

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

MONTREAL, April 4, 1871.

Mild weather has prevailed during the week, with light frost during the nights. The ice on the river has now broken up and there is a clear channel all the way down from the Victoria bridge; the water is unusually low and there is no chance of the lower parts of the city being flooded. A large quantity of ice is resting on the wharves, which will take some time to remove. Schooners from winter quarters are expected up during the week.

With the exception of dry goods, business has been dull and inactive. Breadstuffs have been unsteady. Provisions easier. Ashes—market for pots easier; Pearls active and advanced in price. Stocks quiet; Sterling Exchange steady at 109½ for bankers' 60 day bills.

ASHES—Pots—Market has declined somewhat towards the close; in the early part of the week the market was strong, at \$5.90 to \$5.95, but has fallen to \$5.90 and \$5.92½, with a steady business doing at these rates. Pearls—There has been an active enquiry for this ash all week, at \$7.40, at which price the market closes firm; none as yet coming into market. The stocks at present in store are—Pots, 613 brls.; Pearls 183 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES—The manufacturing houses have been very busy all week, owing to the number of western buyers now in the city, and filling orders sent in by travellers; prices are steady and unchanged from late quotations, and no change is anticipated during the present season.

COALS—The mild weather has restricted the demand, and the market is consequently very quiet; no improvement is looked for now till the opening of navigation, when a change in prices may be expected.

CATTLE—Easter meat has been coming in and more activity is now noticeable, and all in the market was taken up at \$8 to \$9 per 100 lbs. Milch cows are few and of inferior quality; small demand for good milkers; \$40 to \$45 would be paid. Few calves in market but what are of good quality, and find buyers at \$6 to \$10 each. Sheep and lambs in brisk demand at from \$6 to \$10.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Without any very marked activity, there has been an improvement in this branch of trade; orders from the country have been coming in freely, and parties who are at present in town seem more inclined to purchase. The following are the present quotations:—Salt-petre, \$12; sal soda, \$1.50 to \$1.60; epsoms, \$2 to \$2.25; bi carb, \$3.30 to \$3.50; soda ash, 2½c. to 2½c.; alum, \$2.15 to \$2.25; bleaching powder, 2½c. to 3½c.; caustic soda, 3½c. to 4c.; borax, 18c. to 19½c.

DRY GOODS.—There has been an active business done in all staple goods; a large number of buyers are still in town, and everything promises well for a successful result to this year's operations. The trade was well prepared to meet the expected demand, and confidently looked for it; no disappointment in the amount of business anticipated need be feared.

FISH.—Are dull and neglected, only a few lots of Dry Cod changing hands at \$5.50 to \$6, according to sample; salmon, \$15.50 to \$16; Labrador Herrings, \$6.25 to \$6.50; nothing doing in other kinds.

FURS.—There has been about the usual amount of business done this week. Prices of all kinds of raw furs are steady and unchanged.

FLOUR—Receipts during the past week 3,186 brls. Total receipts from 1st January to date 77,346 brls. against 75,204 brls. in corresponding period of 1870, being an increase of 2,032 brls. The stocks in store and in the hands of millers on the 1st inst. were 125,754 brls., being a decrease of 3,259 brls on the stock in store on the 15th ult., but an increase of 76,797 brls on the stock in store on 1st April, 1870. The uncertainty

which seems to prevail in the Western and British markets has had a depressing influence on this market and a decline is noted on the week. The amount of business done has been limited and without any speculative demand, the market today closes dull at the following rates, (all quotations now are duty free.) Superior extra \$7 00; extra \$6 75 to \$6 80; fancy \$6 50 to \$6 55; fresh supers from Canada wheat \$6 15 to \$6 20; Western States supers \$5 90 to \$6 00; strong bakers' flour \$6 25 to \$6 35; Welland canal flour \$6 25; Canada super No 2 \$5 80 to \$5 90; fine \$5 50 to \$5 60; middling \$5 00 to \$5 25; pollards \$3 75 to \$4 25; Upper Canada bag flour \$3 00 to \$3 20. Oatmeal is rather scarce \$5 80 to \$6.

GRAIN.—Wheat—The stocks in store and in the hands of millers, on the 1st inst. were 340,593 bushels against 249,373 bushels on the 15th ult., and 431,417 bushels on the 1st April 1870. There have been no transactions to note in this cereal during the week, so that no quotation can be given. Maize—the stock in store on the 1st inst. was 18,900 bushels; no great amount of business doing; the rate up till the 1st inst. was 85c, 90c duty paid. Since the 1st inst. no transactions have been reported. Oats—market has been quiet, and prices continue steady at 44½c to 45c, very little in the meantime coming to market. Barley—for bright samples 65c has been paid, inferior kinds bringing 62½c. Peas—the stocks in store on the 1st inst. were 1,720 bushels. Market has been firmly sustained all week, and prices have advanced; last sale reported was 6,000 bushels at \$1. Seeds—timothy is easier, and prices have declined to \$3 80c, and \$4 10c. Clover \$5 70c. with good inquiry.

GROCERIES.—Tea—Market has been weak and declining, the following kinds are now quoted: Young Hyson 35c to 40c; Twankey 30c to 35c; Hyson Twankey 35c to 40c; no change to quote in other kinds. Sugar—Has only been in light demand, but there is evidently a stronger feeling in the market owing to the prospect of a short supply, only small lots have changed hands, the rate at present is 8½ to 9½. There is a decline in all grades of refined sugar, the refinery prices here are Dry Crushed 12½c; Ground 12½c; Extra Ground 13½c; Crushed A 12c; Yellow refined 9½ to 10½c; Inferior ditto in brls 9c to 9½c; Standard Syrup 44c; Golden Syrup 50c; Amber ditto 80c. Molasses—Some small sales are reported to meet local wants. Our quotations are Centrifugal 20½c; Clayed 22c to 23c; Trinidad 31c to 33½c; Barbadoes 37c to 38c; Porto Rico 38c to 40c. Coffee—Very little doing at the following rates, Laguayra 16½ to 19c; Maracaibo 17c to 19c; Jamaica 16c to 18c; Java 16c to 25c; Rio 14½ to 16c.

HARDWARE.—The business done this week has been eminently satisfactory as regards the extent, and manufacturers and wholesale houses say that they cannot refer to a previous month of March showing such a large return. Bar iron is very low in stock and some sizes are not now to be had, the quotations for bars are Staffordshire, \$50 to \$52; refined, \$55 to \$60; Scotch, \$50 to \$54; Swedish, \$85 to \$100; hoop and band iron are also scarce, hoops for cooper's, \$2.80 to \$3.10; cut nails are in active demand at \$3 to \$3.25; but there is little prospect of the supply being anything near equal to the demand for some time to come. Tin plates are scarce and are held in few hands at last week's rates. Window glass in large demand with heavy sales at \$1.70 to \$1.90 being a decline on late rates. In other articles there is no change in price to note. The reduction in the G. T. R'y. rates on the 1st and 15th inst. will naturally cause an increase in the business.

LEATHER.—There is still great want of life in this market, and only inconsiderable lots changing hands for immediate wants. Stocks are generally well assorted, and prices although unchanged, are weak with a downward tendency.

LIQUORS.—There has been a fair business done in all kinds of liquors; prices are firm but unchanged, we quote Brandy—Hennessy's \$2.25 to \$2.50;

Martells \$2.20 to \$2.40; Jules Robins \$2.10 to \$2.30; Pinit's \$1.95 to \$2.25. Gin—De Kuypers \$3.55 to \$3.60 for green and \$6.75 to \$6.87½ for red cases; Houtman's green cases \$3.45 to \$4.50. Red ditto \$6.50. Rum—Jamaica at \$1.75 to \$2.10; Demerara \$1.75 to \$1.80; Cuba \$1.60 to \$1.67½. High Wines—Upper Canada, Montreal make. 50c. to 53½c. according to the size of lots. Rye Whiskey is stated at 83c. to 85c.

NAVAL STORES.—A good business doing; spirits of turpentine 60c to 67½c. strained rosin \$3 25 to \$3 30. No. 2 ditto \$3 50 to \$3 75; No. 1 ditto \$4 to \$4.50; pale and extra pale ditto \$5.25 to \$7.50; tar \$3.50.

OILS.—There has been considerable difficulty in moving oils except at a slight reduction of price. Cod was sold to some extent at 55c. Seal oil is entirely neglected. Olive is steady at \$1.10 to \$1.25. Palm 9c to 10c per lb.

PETROLEUM.—Market continues dull at 26c to 28c for good to choice samples, and 22½c to 24c for grade to ordinary.

PROVISIONS.—Butter—Receipts 292 kegs, no shipments, market dull and great difficulty is experienced in making sales, the stock in hand is much above the requirements of trade, we quote common to medium 14c. to 16c.; fair to good 16½c to 18c.; good to choice 18½c. to 19½c. Cheese—There has been no enquiry for this article, and prices are nominal at 12c. to 13½c. according to quality. Pork—nothing doing and prices are depressed, Mess Pork \$21.50 to \$22.00; Thin Mess \$20.00; Extra Prime Pork \$16. to \$16.50; Lard dull 11½c. to 12½c.; Tallow 9c. to 9½c.

RICE.—In demand and advanced in price. Aracan is 25c. higher, and is now quoted \$1.50c. and \$4.75. Rangoon, \$4.50.

SALT.—The stocks now in hand, are held for 66c. for coarse, and 75c. for fine.

WOOL.—Business has been moderate and prices steady. Fleece wool, 29c. to 32c.; pulled wool super, 28c. to 30c.; ditto No. 1, 23c. to 25c.; ditto black, 23c. to 25c.

TORONTO MARKET.

The wholesale trade of this city has generally shewn a decided improvement during the last week, a large number of buyers of dry goods and general goods having been in town. The trade sale of earthenware and glassware for account of Messrs. Thompson & Burns, on Tuesday and Wednesday, however attracted a very small audience, and the bidding was slow and results altogether unsatisfactory. Messrs. Cramp, Torrance & Company, announce a sale of teas, sugars, and general groceries for the 6th, but at time of going to press this is only in progress. The weather during the week has been for the most part fine, but heavy rains have also fallen and the roads everywhere are still in a wretched state, and nothing but the absolute necessity for goods induces traders at a distance from railway stations to order for present delivery.

The imports at this port for March were again heavy especially of cottons and woollens; while in teas and sugars there has been a decided falling off as compared with March 1870. The following is a comparative statement of the imports for the month and three months ended March 31, 1870 and 1871:—

	March, 1870.	March, 1871.
Dutiable Goods,	\$968,764	\$1,271,389
Free "	54,526	7,726
Total for March,	\$1,023,290	\$1,279,115
	3 months. 1870.	3 months. 1871.
Dutiable Goods	\$1,621,213	\$2,301,822
Free "	155,515	117,597
Total for 3 months	\$1,776,728	\$2,419,419
Increase, 1871		\$642,691
or 35 per cent over the imports of the first quarter		