—Patient—What are the things I must avoid, doctor? Physician—Pork, mackerel, tea, coffee, oatmeal, rye— Patient (with a gasp)—Rye? Physician—In the form of bread. Patient—All right, doctor. Go on.—Chicago Tribune.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, February 17th, 1904.

Ashes.—Little trading is reported, but receipts continue to be insignificant, and prices are well maintained, from $6.05 to $6.10 being quoted for first quality of pots; seconds, $5.60 to $5.65, and pearls about $7.

Cements and Firebricks.—In cements there is very little doing, the severe weather being very unfavorable to trade in this. Some occasional moderate sales of firebricks are reported. We quote: Belgian cement, $1.80 to $2.05; English, $2.15 to $2.25; German, $2.15 to $2.35; firebricks, $18 to $24 per M.

Dry Goods.—Travellers' letters all tell the same tale of delayed trips and uncertain connections, and it is feared the terrible storm of yesterday, if wide spread, will make matters worse. Even suburban traffic was completely blocked yesterday afternoon and evening, parties residing in Lachine and Ste. Anne being obliged to remain in town all night, and trade is naturally materially affected, both wholesale and retail. On the 13th inst., the Dominion Cotton Co. issued a circular advancing strongly the products of their Magog mills, some lines of prints, cretonnes, etc., being put up from 2 to 3c. a yard. All Belfast, Glasgow and Manchester letters advise a very strong market for all kinds of linens and unions, and some towel manufacturers have advised an advance of 5 per cent.

Dairy Products.—The cheese market is a very dull one at the moment, English buyers and local holders being apparently pretty far apart in their ideas as to prices, and it is a difficult matter to establish any very definite quotations, but it may be safely said that values are decidedly easier. A little better demand is reported for butter, and very little fresh-made creamery is coming forward. It is said a little export is being done in dairy makes. Winter creamery is reported at 19½ to 20½c.; fine fall grass creamery, 21 to 21½c.; dairy, 16½ to 17c.

Furs.—The week has developed nothing specially new, and business is comparatively quiet in raw skins, owing to the light offerings. We repeat quotations for prime pelts as follows: Beaver, $5 to $6.50 for large; medium ditto, $4 to $4.75; No 1. choice bear, $15 for large, $10 for medium, and $6 for small; badger, 30 to 50c.; fisher, No. 1, dark, $5 to $6; ditto, brown, $4 to $5; pale ditto, $3 to $4; red fox, $2.25 to $4; cross fox, $5 to $10 for No. 1, as to color; Wolverine, $2.50 to $5; lynx, $4 to $8 for No. 1; marten, $2 to $3 for Ontario and Quebec skins; fine B.C. and Northwest pelts bring higher prices; mink, $2 to $4 for No. 1; fall rats, 8to 17c.; winter ditto, 15 to 20c.; otter, $8 to $12; fine Labradors and Northeastern would bring $12 to $20; coon, $1.50 to $2.50 for No. 1 black, and from $1 to $1.75 for No. 1, dark; prime skunk, $1.50 for No. 1, all black; short stripe, $1.10; long stripe, 60c.; and broad stripe, 20c.

Groceries.—Last week's report as regards general trade will still apply, and owing to the difficulties attending transport in the interior, the volume of business is still quite moderate. Japan teas are now up from 1 to 1½c., which has created an increased demand for Ceylon greens, which are naturally firmer; blacks do not appear to be as yet affected. Raw sugars, both beet and cane, are up 1½d, but prices of refined are unchanged at $4 for standard granulated in bbls., and from $3.35 up for yellows. A fairly good demand is reported from jobbers. A cable received from Barbadoes to-day makes a firm quotation of 19½c., cost and freight, but no business resulted, as there appears to be a feeling that lower prices will prevail. It is said there is a much larger quantity of so-called Barbadoes molasses in the East than was supposed, some estimates being put at 15,000 puncheons, largely sent in by the Boston Molasses Co., on which it is figured