

than in 1883, and, allowing an average value of £3 per ton over the whole quantity consumed, the decreased business in this department done by the iron and steel trades in 1884 as compared with 1883 is estimated at £2,500,000. The Scotch pig iron market is weak, and it is expected that a rapid fall in prices will shortly ensue. During the past few days, however, not much change is apparent, since yesterday prices closed at 42s 3½d cash and 42s 5½d one month, with buyers offering 4d less. The requirements of buyers are on a much smaller scale than usual. The imports of Cleveland pig iron are increasing. Since Christmas they show an advance of 12,835 tons. Last week they totaled 8,545 tons as against 4,845 tons a year ago. The shipments of Scotch iron are, on the other hand, still declining. Only 7576 tons were exported last week, as compared with 9295 tons in the corresponding week of 1884. This total is, however, an increase on the previous week of nearly 3000 tons."

**LEATHER.**—There is no change to note in this department of trade, orders from manufacturers being of a hand-to-mouth nature, except in case of a lot being offered at a bargain, which once in a while attracts the attention of a certain large operator, who has always the means to avail himself of it. To sell, the market has a decided leaning toward the buying interest. Sole leather is quiet, and black meets with limited demand. Although stocks are not cumbersome, they are more than sufficient to meet current requirements. Prices are nominally unchanged, but an easy feeling pervades the market.

**NAVAL STORES.**—The market is generally quiet but steady. Spirits of turpentine move slowly, but prices are steady at 48c to 50c as to size of lot. Rosins meet with very little enquiry, but values are maintained at \$2.45 to \$2.60 for common up to \$4.25 and \$4.50 for fine pale. In other stores there is little or no change.

**OILS.**—There has been a very limited business in oils generally during the week. Steam refined seal is held at 65c, but it is thought a good round lot could be had at a shading from

that figure. Sales of straw seal have taken place at 57c to 57½c. Cod oil is steady but very quiet, Newfoundland being quoted at 57½c to 60c and Halifax at 54c to 55c. Linseed oil remains about as last quoted, raw at 57c to 58c and boiled at 59c to 60c.

**PETROLEUM.**—The local market for refined oil is steady under a good consumptive enquiry, car lots in store being held firmly at 17 5-8c, 10 bbls. and over 18½c, 5 to 9 barrels 19c, and 1 to 4 bbls. 20c. Refined petroleum is quoted at 15c f.o.b. Petroleum.

**PHOSPHATE.**—Advices from England report a much better demand for high grades of 80 per cent and over than for the lower qualities, and higher prices in proportion can be had for the former. A lot of 500 tons of Canadian apatite 70 per cent guaranteed has been offered at 10d full delivered terms at Liverpool. An offer has also been made of 200 tons 75 per cent guaranteed at 11½d Liverpool, but it was declined, 11d being the highest buyers are willing to pay for that grade. For 80 per cent guaranteed 1s 0½d is quoted, Liverpool terms. In South Carolina phosphate sales have been made at 9d per unit for 55 per cent guaranteed. Buyers, however do not appear over-anxious to do business. Here prices are purely nominal. The shipments from this port last season were the product of the following mines:—Ottawa Phosphate Co., 4,186 tons; Union Phosphate Co., 4,077 tons; McLaurin & Bl., 1,846 tons; Dominion Co., 955 tons; Jadsdon Rae, 420 tons; French Phosphate Co., 411 tons; W. H. Harris, 385 tons; W. A. Allan, 380 tons; R. Blackburn, 200 tons; Kendall, 100 tons; Post, 130 tons; Smith, 90 tons; Laurie, 74 tons; Fuller, 56 tons; High Rock and Perth, 5,016 tons; J. McLaurin, 130 tons; R. C. Adams Phosphate, 782 tons; Kingston Phosphate, 595 tons; K. P. & Co., Perth, 179 tons. In all 20,873 tons.

**PROVISIONS.**—Notwithstanding the recent easy feeling in Chicago, the price of mess pork has been fairly well sustained in this market, and in fact some holders have asked and obtained slightly better prices. A round lot of Canada mess pork was sold at \$16 00, but

smaller lots have sold up to \$16.25 and \$16.50. Some do not care to take less than \$16 for Chicago mess. Lard steady at 10½c for Western and 9½c to 10c for Canadian in pails. Dressed hogs \$6.10 to \$6.15 for cars. In smoked meats sales of 700 hams are reported at 12c to 12½c. Green hams and flanks have sold at 8½c to 9c, and smoked shoulders at 8c to 9c. Breakfast bacon 11½c per lb. Tallow quiet at 7½c to 8c.

**RAW FURS.**—According to a cable just received the London March sales, which were to have taken place the first week in the month, have been postponed, the Hudson Bay sale commencing on March 12th, and Lamsons' on March 17th. Until the result of the March sales are known there will be nothing done in this market. A further decline is expected in different kinds of furs. Prices here are purely nominal, as follows: Beaver, fall, per lb., \$2.75 to \$3.25; beaver, winter, per lb., \$3 to \$3.50; bear, large, per skin, \$8 to \$12; bear, cub, \$4 to \$7; fisher, \$4 to \$7; red fox, \$1.30 to \$1.40; cross fox, \$2.50 to \$5; mink, large dark, 75c to \$1; mink, small, 50c to 60c; muskrat, 8c to 10; otter, large dark, \$10 to \$12; otter, small, \$7 to \$9; marten, \$1 to \$1.25; raccoon, 40c to 60c, and skunk, 60c to 70c. Skins not prime may be valued at fully 25 per cent less than these quotations.

**SEEDS.**—It is now stated that the crop of Canadian red clover seed will fall below the average, and that all the seed in Ontario will be required for the home market. Prices here are \$5 to \$5.25. Alsike is in good supply, and prices are easy at \$6 to \$7.50 per bushel as to quality. Flax seed \$1.10 to \$1.25, and timothy \$1.85 to \$2.25. Tares \$1 to \$1.50.

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