

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, April 2nd, 1878.

The weather in the early part of the week was cold, wet, and disagreeable, since Sunday it has been fine and spring like, and snow about all gone. The ice still hangs on to the south side of the river, which keeps the ferry boats from running, they have arrived up, along with some schooners, and will begin their regular trips as soon as the ice will allow them. Business has not improved much if any since the date of our last report, but great hopes are entertained that with the opening of navigation new life will be infused into business. Almost all branches of the wholesale trade are complaining that remittances are not what they should be; nor what they might be, taking into consideration the depressed state of trade. The wholesale grocers are not going to sell sugar at longer date than sixty days, and some will only sell for cash allowing a liberal discount. The Eastern question keeps the flour market unsettled, but prices now show an advance on last Tuesday's quotations. We give this week the stocks in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 1st inst., with comparative figures for 1877.

ASHES.—Pots.—Receipts this week were not large, consequently sales have been moderate. Firsts, pretty steady all week at \$3.85 to 3.90; seconds, \$3.40; thirds continue nominal. Pearls, none coming in as quotations in the absence of sales are nominal. The ashes market at the close was quiet but firm. The stocks at present in store are Pots, 3147 brls.; Pearls, 586 brls.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The demand is improving, orders are coming in to a fair extent, prices as a rule are firm with upward tendency, stocks here are by no means heavy, our alterations in prices this week are not very important. We quote *Bi Carb Soda*, \$3.40 to 3.50 per lb. 112 keg, scarce; *Soda Ash*, 1½ to 1¾c per lb. *Cudbear*, 11 to 20c per lb.; *Arrow root*, 13 to 45c per lb.; *Borax*, 10 to 11c per lb.; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 25c per lb; do *Ground*, 28 to 29; *Caustic Soda*, \$3 to 3.12½ per 100 lbs.; *East India Senna*, 11 to 15c per lb.; *Sugar of Lead*, 12 to 14c per lb.; *Bleaching Powder*, 1½ to 1¾c per lb.; *Madder*, 8 to 9c per lb.; *Alum*, 1½ to 2c per lb.; *Copperas*, 1 to 1½c per lb.; *Sulphur*, 3½ to 3¾c per lb.; *Brimstone*, 24c per lb. *Epsom Salts*, \$2 to 2.25 per 100 lbs.; *Sal Soda*, \$1.15 to 1.20 per 100 lbs.; *Saltpetre*, held at \$8.50 to \$9.00 per 112 lb. keg; *Blue Vitriol*, 5½ to 6c per lb.

DRY GOODS.—Although business has not been so brisk as during the previous week still considering the state of the weather a fair business has been transacted. The trade seem pretty well satisfied with the amount of business done so far, but there are very general complaints that remittances are far behind what they should be, a good sorting up trade is looked for as many buyers will come to the city by the next cheap trip.

FISH.—There has been less demand for fish this season than ever before, either for home consumption or for the American market, the wholesale dealers attribute this in a great measure to the cheap rate at which beef can be had this season. Our quotations are nominal, *Dry Cod* \$4.00 to 4.50; *Green Cod* \$3.00 to 4.00; *Labrador Herrings*, \$4.50 to 4.75.

FURS.—We have no change to report in prices here, a few Rat skins are coming in but not so many as is usual at this time. London prices still continue to show a decline on last years figures. We continue to quote *Beaver*, per lb., \$1.00 to 1.30; *Otter*, \$4.00 to 5.00; *Fisher*, \$4.00 to 6.00; *Mink*, dark prime, \$1.25 to 1.50;

ditto pale, 75; *Martin*, 75c; *Large black Bear*, \$6 to 8; *Small ditto*, \$3.00; *Red Fox*, 75c to \$1; *Cross Fox*, \$1.50 to 2.50; *Silver Fox*, \$20; *Spring Muskrat*, 12½c; *Lynx*, \$1 to 1.40; *Skunk*, dark prime, 30 to 60c; *Raccoon*, 30 to 60c.

FLOUR.—The stocks in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 1st inst., were 68,363 barrels against 63,004 barrels on the 15th ulto., and 64,741 barrels on the 1st, of April 1877. Receipts during the past week 10,085 barrels; total receipts from 1st, January to date 110,081 barrels; shipments during the week 1700 barrels; total shipments 29,252 brls., The flour market this week has been rather unsettled fluctuating according as the Eastern news were pacific or warlike. A slight advance has been obtained on our closing quotations of this day week. There has been rather more inquiry for flour during the past few days, and some round lots of spring extra have found buyers. At the close the market was firm with upward tendency, but not notably higher than yesterday. *Superior extra*, \$6.00 to 6 10; *Extra*, \$5.75 to 0.00; *Fancy*, \$5.30 to 5.35; *Strong bakers flour*, \$5.20 to \$5.35; *Spring extra*, \$5.20 to 0.00; *Super*, \$4.60 to 4.70; *Fine*, \$4.15 to 4.25; *Pollards*, \$3.00 to 3.50; *Middlings*, \$4.00 to 0.00; *Oatmeal* \$4.50 to 4.60.

GRAIN.—*Wheat.*—The stock in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 1st inst., was 395,096 bushels, against 396,292 bushels on the 15th ult., and 61,574 bushels on the 1st of April, 1877. This market is still perfectly stagnant. We do not as yet hear of any enquiry for May delivery. In the absence of transactions quotations are still nominal.

GROCERIES.—The market during the past week has been quiet and business has been most of a jobbing character, little improvement is looked for till the steamers have taken their places again. *Teas.*—Japans are in fair supply, and the demand for medium grades at say from 25 to 35c is moderate; one considerable lot was placed within our range. High priced Japs are little asked for. There is also enquiry for cheap Young Hyson at 25 to 30c. Blacks are neglected. *Coffee.*—About the usual demand exists for small parcels for local consumption, prices are in buyers favor—Maracaibo, 20 to 22c; Java, 26 to 30c; Singapore and Ceylon, 23 to 26c; very little of the latter in stock; Mocha, 32 to 33c. *Sugar.*—The advance in England and the States has stiffened the market here, and rather better prices are obtainable, as stocks are nor excessive these quotations are likely to be maintained even if no further advance takes place Yellow refined was placed at 7½ to 8½c, according to brightness. American granulated, 9½ to 9¾c; Extra C, 8½ to 8¾c; Dry crushed, 10c; *Molasses*—Stocks are full and although there is not much demand the market is moderately firm. We quote Barbadoes, 42½ to 44c; Muscovado, 35 to 40c; Trinidad, 35 to 36; Sugar House, 28 to 30c. *Syrups* in fair consumptive demand at 50 to 53c for amber. *Rice.*—Stocks are low and although an advance is reported in the English market, it has made very little change here; sales are reported. *Spices.*—There is only a small local demand experienced from the retail trade for articles in this line, prices continue moderately steady as quoted: Black pepper, 9½ to 9¾c; White pepper, 18 to 19c; Nutmegs, 65 to 95c; Cassia, 15 to 18c; Cloves, 40 to 45c; Maces, 75 to 80; Jamaica Ginger, 18 to 20c; *Fruit* of all kinds are hard to place, but fortunately stocks are not large: Layer raisins, \$1.55 to 1.65; Valincias, 4½ to 5¾c; Sultanias, 6½ to 8c; Currants, 6 to 7c; Turkey figs, 10 to 12c; Almonds, 11 to 15c; Walnuts, 7 to 10c, according to quality; Filberts, 7½ to 8½; Brazil nuts, 6 to 7c. *Salt* in light demand at 60 to 65 for coarse and \$1.00 to 1.10 for factory filled.

HIDES AND PELTS.—The advance noted last week has been maintained at which there is a

moderate demand, we continue to quote No. 1, hides \$7.00, No. 2, ditto \$6 00, No. 3, ditto \$5.00; *Calfskins* 8 to 10c; *Lambskins* 10 to 15c.

LEATHER.—Business has been a little more active the past few days, but the prices realized have not been very satisfactory to dealers, stocks are ample, and prices will continue weak until a more healthy demand sets in. We quote *Hemlock Spanish sole*. No. 1, B. A., 23 to 24c; ditto, No. 2 B. A., 20½ to 21c; *Zanzibar*, ordinary No. 1, 20½ to 21c ditto, No. 2, 18 to 19c; *Buffalo sole*, No. 1, 20 to 21c; ditto, No. 2, 18 to 19c; *Hemlock slaughter*, No. 1, 24 to 26c; *Waxed Upper*, light and medium, 32 to 38c; ditto, heavy 31 to 36c; *Grained*, 34 to 36c; *Splitts*, large, 26 to 30c; ditto, small, 21 to 27c; *Calfskins*, 27 to 36 lbs., 55 to 65c; ditto, 18 to 26 lbs., 50 to 60c; *Sheepskin linings*, 20 to 28c; *Harness*, 24 to 28c; *Buffed cow*, 14 to 15½c; *Enamelled cow*, 16 to 18c; *Patent cow*, 16 to 18c; *Pebbled cow*, 12 to 15½c; *Rough Leather*, 22 to 24c.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter.*—Receipts 1319 pkgs., shipments 3490 pkgs., market inactive and prices favor buyers; really prime butter is scarce and would command full prices from the local trade. We give the range this week as 9 to 10c, according to quality being under the closing prices of this day week. *Cheese.*—Receipts during the week 121 boxes; shipments 2818 boxes; sales to the local trade at 14 to 15½c; *Pork.*—Receipts 1621 brls; shipments 431 brls., mess \$13.50 to 13.75; thin mess \$11.50 to 12.00 and small sales transpiring at our quotations; *Lard* sells at 8½ to 9¾c; *Tallow* 7½ to 7¾c.

WOOL.—The nominal price for Canadian wool in this market is 25 to 27c; only very small sales are taking place, buyers of large quantities would have the making of their own prices in the present state of the market.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, April 4th, 1878.

There has been a growing activity in trade during the past week. The dry-goods merchants and dealers in fancy goods have been unusually busy, in consequence of the large number of buyers from Provincial towns visiting the city. The result has been to impart life to other branches, which for some time past have lain in a stagnant condition; among these may be named lumber, which now seems to be gradually "looking up." In groceries and provisions trade has been uniformly quiet, and in flour and grain buyers and sellers have been too widely apart to admit of much business being done. Holders remain firm, and seem prepared to take their chances, at the opening of navigation, anticipating the war prices, wheat, especially, is being held on speculation throughout the country. From the same cause, there has been visible excitement in the cattle trade this week.

LIVE STOCK.—There has been some excitement during the week among our cattle dealers, in competing for prime stock for shipment immediately to Great Britain. This was greatly due to the prospect of a declaration of war, and prices consequently ruled firm. Reports by cable state that the large shipments which arrived in Liverpool the latter part of last week were all in first-class condition, and good paying prices were realized. A Toronto firm will ship 200 head of cattle, and 600 sheep to Liverpool and London next Monday. The arrival of cattle during the week were about 600 head; choice animals have sold at \$4.75 to 5.25 live weight, and first class have ranged from \$4.50 to 4.63, second from \$4. to 4.25, and third from \$3.50 to 3.75. Several sales were made at these