

advices indicate a partial recovery. The report that the mills had withdrawn the particular line of flannelettes in which prices have been cut recently, is denied. Large deliveries of this particular grade are being made to Ontario houses this week.

**FURS.**—The first big sealskin sale of the season occurred on Wednesday, December 9th inst. Although the offerings were far below the usual number, being only 60,000 pelts, there was a great decline, averaging 20 per cent. in prices. The reason given for this is that trade in America has not yet recovered from the turmoil of the election, and there was scarcely a buyer or a commission from that country on Wednesday for the really high-grade skins, which they generally get at any cost.

**GRAIN.**—The news about wheat from outside markets has been very uncertain during the week. The advices from Liverpool continue to indicate serious damage to the Argentine crop. The Indian situation appears to be no better, and the conclusion appears to be general that France will be a liberal buyer of foreign wheat later in the season. As compared with our quotations last week Ontario wheat has declined 1c. per bush. Manitoba wheat is easier at a similar decline in value. The deliveries at Ontario points are not very liberal, as the roads are in poor condition. Barley is dull and trade nominal: there is little export demand, while local trade is small. Oats are steady at 19 to 20c. Sales of peas on export account have been made at 41 to 42c. this week. Buckwheat remains dull, and prices 1c. per bush. lower. In corn there is no activity, values declining 1c. per bush. Rye remains steady, dealers quoting 35 to 36c. per bush.

The stocks of grain in store at Port Arthur on December 5th were 1,484,714 bush. During the week there were received 251,391 bush. and shipped 4,619 bush., leaving in store on December 12th, 1,731,486 bush.

**GROCERIES.**—There continues to be a free movement in holiday supplies of dried fruits. Valencia raisins in the best grades are in short supply. We quote: selected, 6½ to 7c.; layers, 7½ to 7¾c.; f.o.s., 6c., and o.s., 5c. per lb. The demand for sugars has fallen off, and trade shows no activity. There are no yellows offering under \$3.30, while granulated is quoted 4 to 4½c. per lb. The plantations of the Southern States will have finished grinding in a couple of weeks' time. Molasses is quoted at primary centres 2c. lower than the same date last year. Teas are quiet, with values unchanged. Canned goods are inactive. The cheapest salmon in the market is quoted \$1.15. The trade quote lobsters at \$2.35.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—The situation remains unchanged. Values have remained steady at the recent decline. Merchants are paying 6½c. for No. 1 green cow hides. The quality of offerings continues to show increased deterioration. Tanners are slow buyers, and cured hides are not moving freely. Local hide merchants say they are well sold up, and will have little stock to offer until the new year. In the United States hides are quiet. Independent tanners are out of the market and the United States Leather Co. is willing to buy only at a discount of ¾c. per lb. from quotations. Advices from Chicago, received on Wednesday, indicated an easier market, and quoted: Coloradoes, 6½c.; native steers, 8½ to 9c.; Texas, 8c.; butt brands, 7 to 8c., and branded cows, 7c.

**WOOL.**—In the local market there is little or no movement of importance. Supplies have been exported, and little activity in fleece can be looked for until the new clip is marketed. For the few lots offering 21 to 22c. is paid. In pulled wools trade is quiet and nominal. The December series of London wool sales closed on the 10th inst. There were 193,200 bales catalogued for this series. Of this number 61,200 bales were taken by home buyers, 90,000 for the continent, 22,000 for the United States, and 20,000 were held over, including 9,500 which were not offered. Shortly after the opening the advance and competition in wools suitable for the United States became very animated. These wools soon advanced five per cent. further, which checked the buying of home and continental operators, owing to the quieting of business in the industrial centres. Americans competed keenly until the close, when prices gradually eased, and are now on a par with the opening values. Superior wools are ¾d. and inferior from ¾d. to 1d. above the October closing. The next series will begin January 19th. The list closes January 16th.

## MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 16th Dec., 1896.

**ASHES.**—Transactions are few, and since close of navigation shipments of only about 20 barrels are reported. Receipts are also small, being for the month so far, some 47 pots and 10 pearls. First pots are easy at \$3.40, seconds \$3.05, at which figure business is reported; pearls nominal at \$4.45 to 4.50.

**CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.**—The demand is now quite limited, as general contracting work is about over for the season. Prices are steady at \$2.10 to 2.15 for English, and \$1.90 to \$2 for Belgian; firebricks \$17 to 20 per thousand.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—Manufacturers report spring orders as coming in briskly. One large house calculates them in his own case at 30 per cent. ahead of last year, and others say they have sufficient business to keep their factories fairly going well on into spring.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—There is practically no export demand for cheese, and very little looked for till after the New Year. In fine Western there has been so little done of late that quotations are more or less of a nominal character; what little trading there is, is mostly in late made French at 9½ to 9¾c. The demand for butter is also altogether of a moderate local character, at about 18c. per lb. for finest creamery. New laid eggs are quoted at 21 to 22c., and are scarce at that; limed 14 to 15c. per dozen.

**FURS.**—Advices from Europe are not any more encouraging, and in the United States the raw fur market is much depressed. The *Fur Trade Review*, of New York, in a recent article, pretty much repeats the advice given in these columns several weeks ago, and says: "Buyers of raw furs in writing to their shippers should discourage trapping as far as possible. A small catch would be better for all concerned than a large one this season. Letting the animals care for themselves another year will be cheaper than carrying their skins in cold storage. The following quotations we give, it should be understood, are for prime skins: Beaver, fall, \$2 to \$3 per lb.; spring, do., \$3.25 to \$4; black bear, choice only, \$15 to 20; cubs and yearlings, \$1 to 5; fisher, \$5 to 7.50 as to color; red fox, \$1.20 to 1.50; cross do., \$4 to 10, depending on size and beauty; silver do., \$20 to 50; lynx, \$1.50 to \$2; marten, \$1.50 to 2.25; mink, \$1 to 1.50; muskrat, winter, 10 to 13c.; fall, 6 to 9c.; coon, 60c. to \$1; black do., \$1.75 to 2.25; skunk, black, 75 to 90c.; short stripe, 50 to 60c.; long stripe, 20 to 30c.; white, 05 to 15c.

**GROCERIES.**—Business has quieted down somewhat; in the finer qualities of holiday goods there is a fair sorting distribution, but in general staples the demand is not active. In most lines of dried fruits there is continued scarcity and firmness. Some moderate deliveries of California raisins are being made this week, including some of the seeded raisins spoken of in a late number, but all demands cannot be supplied. Some lines of California prunes are a little easier, but the best brands, such as Santa Claras, are firm as ever. One or two small lots of new shelled Grenoble walnuts are to hand, and main supplies are on the "Vancouver," due in Portland to-day, and the "Barrowmore," about due in Boston; the general jobbing quotation is 18c. Grenoble walnuts, in bales, are in good supply at 12 to 13c., and Marbotts, in bags, at about 11c.; new Barcelona filberts are now in stock, and quoted at 7c.; but Sicily filberts have not yet arrived. Dates, which were somewhat scarce, are now to be readily had at 6½ to 7c. The demand for sugars is slow, but factory quotations remain unchanged at 3½ to 3¾c. per lb. for yellows, and 3¾ to 4c. for granulated. Teas are not moving very briskly, but prices are very firm indeed, and country buyers who have been delaying buying in hopes of an easier market, may as well gracefully accept the situation, as it is conceded on all hands that the better prices have come to stay. All lines of canned goods are showing a stiffer front. Some packers have advanced quotations for peaches from \$1.40 to 1.60; tomatoes and peas are quite scarce, and jobbing quotations are firm at 75c. for former, and 75 to 80c. for the latter; there is also an expectation that corn will advance. Of new salmon there is as yet a comparatively small supply, and we hear of jobbing sales of cohoes at \$4.75 the case, which is a big price; standard brands of red quote at \$5.50 to 5.60; lobsters are almost too dear to sell, \$9.50 to

\$10 being asked for talls, and \$10.50 to 10.75 for flats.

**HIDES.**—The market for beef hides is fairly steady at the decline of last week, but the demand is slack, and most of the present receipts are going into store. Dealers' quotations to butchers are 7, 6 and 5c. per lb. for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 green hides, and from tanners they ask from half a cent to a cent more. Lambskins continue at 75c. each, and calfskins 6c. and 4c. per lb. for Nos. 1 and 2 respectively.

**LEATHER.**—Business continues quiet, and further decline in the U.S. hide market naturally tends to check business; but there is no sign of a disposition to concede on present quotations. The local shoe men have agreed on the programme they are to submit to the Tariff Commission at its sitting to be held in this city this week. They will suggest that oak sole be admitted free, that ordinary sole be reduced from 15 per cent. to 10 per cent., that all other leathers at present bearing from 17½ to 22½ per cent. duty, be reduced to a uniform 15 per cent.; they will also ask for a substantial reduction on linings, etc. Needless to say this will hardly meet the views of tanners. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 22 to 23c.; do. No. 2, 21c. to 22c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 25c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; common, 17 to 18c.; waxed upper light and medium, 26 to 29c.; do. heavy, 24 to 27c.; grained, 25 to 30c.; Scotch grained, 25 to 30c.; western splits, 20 to 25c.; Quebec do., 15 to 17c.; juniors, 13 to 15c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 22c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 14c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 11 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 11 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

**METALS AND HARDWARE.**—Apart from the revision in the price of cut nails, decided upon at the late meeting of manufacturers, reducing the quotation from \$2.75 to \$2.30 per keg, we hear of little new. The movement is a very limited one, and stock taking and balancing absorb the general attention at the moment. We quote:—Summerlee pig iron, \$20.00 to 20.50, ex-store; Carron, \$19.50; Ayrshire, \$18.50; Shotts, \$18.25 to 18.50; Cranbroe, \$18.50 to 19.00, ex-store; Siemens pig No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Ferrona, No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Hamilton No. 1, \$18.50; No. 2, ditto, \$18.00; machinery scrap, \$15.00; common do., \$12.00 to 13.00; bar iron, Canadian, \$1.40 to 1.45; British, \$2.00 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.40; Low Moor, \$5.00; Canada plates—Pontypool, or equal, \$2.40, 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets \$2.50; 75 sheets \$2.60; all polished Canadas, \$2.60; Terne roofing plate, 20x28, \$5.75 to 6.00; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.25 to 2.30; No. 26, \$2.15 to 2.20; No. 24, \$2.05 to 2.10; Nos. 17 to 20, \$2; No. 16 and heavier, \$2.30; tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$5.60 to 5.70; charcoal, I.C., Alloway, \$3.15 to 3.25; do. I.X., \$3.80 to 3.90; P.D. Crown, I.C., \$3.60 to 3.75; do. I.X., \$4.50; Coke I.C., \$2.80 to \$3.00; coke, wasters, \$2.70; galvanized sheets, No. 28, ordinary brands, \$4.25; No. 26, \$4.00; No. 24, \$3.75 in case lots; Morewood, \$5.00 to 5.10; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 5½c.; No. 26, 6c.; the usual extra for large sizes. Canadian bands, per 100 lbs., \$1.75; English ditto, \$2, hoops, \$2.15. Steel boiler plate, ½ inch and upwards, \$1.85 to 1.90 for Dalzell, and equal; ditto three-sixteenths inch, \$2.50; tank iron, ½ inch, \$1.60; three-sixteenths do., \$2.00; tank steel, \$1.75; heads, seven-sixteenths and upwards, \$2.45 to 2.50; Russian sheet iron 9c.; lead, per 100 lbs., pig, \$3.10 to 3.15; sheet, \$4 to 4.25; shot, \$6 to 6.50; best cast-steel, 8 to 10c.; toe calk, \$2.25; spring, \$2.50; sleigh shoe, \$1.85; tire, \$1.90; round machinery steel \$2.25; ingot tin, 15c. for L. & F.; Straits, 14½c.; bar tin, 16½ to 17c.; ingot copper, 11 to 12c.; sheet zinc, \$5.00 to \$5.25; Silesian spelter, \$4.50; Veille Montagne spelter, \$4.75; American spelter, \$4.50; anti-mony, 8½ to 9c.; bright iron wires Nos. 0 to 8, \$2.60 per 100 lbs.; annealed and oiled do., w2.65; galvanized, \$3.15; the trade discount on wire is 20 per cent. Barb and twisted wire and staples, \$3 per hundred for Quebec province, right paid on half-ton lots; for Ontario points, \$2.85, freight paid up to 25c. per hundred.

**OILS, PAINTS AND GLASS.**—Very little is being done in these lines now, and a compara-