Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Sept, 30, 1903.

Ashes.—Owing to the extreme lightness of supply prices of first pots are again firmer, and as high as $5.95 has been paid for desirable lots. Neither in second pots or pearl ashes have any recent transactions been reported.

Cements and Firebricks.—A good sorting business is reported in cements; bricks are dull. Receipts last week were 5,000 bbls. and 18,300 bags of Belgian cement, and 35,000 firebricks. For week ending to-day receipts are 640 bbls. and 22,192 bags of Belgian and German cement, 656 bbls. of English cement, and 82,956 firebricks. Prices are steady.

Dairy Products.—Butter shipments to Britain last week were quite liberal as compared with figures of former weeks, aggregating 30,216 pckgs., but the total for the season thus far is still 114,000 pckgs. short of the figures a year ago at this date. Cheese shipments keep up well, 79,504 boxes having been exported last week, and the total for the season is 1,818,231 boxes, being 321,000 boxes ahead of the figures just a year ago. The steady late advance in cheese appears to have reached its limit, and the market is showing a little easiness, though choice Westerns are still quoted at 12 to 12¼c. on spot; Townships, 11⅞ to 12⅛c.; Quebecs, 11½ to 11¾c. Butter quotations showed some stiffening after last writing, and, though enquiry from abroad has apparently been checked by the higher prices, still the market may be called a pretty firm one at 21¼ to 21¾c. for fancy Townships, with good to fine ranging from 20½ to 21⅜c.

Dry Goods.—Wholesale business continues of a satisfactory character, and city retailers report a good trade except on the occasionally warm days. Failures are remarkably few, and thus far few applications for renewal favors on paper maturing the 4th prox. are noted. Under date Sept. 28th the Dominion Cotton Co. advises an advance ranging from 5 to 12½ per cent. on all the products of their Hochelaga mill, including grey and bleached sheetings, pillow cotton, quilts, towels, yarns and warps.

Groceries.—A good seasonable movement is reported in this line. Recent cables advise a strong upward tendency in Valencia raisins, the quantity of full standard fruit being short of the estimates first made. Malaga fruit is also much firmer, owing to increased demand arising from the fact that California Muscatels are very high in price this year. Currants, which were a little off, have recovered to the highest point of the season. Sultanas remain cheap. It is yet too early to quote figs, but comparatively few Comadres will be brought in this year, owing to surplus stocks being carried over. For sugars there is continued good demand; prices remain as quoted last week, and outside