

—Mr. Jared Huxley has written an elaborate article on the wool industries of the United States, from an Ohio standpoint, in which he says: "The lowering of the rate of duties on wool has caused such an increase in the importation of foreign wool that the amount of revenue from wool has also largely increased. The average importations per year of wool for three or four years prior to June 30th, 1883, were about \$1,893,000 pounds, producing revenues to the Government of nearly \$3,400,000, while the importations of foreign wools for the year ending June 30th, 1884, were about 87,704,000 pounds, producing revenues to the Government of \$4,523,000. This is an increase of 43 per cent. in amount imported, and of 33 per cent. in revenues produced."

## Commercial.

### MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31st, 1884.

Business on the Stock Exchange has been of a decidedly holiday character, trading has been light all week, and the market a rather weak one. Montreal has sold at 187; Commerce at 116½ to 117½ last quoted sales; Merchants 108; Peoples 44; Gas 180. Loan and discount rates as before, with ample supplies of funds. Wholesale trade continues very quiet, and there is nothing of particular interest to be noted, except that remittances are better in some cases.

**ASHES.**—Are again weaker and seem altogether demoralized. No sales are making at home, and buyers are few here. First pots are down to \$3.40 to \$3.45, seconds have been bought at \$2.75. In pearls there is literally nothing doing, and it is hard to venture even a nominal quotation, but the figure would certainly not go beyond \$4.75.

**DRY GOODS.**—We cannot add much to last week's remarks under this head. Trade generally is quiet, though some houses report a fair number of letter orders, which, however, are of small volume as a rule. Some travelling salesmen will be starting out this week on spring trips. Remittances are rather better as a whole, though reports vary somewhat, some saying they find payments better than last December, while others report them rather behind last year.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—Stock-taking occupies the attention of most houses at the moment, and there is very little doing. Prices reveal no change, and we repeat quotations as follows:—*Sal Soda* \$1.10 per 100 lbs.; *Bi-Carb. Soda*, \$2.50 to \$2.60; *Soda Ash* \$1.65 to \$1.75; *Bichromate of Potash*, per 100 lbs., \$8.50 to \$10; *Borax* refined, 11 to 12½c.; *Cream Tartar* crystals, 32 to 34c.; do ground 36c. to 38c.; *Tartaric Acid* crystals, 52½ to 55c.; do. powders 55 to 58c. per lb.; *Caustic Soda*, white, \$2.40 to 2.60; *Sugar of Lead*, 9 to 11c.; *Bleaching Powder*, \$2.50 to \$3.00 according to lot; *Alum* \$1.85 to \$2.00; *Copperas*, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; *Ground Sulphur*, \$2.75 to \$3.00; *Flowers Sulphur*, sublim per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to \$3.25; *Roll Sulphur*, \$2.40 to \$2.60; *Sulphate of Copper*, \$5.75 to \$3.50; *Epsom Salts*, \$1.25 to \$1.40; *Salt*, petre, \$9.00 to \$9.50; *German Quinine*, about \$1.20 to \$1.30; *American do.*, \$1.30 to \$1.35; *Howard*, \$1.30 to \$1.40; *Opium*, \$4.25 to \$4.50; *Morphia*, \$2.20 to \$2.30; *Gum Arabic*, sort, 28 to 33c.; *White*, 40 to 55c.; *Carbolic acid*, 45 to 50c. Iodide Potassium, \$4.00 to \$4.25 per lb. Iodine, \$5 to \$5.50; Iodoform, \$7.00 to \$7.50.

**FLOUR.**—The market, which has ruled very dull, is rather more active under a fair local demand and values are pretty steady. We quote: Superior extra, \$3.70 to \$3.75; extra superfine, \$3.60 to \$3.75; fancy \$3.45; Spring extra, \$3.40 to \$3.45; superfine, \$3.20 to \$3.25; strong bakers' (Canadian), \$3.70 to \$3.80; strong bakers' (American), \$4.00 to \$4.25; fine, \$3.00 to \$3.15.

**FISH.**—There is next to nothing doing in this line, fish not being in demand for holiday fare. Prices remain exactly as before. Labrador herrings, \$5.50; eastern shore, \$4.75 to \$5; fat July, C. B., \$5.25; dry cod, Gaspe, \$4.50; American cod, \$3.25; green cod, No. 1 being sold at \$4.00 to \$4.25; large No. 1, \$4.75 to \$5; No. 2 about \$3.25; North Shore salmon, \$14, \$18, and 12 for Nos. 1, 2, and 3 respectively; British Columbia salmon, \$11; Mackerel, \$4 to \$6; lake trout \$4.25 to \$4.50.

**FURS.**—Raw furs continue to come in freely, and the tendency is to lower prices all around. Mink is weaker again, if anything, and is lower than any time within last ten years. Skunk is also lower, if anything, and only finest lots of furs bring prices below, which are, if anything, a high average; this should be borne in mind. We quote for prime furs: *Beaver*, \$2.75 to 3.00; *Bear*, \$8.00 to 10.00; do., cub, \$4.00 to 6.00; *Fisher*, \$6.00; *Red Fox*, \$1.00 to 1.20; *Cross do.*, \$2.00 to \$3.00; *Marten*, \$1.00; *Lynx*, \$2.50 to \$3.00; *Mink*, 60 to 75c; *Musk-rat*, 8 to 10c; *Otter*, \$8.00 to \$10.00; *Raccoon*, 50c average; *Skunk*, 40 to 60c.

**GROCERIES.**—Matters have taken a quieter turn, and orders from the country are not numerous at the moment. Payments are very fairly spoken of. In sugars yellows are reported another 8th off, granulated at same level as last week, viz.: 6½ to 6¾c. though a 500 brl. lot could probably be got at 6c. For Japan teas the market is still firm but not up to the New York level by 2 or 3c. for medium grades; in other grades the distinction is not so marked. Blacks and greens unchanged. Valencias 9½c., with very limited stocks, and there seems to be a timidity about bringing us further supplies Malagas out of the market except for a few choice goods at about \$4.00, sultanas firmer, currants firm and stocks not large. Sardines in small supply and continue high in price. Pepper advancing in England and likely to go higher here. Some supplies of filberts coming in at 7c. for Levants, Barcelonas, 8½c., other nuts as before.

**LEATHER.**—There are few shoe factories busy just now, and as buying is very light, there is more or less of a disposition to concede in the way of prices to induce sales. Stocks, however, are not accumulating appreciably, and we still quote: *Hemlock Spanish Sole B. A* 24 to 27c., ditto, No. 2, B. A. 21c. to 24c; No. 1, *Ordinary Spanish*, 24c. to 25c; No. 2 ditto 22c. to 23c; No. 1 *China* 23c. No. 2 21c. ditto *Buffalo Sole No. 1*, 21 to 22c. ditto No. 2, 19½ to 21c. *Hemlock Slaughter*, No. 1, 26 to 27½c; *Waxed Upper*, light and medium, 33 to 38c; ditto ditto heavy, 33 to 36c.; *Grained*, 34 to 38c. *Splits*, large, 23 to 30c.; ditto small, 16 to 24c. *Calf-splits* 29 to 32c. *Calf-skins* (35 to 46 lbs.) 70 to 80c; ditto (25 to 34 lbs.) 60 to 70c.; *Imitation French Calfskins*. 80 to 85c; *Russet Sheepskin Linings*, 30 to 50c; *Harness*, 24 to 33c; *Buffed Cow*, per ft., 14 to 16c. *Enamelled Cow*, 15 to 16c. *Patent Cow*, 15 to 16c. *Pebbled Cow*, 11½ to 15½c. *Rough*, 23 to 28c. *Russet & Bridle*, 45 to 55c.

**METALS AND HARDWARE.**—In pig iron and metals generally matters are very dull, and there is apparently just as little buying being done as possible, orders being of decidedly "hand to mouth" character. The home market for pig iron presents no new features whatever; ingot tin is reported firmer, also the Singapore market; lead too is a little stronger, but local quotations are not affected. There is a feeling in a good many quarters that business will improve materially after the turn of the year, as consumers, stocks are reported as being generally light, and prices are low. Hardware men are mostly engaged stocktaking, and it is not expected there will be much doing in their line for a few weeks. Prices remain about as before and we quote: *Gartsherrie and Summerlee* \$19 to 19.50. *Langloan*, \$19.50; *Coltness*, \$19.50 to 20, and very scarce; *Eglinton*, \$17 to \$17.50; *Dalmellington*; \$17.25 to \$17.50; *Calder* \$19.00 to \$19.50; *Hematite* \$20 to \$22.50, according to brand; *Siemens*, \$19.00 to \$19.50; *Bar Iron* still \$1.70 to \$1.75; *Canada Plates* about \$2.90. *Tin Plates* Bradley Charcoal, \$5.85 to 6.00; *Charcoal I C* \$4.60 to \$4.75 as to brand; do. *I X* \$6.25 to 6.50; *Coke I C.*, \$4.25. *Galvanized Sheets*, No. 28, 6 to 7c. according to brand; *Tinned Sheets*, coke, Nos. 24 to 26, 6½ to 7½c.; *Hoops and Bands* per 100 lbs., \$2.25; *Sheets, Boiler Plate*, per 100 lbs. *Staffordshire*, \$2.50 to \$2.75; *Steel Boiler Plate* \$3.25 to \$0.00; heads \$4.50; *Russian Sheet Iron*, 10 to 11c. *Lead* per 100 lbs.:—*Pig*, \$3.75 to \$4.00; *Sheet*, \$4.00 to \$4.25. *Shot*, \$6 to \$6.50; best cast *Steel*, 11½ to 12c; *firm*; *Spring*, \$3.25 to \$3.50, *firm*; *Tire*, \$3.25 to \$3.50, *firm*; *Sleigh Shoe*, \$2.25 to \$2.50. *Round Machinery Steel*, 3½c. per lb. *Ingot Tin*, 20 to 21c. *Bar Tin*, 24c.; *Ingot Copper*, 15 to 16c. *Sheet Zinc*, \$4.50 to \$4.75; *Spelter*, \$4.00 to \$4.50; *Bright Iron Wire*, Nos. 0 to 6, \$2.75 per 100 lbs.

**OILS AND PAINTS.**—In both lines business is very tame indeed, and prices show slight if any

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