilge, outside to outside, should weigh about 20 pounds, dry, and contain about 100 pounds, net, of butter. Half-firkins of same dimensions as one of this description cut in two, and should have a neatly made cover nailed on top. After butter is packed, the top should be neatly covered with white muslin, after it has been washed free from starch or sizing, and thoroughly soaked in a clean sweet brine. Upon this covering should be spread a thin layer of fine, clear salt; dairy salt will do, but fine table salt is better."—N. Y. Mercantile Journal.

ALIENATION.

Alienation applies particularly to an absolute conveyance of real property; hence, any transfer of real estate, short of the conveyance of title, is not alienation. If insured property be sold, before loss, the policy is void unless transferred with the property, by consent of the underwriters. If sold in part only, the policy will hold good as to the portion unsold, unless expressly otherwise provided by the policy. The effect of a conveyance is to terminate the insurance; and a re-purchase cannot restore it. Held: that an alienation had occurred when the insured had given absolute deed and taken back an agreement for recovery, and provided he should pay a certain sum in a given time. Held also: That a conveyance, absolute in form, though given as a security for debt merely, avoids the policy; and this though only an undivided interest in the property is insured. But a merely nominal transfer, as collateral security for debts, which are subsisting liens upon the property, will not avoid the policy. A transfer which lessens the interest of the insured in preventing destruction of the property, will avoid it. Mortgage of property insured is not alienation, unless made so by the conditions of the policy. A mortgage and a foreclosure are both necessary to make a change of title. Transfer of insured property to an assignee, under a decree of bankruptcy, is alienation. But a policy is not voided by a compulsory sale or execution, if the insured retain the right of redemption. An agreement to sell but where the deed is not made, nor the purchase money paid, does not divest the insured of his interest in the property, so long as he remains in possession and the contract is not performed. Descent of title to heirs is not alienation. A lease is simply a change of possession and is not alienation. Where change of title voids a policy by its stipulations, a division of partnership goods, before loss, each partner taking a portion, is change of title and consequent alienation. Where one of three partners, before a loss, sells his interest to the other two partners, without notice or consent, the entire policy is void (?) by reason of such transfer. When the underwriter has assumed the affirmative of the issue of alienation of insured property, the burden of proof is upon him.

—A new company has just been formed, with a capital of \$8,000, for the establishment of steam-boat communication between Quebec and St. Joachim.