Commercial

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Feb. 14th, 1900.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—Some little enquiry is reported regarding spring deliveries, but importers are hardly in a position yet to make quotations. Actual business is at present confined to small jobbing lots of cements and bricks, for which we quote the following prices: Belgian, $2.10 to $2.20; English, $2.45 to $2.60; German, $2.60 to $2.80. Bricks, $18.50 to $27 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The cheese market is distinctly firmer, and the public cable quotation is advanced to 60s. for colored, and 58s. for white. On spot, fine colored is now being held at 12¼ to 12½c., and white, 11¾ to 12c. The total shipments since close of navigation amount to 264,-483 boxes, as against 253,000 boxes at same date last year. On the other hand, butter exports for the same period are only 12,559 packages, some 30,000 less than last year. Fine creamery is firm on spot at 22 to 23c.; dairy makes are in continued light supply; tubs quote at 18 to 20c.; rolls, 19 to 21c.

DRY GOODS.—City retailers feel rather sore over the way the late very broken weather affects business, but wholesale men report continued good orders from the country, as a rule, and 4th of February payments were very fairly met. Next week will see quite an exodus of buyers going to Europe to make fall selections. The spring millinery openings have been fixed for a week later than last year, the 6th of March being the date selected. Anticipations of further advances in domestic cottons seem to be generally held, and already a step in this direction has been made by Canadian Colored Cotton Co., who have advised the cancellations of prepaid freights, as has been hitherto the rule, and which is calculated as equal to an advance of 2½ per cent. The mills are all said to be very much behind on orders, in some cases goods ordered last September being yet undelivered.

FISH.—With the near approach of Lent there is improving demand; prices, steady to firm. We quote: Nova Scotia herrings, $5 to $5.50; No. 1, green cod, $5; No. 1, large, $5.25 to $5.50; No. 2, $3.75 to $4.00; dry cod, $4.75; N.S., salmon, $13; B.C., do., $11 to $12; sea trout, $8.50 to $9; dressed cod, $4.25 to $4.50; boneless cod, 5½c. per lb.; fresh herrings, $1.60 per hundred; fresh haddock, 4 to 5c.; fresh cod, 3 to 3½c.

FURS.—Nothing new is reported in this line. We quote for prime skins: Mink, dark, $2 to $2.50; pale, ditto, $1 to $1.50; marten, dark, $5 to $10; large pale ditto, $3 to $3.50; small pale, $2 to $2.50; fisher, $4 to $7; lynx, $3 to $4.50; otter, dark, $10 to $13; pale, $5 to $7; red fox, $3 to $3.50; cross, ditto, $4 to $10; silver, $20 to $150; skunk, 30c. to $1; coon, 20c. to $1; large fall rats, 10c.; medium, 7c.; kits, 2 to 5c.; winter rats, 11 to 14c.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Bushels. Feb. 6.	Bushels. Feb. 13.
Wheat	56,381	54,940
Corn	20,569	20,193
Oats	280,921	300,364
Rye	12,629	14,316
Peas	52,793	54,374
Barley	28,369	24,185
Total grain	451,662	468,372
Oatmeal	532	398
Flour	27,906	30,047
Buckwheat	31,887	36,825

GROCERIES.—The late marked atmospheric changes and heavy rains have again seriously affected the country roads, and business in this line is quieter in consequence. Collections show some falling off from the same cause. Sugar refiners have made no recent change in quotations, and do not report any special activity of demand. Molasses holds very firm. The market is expected to open in Barbadoes rather later than usual, but the canes are said to be looking well. A late letter from there speaks of 14 to 15c. as the probable opening figures. Teas are reported as selling rather more freely, and scarcity is reported of good medium Japans. In London, Ceylons are reported rather easier. Dried fruits rule quiet. Californian prunes are getting into light compass, and there is no stock of Bosnians, but some supplies of the latter are expected next month. Canned goods are firm in price, corn being firmly held at $1.10; tomatoes, 90c. to $1; and peas, 90c.

HIDES.—The market is without noteworthy change since last report. Dealers are buying No. 1, green hides, at 9c., and quoting 10c. to tanners for present receipts, but are apparently disposed to hold fall hides now in store for higher figures. Calfskins are coming in in fairly liberal quantities, and are bought at 11c. and 9c. for Nos. 1 and 2, respectively. Lambskins, $1.10.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Though no large transactions are reported in metals, a good business is being done for the season, in moderate lots. Some sales of American pig iron have been reported within the last few days at $26.75; the Ferrona people are now offering moderate lots at $25.75, and Summerlee has been offered for delivery at winter freights at $27.50 in fair quantity. Canada plates, black sheets, etc., exhibit much strength, and there has been some talk of further advance on the part of some larger dealers. Some makers of galvanized sheets have withdrawn quotations. Ingot tin shows further firmness, and L. & F. is quoted at 31c. in 5-ton lots. Lead is steady; some lots of British Columbia lead have been lately sold in this market, and it is expected that the bulk of the supply for Canada will eventually be, it is said, drawn from this source. We quote: Summerlee pig iron, $27.50 to $28.50; Carnbroe, $26; Calder, $28; Hamilton, No. 1, $00.00 to 00.00; No. 2, do., $00.00 to 00.00; Ferrona, No. 1, $25.75; machinery scrap, $19 to $20; common ditto, $00 to $00; bar iron, Canadian, $2.40 to $2.50; Canada plates—Pontypool or equal, 52 sheets to the box, $3.10 to $3.15; 60 sheets, $3.20; 75 sheets, $3.25; all polished Canadas, $3.45; Galvanized Canada plates, $4.25 per box of 52 sheets; Terne roofing plate, 20 x 28, $8.50; Black sheet iron, No. 28, $3.15; No. 26, $3.05; No. 24, $2.95; No. 16, and heavier, $3; tin plates; Charcoal, I.C., Alloway, $4.80 to $5; do., I.X., $5.25 to $5.50; P.D., Crown, I.C., $5.50 to $5.75; do., I.X., $4.75; coke, I.C., $4.40 to $4.50; galvanized sheets, No. 28, Queen's Head, $4.75; No. 26, $4.25 to $4.50; No. 24, $2 in case lots; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6c.; No. 26, etc., the usual extra for large sizes. Steel boiler plate, ⅜-inch, and upwards, $3.15; ¼-inch, $3.25; tank steel, $2.90; ¼-inch; three-sixteenths, $3; heads, seven-sixteenths and upwards, $2.95; Russian sheet iron, 9 to 9½c.; lead, per 100 lbs., $4.50 to $4.60; sheet, $4.75 to $5; shot, $6 to $6.50; best cast-steel, 11 to 12c.; toe calk, $3.40 to $3.50; spring, $3.50; sleigh shoe, $2.80 to $2.85; tire, $2.85; round machinery steel, $3.57, as to finish; ingot tin, 34c. for L. & F.; Straits, 33c.; bar tin, 35c.; ingot copper, 17 to 17¼c.; sheet-zinc, $7 to $7.50; Silesian spelter, $5.40; Veille Montagne spelter, $5.50; American spelter, $5.40 to $5.50; antimony, 10½ to 11c.