

## Montreal Markets.

**Flour**—At the low prices ruling a number of sales have been made both in spring and winter wheat brands, showing that buyers are beginning to depart from their hand to mouth mode of buying. Sales have transpired of 1,000 bags of straight roller flour at \$1.50, 300 bags at \$1.55, 500 bags at \$1.50, and 500 bbls of choice roller at \$3.15 delivered. Sales have also been made for eastern account at within the above range. On track there have been sales of car lots of straight rollers at \$3 to 3.05. A car load of choice strong bakers was made at \$3.45, and prices range all the way from \$3.40 to 3.55, medium grades selling at lower prices. There is very little demand for Newfoundland, and most of the flour for the maritime provinces is sold direct from Ontario mills. The export trade is very quiet. We quote prices nominally as follows:—Patent spring, \$3.60 to 3.75; patent winter, \$3.50 to 3.70; straight roller, \$3.00 to 3.20; extra, \$2.75 to 3.00; superfine, \$2.50 to 2.70; fine, \$2.15 to 2.30; city strong bakers, \$3.40 to 3.55; Manitoba bakers, \$3.25 to 3.55, Ontario bags extra, \$1.35 to 1.40, straight rollers, \$1.50 to 1.55; superfine, \$1.15 to 1.30; fine, \$1 to 1.10.

**Feed**—Bran continues firm, with sales of car lots reported at \$16 to 16.25. Western mills have a call for all they can turn out, and it looks as if bran would be a scarce article for some time. Shorts are firm at \$17 to \$18.

**Oatmeal**—A firm feeling continues to govern the market under a fair seasonable enquiry, car lots on track here being quoted at \$4.05 for granulated and rolled. In a jobbing way we quote as follows:—Rolled and granulated, \$4.20 to 4.30; standard, \$3.85 to 4.10. In bags, granulated and rolled are quoted at \$2.05 to 2.10, and standard at \$1.85 to 1.95.

**Oats**—There is a fair local demand, with sales of car lots at 38c per 34 lbs. in store. Local buyers prefer No. 3 oats to No. 2, and are paying within ½c and 1c per lb of the latter, sales of car lots having been made of No. 3 at 37c and 37½c, a buyer offering to pay the latter price yesterday.

**Barley**—Malting barley is quoted at 50 to 53c and feed at 42 to 43c.

**Cured Meats**—The market for pork has not followed the advance in the price of dressed hogs, last sales of Canada short cut mess pork being reported at \$18, but probably a round lot could be had at \$17.50. Inlard there have been sales of car lots of compound \$1.50 to 1.55. Smoked meats are quiet but steady, with sales of round lots of hams at 12c, smaller quantities at 12½ to 13½c. Bacon meets with fair enquiry at 11½ to 12½c.

**Dressed Hogs**—The market has ruled firm under comparatively light supplies for this season of the year, and dealers are beginning to ask themselves, "where is that large crop that was talked of?" Sales of car lots have been made at \$6.80 per 100 lbs, and for a choice car probably a little more might be got. Packers, however, are not anxious buyers as they are looking for heavier receipts when Toronto and Hamilton get through with their purchases. We quote \$6.80 to 6.85 for car lots and \$7 to 7.25 for small lots.

**Butter**—Stocks continue to show very limited proportions, and prices in consequence are firm with an upward tendency. Holders of both creamery and dairy are not anxious sellers of round lots, as they claim it will pay them better to job out to the local trade, and that the scarcity will become more marked after New Years. It is reported that a lot of 200 tubs of creamery was sold in the west for British Columbia at 24c. Creamery, early made, 22 to 22½c; creamery, late made, 23 to 23½c; eastern townships, 21 to 22c; western, 19 to 20½c. For single tubs of selected, 1c per lb may be added to the above. Roll Butter—Receipts have been liberal, and sales are reported in cases and half barrels at 19 to 21c as to quality.

**Cheese**—A lot of about 1,500 boxes of fine goods were sold at 11½c, but holders are not offering their finest goods at less than 11½c.

**Eggs**—There is a great scarcity of fresh boiling stock, sales of which have been made at 25 to 30c, while Montreal limed move rather slowly at 17 to 18c, western limed being quoted at 16 to 17c.

**Dressed Poultry**—The demand for fresh killed dry picked turkeys continues good with sales of case lots at 10½ to 11c, while scalded sells at 9 to 10c. Young, dry picked chickens wanted, with business at 8c for round lot, scalded having sold at 6 to 7c. Several large sales of geese have been made at 6½c, a lot of fancy stock bringing 7c. Ducks are quiet but steady at 9 to 10c.

**Apples**—Apples are selling well, but are very scarce and stocks low. No. 1 selling at \$1.50 to 5, and No. 2 \$3 to 3.50.

**Hides**—All receipts of light hides are absorbed at once at 4c for No. 1, resales of which are made at 4½c. Heavy steers are in very small supply, most of them having been sold at 6c for round lots and at 6½c for smaller quantities. Heavy bulls meet with slow sale at 4c. A fair business is reported in sheepskins at 75c. We quote as follows: Nos 1, 2 and 3 light hides to tanners 4½, 3½ and 2½c and to dealers 4, 3 and 2c. Heavy steers 6 to 6½c. Calfskins 7c, lambskins 70 to 75c.—*Trade Bulletin*, Dec. 29.

## Great Depression in Trade.

The last week of the year is showing greater depression in general trade than any of its predecessors, more manufactories are closing, few are resuming, and the army of unemployed workmen is increasing, with no prospect that matters will be better in the early future. Of course this is not the season of the year when any improvement in business is expected, but under ordinary circumstances there ought not to be such conclusive evidence as now exists of an earnest desire to realize on stocks on hand, while there is so little disposition to buy, although it is evident that buyers could obtain concessions in price in nearly every line if they would only indicate a willingness to purchase. Flour has reached the lowest figures ever made, and wheat in the speculative markets has sold at even lower prices than a week ago. In the iron trade, both pig and manufactured iron in some markets have sold for less than ever before and the general markets are very dull; in Pittsburgh steel billets are squarely down to \$16.50, Bessemer pig has sold down to \$15.75, and gray forge to \$10.00 per ton. In fact there appears to be a general demoralization in the trade, for there is a revolution going on in the process of making steel which threatens to reduce prices still more; at the low prices current there is a fair amount of business in steel rails and considerable in sight for iron pipe, but there is not enough margin of profit to be encouraging to producers. If the iron trade sets the pace for other business it is apparent that low prices will prevail for some time, and while there will be some business it will not be large in volume, for trade must move, but buyers are not going to anticipate their wants to any large extent, for the conditions of the country are not such as to inspire confidence in the future. In textile fabrics and nearly all collateral lines of trade, business which a few weeks ago gave signs of improvement has developed into dullness, and the indications are that any considerable revival can not reasonably be expected for some weeks. The tariff agitation makes an uncertainty which is always detrimental to trade, but it should not affect business during the spring months, for it is settled that any changes in rates of duty will not go into effect until next summer.

Railroad earnings so far as reported this month make a poor showing, and this is in keeping with the general depression in trade.—*Cincinnati Price Current*.

## Toronto Dry Goods Trade.

Local houses are now rapidly opening up new domestic and foreign cotton and woollen goods for the spring trade, and stocks are perceptibly growing larger. There is some complaint regarding the slow delivery of Canadian prints. The quality of the goods put on the market this season by the Canadian print mills is of such an excellent quality in every respect that it is predicted that imports of foreign manufacture will be materially reduced. The failure to deliver the goods promptly when they are asked for, however, may cause the factories loss of sales. Quite a number of the retailers are asking for deliveries immediately after the new year. They say it is the custom to sell a fair quantity of spring goods in January. This demand comes from those who employ their winter evenings in making up spring garments.—*Empire*, Dec. 29.

## Woolen Trade For a Year.

The year has been far from a prosperous one for woollen goods in the United States, although the first few months promised otherwise. Owing to cold weather at the first of the year the stock of heavy clothing was largely reduced, which gave clothiers encouragement to order woollens liberally for the next season. The preceding year's prices were maintained, and the mills were full of business, which made the outlook promising. The financial stringency in the early summer was sufficient to stop new business, but the mills were so well situated with old orders that the first check began when clothiers commenced to cancel orders. This forced the mills into a general shutting down. When the monetary depression ceased manufacturers found little relief, as the clothing trade continued depressed, and mill agents were heavily stocked with goods thrown back on their hands. The spring trade had been largely omitted, not over 30 per cent of the usual light weight orders having been placed. During the past two months the mills have been only partly employed on orders that accumulated during the shutdown, with the prospect of another closing down until the tariff uncertainty is settled.—*Bradstreets*.

## Shoe and Leather Trades.

The boot and shoe trade has been fairly successful during the past year in the United States, outside of the financial depression, which curtailed business. The year opened with leather costing higher in most instances, the curtailment of production on the part of tanners the previous year having allowed dealers to work up sole leather about 2c, with other kinds in proportion. Good damaged BA was quoted firm at 18c at the first part of the year, and to offset this manufacturers were disposed to ask from 2½c to 5c per advance on shoes. The leather trust was formed, and as it included about 90 per cent. of the hemlock sole leather tanners and 50 per cent. of the union leather in its body, the leather people found no trouble to maintain the price of leather until the depression in finance came on. The trust people maintained their prices to a considerable extent during the depression, their concessions being only about ½ to 1c on hemlock, but outside tanners undersold them about 1c as long as they had leather to sell. Union leather declined 3 to 4c and upper leather about 1 to 2c per pound. During the past six months the shoe business has fallen off fully 25 to 30 per cent., the shipments of the year from Boston footing up about 3,425,000 cases, against 3,700,000 cases during 1892. The lesser demand for leather has prevented any advance, and the market closes quiet at about the lowest point of the year. The future looks well, as the country is lightly stocked. The curtailment in leather production and recent liberal exports leave the market in good shape for the new year.