

Montreal Trade Notes.

Grain rates of storage in Montreal are: On grain ex craft—Elevating and weighing-in, ¼c per bushel, 10 per cent. off; transhipping from one vessel to another (each vessel), ¼c per bushel, 10 per cent. off; storage for each term of ten days, ¼c per bushel. On grain ex cars and carters—Storage for first term of 10 days, 1c per bushel.

Trade Bulletin: The local demand for flour is improving, but still buyers rather than sellers have the making of prices. Dealers do not want to have heavy stocks of old ground on hand at the opening of navigation, and so are willing to meet buyers. Sales of Manitoba strong bakers have been made on track at \$4.05 to \$4.15 per bbl., whilst straight bakers have sold at \$4.25 to \$4.30 per bbl. Straight roller flour has been sold to the local trade at from \$4.10 to \$4.20 per bbl. In the export trade we learn of the sale of 2,000 sacks of spring wheat patents for shipment to London at 6d advance upon former sales. This lot goes forward via Halifax. The oatmeal market is firm and advancing, and prices are quoted at \$5.50 to \$5.75 for granulated and \$5.25 to \$5.50 for ordinary standard. Rolled oats \$6 to \$6.50 in bbls. and \$3.15 in bags. The bran market keeps very firm at \$20 for Montreal and \$18 to \$19 for Manitoba. Shorts \$20 to \$21, and moullie \$27 to \$29 per ton. Low grades have sold at \$23 to \$24.

Dry hides are offering at 13c, with buyers at 12½c. Green hides are going at 7c, 6c and 5c for Nos. 1, 5 and 3.

In Montreal short cut mess pork orders have been filled at \$17.50 to \$18. Chicago brands of short cut clear have also been placed at about the same figures. Chicago lard in pails at 9½c to 9½c and native at 9½c to 9½c. Bacon sold at 11c to 11½c per lb. Hams 11½c to 12c.

In dressed hogs, prices steady at \$7 to \$7.15 for car lots and at \$7.25 to \$7.50 for small lots.

In dairy produce poor grades of butter suitable for bakers and confectionery purposes are scarce, and 14c for such would be paid. Finest qualities of dairy and creamery in single tubs range from 22c to 25c. Rolls bring 17 to 19c. Cheese, 10½ to 12c for fine to finest.

New laid eggs have been picked up readily at 23c to 25c. Fresh at 19c to 20c. Limed are quoted at 17c to 18c, and Western at 15c to 17c.

Apples quoted at \$2 to \$2.50 per bbl, choice \$2.75 to \$3. 300 bbls. of fancy Spies, Baldwins, Spitz and Russets was sold at \$3 per bbl. in splendid condition. In evaporated apples sales reported at 10c for good sized lots of 50 lb. boxes. Quotations range from 10 to 11c, and dried apples worth 6 to 6½c.

Buyers from the United States have been in the market looking for potatoes, some having paid 70 to 75c per bag of 90 lbs. for car lots.

Trade Bulletin It is rumored that a movement has been started by some of the prominent wholesale dry goods dealers of this city, to form a trust in order to regulate prices upon a satisfactory basis.

Seymour Fox is reported to be about selling the Queen's hotel, Illecillewaet, to W. Snider.

Lumber Cuttings.

D. J. O'Keefe, of Fort Ellice, Man., has been appointed Crown Timber Inspector for that district.

The German barque, Anna Bertha, 409 tons, has cleared from Moodyville for Shanghai, with 232,421 feet of lumber, valued at \$3,491.24.

Freeman, the principal party interested in the purchase of the Hastings saw mill at Vancouver, B. C., is a native of Norfolk County, Ontario, but recently a resident of California.

Thompson & Matthews are busy cutting a large quantity of shingles at the Lake of the Woods. They estimate the winter's cut at 4,000,000. They have cut already about 2,000,000 cedar shingles and are now starting to cut on pine.

A correspondent writing from Chilliwack, B.C., says: Situated in the heart of the great Chilliwack farming district there seems to be no reason why Centreville should not soon make its voice heard among the other rising towns of the province. A company of Ottawa lumbermen have made application for 24,000 acres of excellent timber land, situated in rear of the settlement, which, when lumbering operations begin, will prove another source of wealth to Centreville, as the most economical outlet is through the heart of the Chilliwack district."

Sayward's saw mill, Victoria, B. C., which has been closed down since the first of the year, has been undergoing important improvements. An addition of 50x42 feet has been made to the mill building, which is now a spacious structure of 170x42 feet. New and improved machinery is also being placed in position, consisting of a Welkin's compensating balance gang saw, a gang edger and automatic filing machine and a swedging machine for keeping saws in repair. The gang saws will make a saving of about 20 per cent in the cut. The capacity of the saws is 30,000 feet per day.

During January three charters were written for lumber from Burrard Inlet, B.C., two ships for Sydney, Australia, and one for Melbourne. Five ships arrived at the Moodyville saw mills, Burrard Inlet, during January, to load lumber for Tientsin, Sydney, Shanghai, Valparaiso and China respectively. One ship arrived at the Hastings saw mill, Burrard Inlet, to load lumber for Adelaide, Australia. The clearances with lumber from Burrard Inlet were: Ship Dilbhur, 1,231 tons, for Valparaiso; bark Vikar, for Melbourne, 844 tons; bark Leonon, 801 tons, for Sydney, all from Hastings saw mill. The bark Craigwhinnie cleared from the Moodyville mill, for Coronel, with 600,000 feet of lumber. The ship Valley Forge also cleared from Chemainus, B. C., during the month, with 100,000 feet of lumber and 1,000 piles. The above figures, from Koort Ward & Co's. monthly shipping report, will give an idea of the exports of lumber of British Columbia.

Westminster, B. C., *Columbian*: For several years back the Royal City Planing Mills Co. have been endeavoring to charter vessels to load lumber at the company's wharf, in this city, for foreign ports. Ship agents and own-

ers could not, however, be induced to charter their vessels to load in Westminster, owing to the supposed dangerous entrance at the mouth of the river, insurance laws and for other reasons. Since the channel improvements have been completed, and the entrance to the mouth of the river has been properly buoyed, these obstacles have almost disappeared, and navigation into the Fraser has been rendered much more safe and easy than into the Columbia river. A few weeks ago Mr. Hendry, manager of the Royal City mills, left for San Francisco with the purpose in view of chartering several vessels to carry the company's lumber to the foreign markets. Yesterday a gentleman in this city received a letter from Mr. Hendry which contained the news that he was negotiating for chartering six vessels to load lumber, two for Australia and the other four for South American ports. One vessel will arrive within 30 days, and very likely four or five will arrive and be loading at the same time. This is important and valuable news and the benefit the city will reap from the coming of these vessels, and the opening of this port to ships from all parts of the world, is much greater than is generally supposed.

The Wheat Situation.

The London, England, correspondent of the *Northwestern Miller*, writes:

There is no improvement to note in the wheat markets here—rather the reverse. Trade in fact could hardly be duller than it has been of late, and the persistent abstention of buyers has had the result of causing holders to give way somewhat in their pretensions. Not that I can discover any radical change in the general position. We have none too much wheat arriving. The quantity afloat keeps small. The American visible supply continues to decrease, and there is little or nothing shipping from India, where the prospects for the next crop are by no means brilliant. Indeed there has been rather an important reduction in the acreage sown, especially in the Punjab, which means that unless the yield per acre is much better than that of last year, which was certainly very short, there will be again but a small surplus for export this season—say 3,000,000 qrs. On the other hand, the pressure of foreign flour in this country is very great, especially in London, and this has a serious influence on wheat buyers. The principal cause of the dullness, however, is probably the continued liberal supplies of home grown wheat, which press forward in undiminished quantities, and which are underselling foreign descriptions. In a few days the government estimate of the crops will be published, and if this shows a crop of above 80,000,000 bushels, which I believe it will, all the early estimates will prove to be too low. I, myself, estimated the crop last September to be at least 76,000,000 bushels, and this now appears to be too low. Already since September our farmers have delivered nearly 7,000,000 bushels more than in the corresponding period last year or equal to nearly 25 per cent. increase. The crop of 1886, it will be remembered, was about 64,000,000 bushels.

J. L. Wilson, of Calgary, is endeavoring to form a building society, with English capital.