

Commercial.

MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 8th March, 1877.

The sharp weather of the forepart of the week has brought on a heavy fall of snow, and there is now every prospect that we shall have good roads again and consequent improvement in country retail trade; the lumberers up the Ottawa will be enabled to carry on operations, and fields of winter wheat should be benefited. There is a fair business being done everywhere for the season, and there is reason to anticipate that trade will show a decided improvement over that for the corresponding period of last year. Money still continues easy with little demand.

ASRES.—The receipts are very fair. Sales have been made to extent of 200 brls of First Pots at \$4.00 to \$4.05, and in some instances \$4.07, from first hand. Seconds \$3.50; Thirds, none to be had, \$2.50 would be paid. The market for Firsts closes very quiet with appearance of a further decline. **PEARLS.**—Nothing doing for export. A few Firsts sold for local use on p. l. Any quotations would be purely nominal. Seconds are entirely neglected. The receipts since 1st January have been 1819 brls Pots and 91 brls Pearls. The deliveries 1129 brls Pots and 22 brls Pearls, and the stock in store at six o'clock this evening was 3395 brls Pots and 844 brls Pearls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There is a fair amount of business doing for the season and stocks in the country seem low. There is no change to note in prices and as the advance which was made in leather, has not been fully sustained, no higher rates than the present are anticipated this season; remittances have not much improved.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Since our last report the market for goods in this line has not assumed any new aspect. The demand continues moderate, and prices are without change. **OILS.**—For Lined Oil a good many country orders are coming in at unchanged prices. In the English markets price for spot delivery is quite firm, but orders for Spring delivery would be taken at slightly lower figures. Cod Oil in consequence of some shipments from New York has receded somewhat and can now be bought from 2c. to 3c. lower. Other Oils are without change. **NEED STORES.**—We have no change to report in these goods since our last review, the demand continuing moderate. **PAT-LS.**—Orders are coming in pretty freely, principally for the finer grades, and prices rule firm.

DRY GOODS.—Our city retail trade during the past week has been better than usual at this particular season of the year, but the continued sale of bankrupt stocks *en bloc*, is doing much harm in some parts of the city to legitimate traders. There have been a few buyers here within the last day or two, and a fair amount of business has been done. On the whole we have reason to believe that the wholesale trade has done fully as large a volume of business as was done at the same date last year or the year before. Money too comes in a little more freely, and with the prospect of good winter roads for some time to come, trade will no doubt be benefited to some extent in all directions.

FISH.—Demand moderate, prices easier. Herrings \$5.50 to 5.75; Draft Salt Codfish held at \$9 to \$9.50; No. 1 Barrel Cod, No. 1, \$6.75 No. 2, \$5.50 to \$5.75.

FLOUR.—We have no change to note during the week. There has been a fair demand from the local and country trade, but no activity. The sales made have been within the range of the last week's quotations which remain unaltered. Prices of flour as follows:—Superior Extra, \$7.00 to \$7.25; Extra Superior, \$6.75 to \$6.90; Strong Bakers, \$6.50 to \$6.75; Fancy, \$6.50 to \$6.60; S. ring Extra, \$6.25 to \$6.30; Superfine, \$6.00 to \$6.10; Fine, \$5.70 to \$5.75; Middlings, \$5.25 to \$5.50; Pollards, \$4.75 to \$5.00.

HARDWARE.—There has been a steady movement in Shelf during the week; heavy goods

are moving fairly, but large lots cannot be expected to run off till freights are lowered. Most staples being at bottom or close to it, prices have been for sometime steadier than the trade has experienced for many a day.

FURS AND SKINS.—The great March sales are now taking place in London, and the results of the first day's doings, as reported by cable, quoted Fox, Cross Fox, Otter and Fisher 30 p. c. lower than for the corresponding time last year. We will report full particulars of the sale next week. Our readers throughout the country will not be surprised at the general decline as marked by this sale, as our remarks for the last three months have been very positive in that direction that such would be the case. We quote:—Rat, Fall, 10c. to 14c.; Do. Winter, 12c. to 16c.; Coon, 25c. to 75c.; Fox, Red, \$1.00 to \$1.25; Fox, Cross, \$2.00 to \$4.00; Marten, Pale, \$1.00 to \$1.25; Mink, Western Canada, good colors, \$1.50 to \$2.00; Mink, Eastern Canada, prime large, \$1.50 to \$2.00; Mink, Eastern Canada, prime small, \$1.00 to \$1.50; Otter, Dark, prime, \$5.00 to \$7.00; Fisher, Dark, prime, \$7.00 to \$9.00; Lynx, \$1.25 to \$2.00; Beaver, Fall, clean pelt, per lb., \$1.25 to \$1.50; Do. Winter, clean pelt, per lb., \$1.50 to \$1.75; Bear, large prime, \$8.00 to \$12.

LEATHER.—Leather is looking rather better this week. Two or three of our enterprising manufacturers of Buff and Splits, made shipments to England last month and have received most satisfactory returns, and consequently do not feel inclined to sacrifice their stocks in this market. Several of our careful and shrewd manufacturers of boots and shoes have contracted for their supply of upper, deliverable 1st May. Upper must advance as soon as a demand arises. Very little leather in this market, or the West. Buff and Pebble dull, also Harness. Splits of a fine quality are in good demand. Hides having advanced in New York. Sole leather is rather firmer. The season being nearly over for grained leather, the price has declined. See quotations.

LIVE STOCK.—Although prices have been maintained to the average of last week, shipments have not increased, the total arrivals at Point St. Charles up to last Monday, having been only fifteen carloads; the result was a rather brisk demand at the St. Gabriel market, at the beginning of the week. The decrease in shipments is doubtless owing somewhat to the mildness of the weather, farmers finding fodder more plentiful and seeing better chances of wintering over any superfluous stock. The Lenten season has it is probable considerable effect in diminished consumption and a tendency to making the market more sensitive to the influence of increased arrivals. The highest price of the week, \$5.26 per 100 lbs., was given for four superior oxen from the Eastern Townships; other sales were made at intermediate figures down to \$3 per 100 lbs. A few live hogs brought \$5.25 per 100 lbs.; dressed hogs are in light demand at \$6 to \$6.50 per 100 lbs. There were but very few sheep on the market. There is no change to note in hides, which will be found quoted in our *Prices Current*. Calfskins are in easy demand at 10c. per lb.; Sheepskins scarcer at \$1 to \$1.25 each; Tallow unchanged.

LUMBER.—No change in business or prices. We repeat last week's quotations as follows:—

Ash, 1 to 4 inches, per M.....	\$16 00	to	\$20 00
Ash, timber, per M.....	20 00	to	25 00
Birch, 1 to 4 inches, per M.....	18 00	to	22 00
Basswood, 4 to 2 inches, per M. 15 00	to	20 00	
Basswood, extra wide, per M.....	20 00	to	25 00
Black Walnut, per M.....	60 00	to	100 00
Cedar, round, lineal foot.....	00 66	to	00 09
Cedar, flat, lineal foot.....	00 04	to	00 05
Cedar, square, lineal foot.....	00 09	to	00 12
Elm, 1 to 4 inches, per M.....	18 00	to	25 00
Elm, timber, per M.....	20 00	to	25 00
Elm, Rock, 1 to 4 inches, per M. 30 00	to	40 00	
Hemlock, 1 to 3 inches, per M. 08 00	to	10 00	
Hemlock, 3x3, scantling, each. 00 07	to	00 08	
Hemlock, 3x4, scantling, each. 00 00	to	00 10	
Hemlock, timber, per M.....	12 50	to	14 00

Maple, hard, per M.....	20 00	to	30 00
Oak, 1 to 4 inches, per M.....	40 00	to	50 00
Pine, good clear, per M.....	25 00	to	35 00
Pine, common, clear, per M.....	20 00	to	25 00
Pine, sound, 1 inch, planed.....	15 00	to	17 00
Pine, second flooring, planed.....	12 00	to	15 00
Pine, roofing, planed, per M.....	11 00	to	12 00
Pine, strips, 1 to 2 inch., per M. 09 00	to	11 00	
Pine, strips, planed, 1 to 2 inches, per M.....	11 00	to	13 00
Pine, common culls, per M.....	08 00	to	10 00
Pine, common 3 inch culls, per M.....	06 00	to	08 00
Pine, common 3 inch planed, per M.....	07 00	to	09 00
Pine, timber, per M.....	15 00	to	19 00
Pine, shingles, per M.....	63 00	to	63 05
Pine 1 1/2 inch, per M.....	01 10	to	01 25
Pine, 3x3 scantling, each.....	00 07 1/2	to	00 08
Pine, 3x4 scantling, each.....	00 10	to	00 11
Pine, 1x2 flooring, each.....	00 02 1/2	to	00 03
Spruce, 1 to 2 inches, per M.....	08 00	to	10 00
Spruce, planed, 1 to 2 inches, per M.....	09 50	to	11 00
Spruce, 3 inch, per M.....	07 00	to	08 00
Spruce, timber, per M.....	14 00	to	15 00
Spruce, flooring, 1x2, each.....	00 02	to	00 02 1/2
Spruce, wall strips, 2x3, each.....	00 05 1/2	to	00 06
Spruce, scantling, 3x3, each.....	00 07	to	00 08
Spruce, scantling, 3x4, each.....	00 09	to	00 10

PROVISIONS.—*Butter.*—On account of the shortness of the shipping season, butter will have to be sold here at a lower price than last week. We may quote for the finest Townships, 24c., although some sales have been made recently for the English market at 25c. Medium grades are less active. Liverpool prices remain unaltered. In *Cheese*, stocks are greatly reduced; what is in the country now is a mere baguette; sales are from 15c to 16c in a jobbing way.

But.—Demand quiet, prices unchanged. We quote factory filled salt at \$1.25 to \$1.40; Coarse, 62 1/2 c. to 65c.

SEEDS.—Clover. Samples from Ontario are still offered in this market at \$8.50 to \$9.00, per bushel of 60 lbs. Not much doing in it. Timothy, Lower Canada Seed, comes forward more freely, with some inquiry for it. Price, \$2.50 to \$2.60 per bushel of 45 lbs.

TOBACCOS.—The demand for manufactured plug continues fair. Rather unexpectedly the largest manufacturer in this line has reduced his prices for black work from one to two cents per lb. Quotations are now in hand for blacks: common to fair, 14c. to 17c.; fair to good, 17c. to 20c. There is no change to note in Mahogany and Brights; they are quoted: for common to fair, 13c. to 18c.; fair to good, 18c. to 25c.; fancy, from 25c. to 45c. Reports from Leaf districts give prices firm. *Cigars.*—The demand for Domestic is only fair with no change in quotation, which are for seeds in Queen to Concha sizes \$13.00 to 20.00; Regalins, \$20 to 35. In Seed and Havana, Queens to Conchas, \$23 to 35; Runners \$25 to 40; Regalins, \$49 to 50. In Imported Havanas, very little is doing, the new duty, making a considerable advance, will be the cause of old stocks being sold before any can be imported to advantage.

WHOLESALE GROCERY MARKET.—Trade has been quiet and somewhat affected by two failures in the wholesale trade. The lessons as to the future will, it is hoped, not be forgotten, and increased carefulness as to crediting and style of business exercised. *Sugars.*—Are quiet, with some tendency towards rather easier prices, although the English market keeps firm. Yellows are 9c to 10 1/2 c.; Granulated 11c. to 11 1/2 c. *Teas.*—There is some enquiry for the lower qualities of Japans. The imports before the new duty was levied not being so heavy as might have been expected. Greens and Blacks quiet. *Molasses and Syrups.*—Barbados Molasses 45c to 47c. Syrups usual erel. *Rice* steady at \$4.25 to 4.50. *Coffees, Chemicals, Fruits and Spices* are all inactive, with only moderate business.

WINE AND SPIRITS.—Business is very quiet in this department, being confined mainly to retail transactions.