

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, Jan. 3, 1878.

There is less business being done than during this period of former years, owing to the state of the winter roads, which are still quite bare of snow. The boot and shoe trade are not doing much; this of course has an effect on the leather trade, which is very quiet. Groceries are in most request. There is nothing of any account in breadstuffs. We give to-day the stocks of flour and wheat in store yesterday morning.

ASHES.—*Pots.*—There has been little if any demand during the week for ashes; very small sales of firsts have ranged from \$3 7½ to 3.80; seconds \$3.10, and thirds \$2.75. Market closing dull and without animation. *Pearls* are scarce and holders are firm; few sales are reported of firsts at \$4.70; inferiors are neglected and nominal.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—As usual during the holiday week, there has been nothing doing, and prices remain nominally unchanged.

CATTLE.—There was a poor attendance on St. Gabriel market on Monday, and not one head of cattle was reported to be sold. Only one car-load of cattle arrived at Point St. Charles during the week. *Hogs* were plentiful and sales reported from \$4.60 to 4.75 per 100 lbs. live weight. *Dressed hogs* are not in large supply and prices are steady at \$5.50 to 5.70 per 100 lbs.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—What with the holidays and want of winter roads, business has been very quiet during the week, and for a few weeks little improvement is expected. Quotations in the meantime do not present any material change since the date of our last report.

DRY GOODS.—This has been a very dull week in this branch of business. Travellers have not yet started with their spring samples, but will likely do so next week, when they will in all probability be a better show of business than we have had to report for some weeks past. The reported troubles of the well known firm of G. Winks and Co. has had a very depressing effect on this market; liabilities appear to be principally in England, and may not have such a wide-spread effect here as was at one time feared. Great hopes are entertained that such arrangements will be made as will enable the firm to resume business.

FISH.—The market is quiet and without any particular change; prices may now be considered nominal till the usual Lenten demand sets in a little later on. *Dry cod* \$4.50; *Green cod*, \$4.50 to 4.75 per brl.; *Labrador herrings*, \$5.25; *Salmon*, \$12, \$11, \$10, for Nos. 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

FLOUR.—The stocks in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 1st inst. were 44,001 brls., against 43,175 brls. on the 15th ult., and 53,004 brls. on the 1st of January, 1877. Receipts during the week, 7,662 bbls.; shipments, 3023 brls.; market continues quiet, the Corn Exchange adjourned, on Saturday last, till to-morrow, and any sales reported in the early part of the week were within our range of quotations. *Superior extra*, \$6.00 to 6.10; *Extra*, \$5.80 to 5.85; *Fancy*, \$5.35 to 5.40; *Strong bakers' flour*, \$5.35 to 5.55; *Spring extra*, \$5.10 to 5.15; *Super*, \$4.90 to 5.00; *Fine*, \$4.40 to 4.50; *Pollards* \$2.75 to 3.00; *Middlings*, \$3.40 to 3.55; *Oatmeal* \$4.70 to 4.75.

GRAIN.—*Wheat.*—The stocks in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 1st inst., were 396,311 bushels against 437,093 bushels on the 14th ult., and 93,874 bushels on the 1st January, 1877. The grain market is quite at a standstill, and quotations are still nominal.

GROCERIES.—*Teas.*—Owing to light supplies the holders of medium Japans are firm in their views, but the demand is very limited. There were some sales of imperials early in the week at 35c. In blacks there is nothing of any consequence being done. *Coffees* are steady at last weeks prices, but we do not hear of any sale being made. We therefore repeat our quotations of this day week: Java, 28 to 31c; East India coffees, 23 to 26c; Maracaibo, 22½ to 24c; Rio, 21½c. *Sugar.*—The firmness noted in sugar has not been maintained and this week we quote the market as being a shade easier. Yellows have been placed at 7½ to 8c; Granulated sold at 9½ to 9¾c, chiefly at our inside quotations, stocks of American sugars are pretty well worked down. *Rice* is in small demand, holders ask from \$4.47½ to 4.50. *Molasses.*—There is very little doing, holders ask 44½ to 46 for Barbadoes and Porto Rico; Trinidad 40 to 42c. *Spices.*—There has been a very limited demand for spice, except black pepper which has met with rather more enquiry at our quotations. Black pepper 9½ to 9¾; white pepper 18 to 19c; pimento, 11½ to 12½c; cloves, 42 to 50c; cassia, 14 to 15c; Jamaica ginger, 18 to 22½c; mace, 75 to 80c; nutmegs, 65 to 85c. *Fruit.*—There has only been a light jobbing demand for fruit at prices which favor buyers, we quote Layer Raisins \$1.55 to 1.60; London layers \$2.40 to 2.50; Valentias 5 to 5½c; Sultanias 7½ to 8c; Currants 6 to 6½c; Walnuts 10½ to 11½c; Almonds 11½ to 15c; Filberts 7½ to 9c; new figs 10 to 10½c; Brazil nuts 6 to 6½c; *Salt.*—Coarse sold at 75 to 80c ex-store, factory filled 95 to 1.1c.

HARDWARE.—During the past week there has been nothing doing in this line. Merchants have about finished stock taking, and balancing books, so that as the month moves on a light activity may be looked for, but on a very limited scale. Prices remain unchanged but in some leading lines, concessions would be made to meet buyers.

HIDES AND PELTS.—There has been nothing doing this week and prices are nominally unchanged at \$8.00 7.00 and 6.00 for Nos. 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

LEATHER.—Business is quiet as usual at the holiday season. The boot and shoe trade will not resume active operations before next week, when steady demand is expected for all staple goods. In the meantime prices are steady and unchanged.

OILS.—There have been no sales reported this week, and prices are nominally unchanged, although the market is firm in consequence of the stock being light. We quote: *Cod oil*, Newfoundland, 55c; Halifax, 51 to 52½c. *Seal*, pale, 52½ to 53c; ditto, straw, 50; ditto, steam refined, 60 to 62½c. *Linseed*, raws, 66 to 67½c; ditto, boiled, 69 to 71c; *Olive oil* firm at \$1.05 to 1.10. Petroleum has not been much enquired for, and prices remain steady at 16½ to 18½c, according to size of lot.

RAW FURS.—Quotations are unchanged, but there are no skins coming in, and until we have good winter roads; no special activity is looked for.

PROVISIONS.—*Lutter.*—Receipts 3,522 pkgs., shipments 5218. There has been an improved demand for butter this week, but only for fine grades at 19 to 20c; inferior grades are at present neglected. *Cheese.*—There have been no receipts or shipments of cheese this week, market is firm and some sales have transpired at 12 to 13c; *Pork.*—Shipments 61 barrels; there has been nothing doing during the past week and prices are nominally unchanged, say for mess \$15.00 to 16.00; thin mess \$14 to 15.00; *Lard* is steady at 10½ to 11c; *Tallow* is nominal and unchanged.

TORONTO MARKETS

Toronto, Jan. 3rd, 1878.

The wholesale business of the city for the past week has not been active. The present

colder weather will, it is hoped, improve the country roads. We have elsewhere summarized editorially the transactions of the year in certain lines.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—This trade is momentarily quiet; stock is being taken by most manufacturers. Orders from the country are meagre, bad roads preventing any activity in retail trade there. City retail trade is also quiet.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—The market for flour is firm, and a good demand exists for all grades except superfine. The orders which are usually reserved until New Year's day are now coming in. The stocks in store on 31st ult., were 20,000 barrels against 17,782 barrels last week and 7,741 barrels on 1st January 1877. We hear of 500 barrels sold yesterday of super extra at \$5.85; sales of extra this week at \$5.40 to 5.45, choice brands, and sales of spring extra and fancy at quotations, superfine remains nominally unchanged. *Oatmeal.*—The stock held here is not excessive, and the price is maintained within our range.

GROCERIES.—The business of the week was a limited one, the principal houses being closed up two days of it. A fair city retail trade is passing, but no activity is expected at the beginning of the year. *Fish* are steady in price and but little doing now until Lent. *Fruits* are unchanged, and quieter; stocks of raisins are not large although a short crop of Denia fruit was reported, they opened low and went lower still during the fall. Currants.—There are some in market of the 1876 crop, to be had at 5½c. We quote Amber syrup 65 to 70c. The stocks of sugar in this market are very light, one or two round lots are held here on Montreal account. Cuba and Porto Rico are steady at our figures. English and Scotch refined, 7½ to 8½c; dry crushed 10½ to 10¾, ground 9½ to 9¾c. There is no feature in teas here; a better feeling exists in the New York market.

GRAIN.—*Wheat.*—Fall, stocks in store 31st ult., 53,241 bushels against 51,370 bush., last week and 40,718 bushels on 1st, January 1877. No. 1 continues to be quoted nominally at \$1.27 to 1.28, but it is a rarity. No. 2 is meanwhile firm at \$1.25 to 1.26, and is looking higher. *Spring.*—Stocks in store 167,583 bush., against 164,175 bush., last week and 140,911 bush., at like date last year. \$1.12 to 1.13 would be paid for No. 1. spring, but it is at present held out of market. There have been sales of No. 2 at \$1.08. *Barley.*—The market has been dull, and has suffered a slight decline, no orders are announced and we hear of no transactions, we quote No. 2 one cent lower, say 57 58c; No. 3 nominal. The stocks in store amount to 198,395 bushels against 179,770 bushels last week. This is an immense reduction from the stocks of twelve months ago, for there were in store 426,577 bushels on corresponding date last winter, which however was an unusually large stock. *Oats.*—Stocks in store 8,050 bushels against 11,223 bushels last week and 16,858 bushels last year. Prices are unchanged, and not much movement going on. *Peas.*—Stocks in store 10,558 bushels against 9,883 bushels last week and 32,342 bushels on 1st January last. Some car loads have been sold at 64 and some at 66c.

HARDWARE.—The past week's trade has been small, as is to be expected considering the condition of the country roads. Shelf goods are quiet. *Skates* are active in consequence of the "first frost." *Cut nails* are steady, but a change is looked for in an upward direction, American prices are stiffening. There is some Eglington pig iron offering at \$20.00 to 21.00, but no stock of Summerlee, American is in small supply.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The supply of hides has been in excess of the demand for a week or ten days, and they have begun to accumulate, which has had the effect of reducing the price paid for green to 8c and 7 for Nos. 1 and 2, the