

quoted: extra fancy, \$1.50 to 2.00 per bunch; seconds, \$1.25 to 1.50 per bunch.

GROCERIES.—The near approach of the tariff announcement has given an impetus to trade. The movement in sugar, tobaccos, liquors and other commodities in which changes in the tariff are expected has been very large. Values remain steady. The roads have improved somewhat to the advantage of retailers, and collections are reported as improved.

HIDES AND SKINS.—On receipt of advices of weaker markets in the West, cured hide quotations have declined  $\frac{1}{2}$  c., and dealers now quote No. 1 cured cow hides at 8c. In spite of this decline, prices to butchers remain without change, although merchants say that a decline is inevitable soon, unless the cured hide market gains in strength. The quality of offerings is very inferior at present, and at present quotations, hides are but poor value to leather makers. Trade in calfskins is quiet. Tallow remains depressed. A Chicago advice of the 20th inst. says: "Only a limited volume of business was transacted and native steers were freely offered at 9c.; bids of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  c. for one, two, or three cars were refused by packers, but it was thought that this price bid for a round lot would result in business. Butt brands were quiet and unchanged at 8 to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  c. A sale of light and heavy Texas steers was reported at  $8\frac{1}{2}$  and  $8\frac{3}{4}$  c.; business was also transacted in Colorado, a sale of 2,000 light and heavy together being reported at 7c."

PAINTS AND OILS.—The general tone of trade is very satisfactory. Dealers are anticipating a good year. Prices are generally well maintained and the associations in the various lines are said to be quite harmonious. There is only a moderate amount of trade being done in glass. The movement in spring is restricted as compared to autumn requirements. Prices of linseed oil are somewhat easier. Turpentine is fluctuating in the primary markets and is easier here. The season's demand for Paris green is now beginning. Dealers quote 14c. For sulphate of copper and similar goods there is also good inquiry. There is no speculation in trade and prices do not warrant exportation across the line.

WOOL.—The local trade remains without features of interest in the absence of anything but nominal stocks. Interest is centered in developments in the American market. The Canadian manufacturers are very anxious as to the tariff announcement expected from Ottawa this week. Mill supplies in request are confined within the narrowest limits.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 21st April, 1897.

ASHES.—A few further small commands are reported from England for shipment in May by first boats, but business as a whole is of a sluggish character, with light receipts and easy prices. The following quotations may be called

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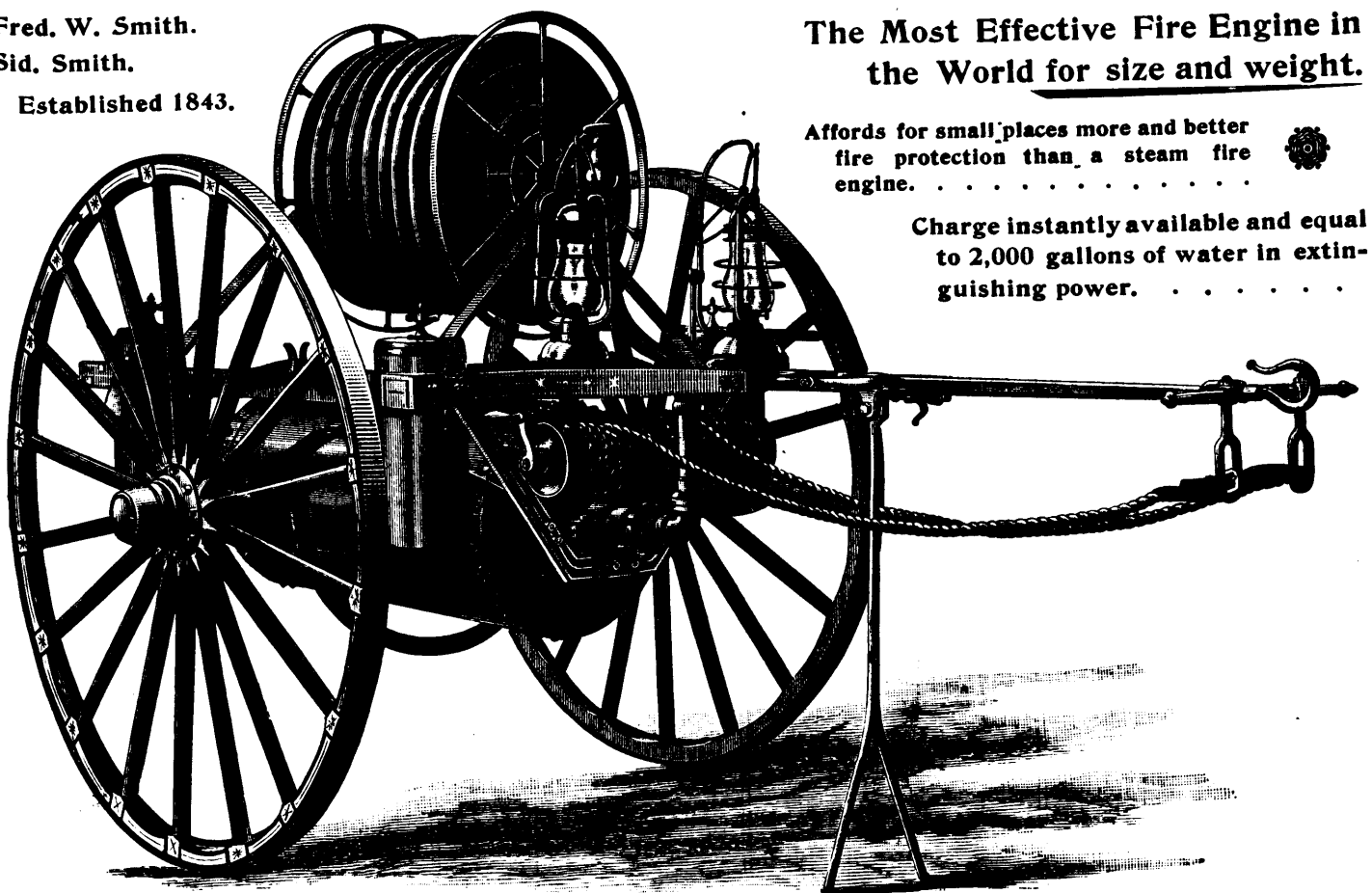
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