

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

MONTREAL, May 5, 1874.

Although we have open water in the river down as far as Three Rivers, navigation can hardly be said to be open, as the ice bridge is still firm at Quebec, and vessels can neither get up or down as yet. It is expected that the high tides to-morrow will break it up and allow the ships and steamers now lying at Indian Cove to come up. Snow fell every day from the 28th April till the evening of the 2nd May. Sunday was the first spring day we had, and now the weather is all that can be desired. Trade is now beginning to recover from the somewhat unsettled state it has been in on account of the change in the tariff, but during most of the week it has been much restricted, and now an active business is looked for. Groceries have been quiet. In drugs and chemicals, owing to small stocks, there has been little animation. Breadstuffs moderately active. Provisions firm. Ashes steady. Freights steady, at the rates quoted last week.

ASHES.—Pots.—We continue to have very light receipts but the demand is good, and all the firsts offering found a ready sale, at from \$6.10 to 6.15; market closing 2½c lower. Seconds would sell freely, but there are very few offering; some small sales are reported at \$5.30 to 5.40. Nothing doing in thirds, which are nominal. **Pearls.**—No receipts of this description of ash, none offering at the moment, \$8.50 is the nominal price, but is not based upon sales. The stocks at present in store are, pots, 2,588 bls; pearls, 573 bls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The lateness of the season is telling against this trade, as our country merchants do not feel disposed to go in heavily for summer goods while the weather is unseasonable. Now that the weather has improved greater activity may be looked for in this business. We do not at present alter quotations: Men's kip boots \$2.75 to 3.50; do calf, do \$3.00 to 3.75; do do congress, \$2.50 to 3.50; do buff do \$1.75 to 2.25; do split brogans \$1.10 to 1.25; do kip do \$1.40 to 1.50; do prunella congress \$1.25 to 2.00; womens heavy boots, 90c to \$1.25; do pebbled grain balmorals, \$1.20 to 1.50; do prunella do 75c to \$1.75; misses heavy boots 75c to \$1.00; do pebbled buff balmorals \$1 to 1.20; child's do 60c to \$1.00; Infants shoes \$3.50 to 10 per doz.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Stock of most articles in this department of trade are very low and the fleet from sea is anxiously waited for to replenish them, transactions have been light and restricted to a few articles. *Bi carb* no sales on the spot reported, but the article has been freely offered to arrive at \$5.12½ to 5.25; *Sal soda* is also offering to arrive at 1¼c, sales on the spot at 2 to 2½c; *Soda ash* very little moving at 2½ to 2¾c; *Alum* \$2.37½ to 2.75; *Borax* 20 to 25c; *Cream tartar crystals* 28 to 30c; *Bleaching Powder* 2½ to 2¾c; *Epsom salts* \$1.87½ to 2.00; *Saltpetre* \$9.75 to 10.50. In the present state of the market these quotations may be taken as nominal, and must undergo considerable changes on the arrival of the first ship from sea.

DRY GOODS.—Business in this department has been very dull, indeed less has been done during the last week in April than during the same period for many years. The very unseasonable weather which has so long prevailed has deterred people from buying, now that the spring has fairly set in some improvement is looked for. There are now 5 steamships below Quebec with heavy cargoes waiting to get up. The clothing trade is dull, and stocks much heavier than usual at this season. Remittances are not very satisfactory.

FISH.—The only description of fish at present in the market is dry cod, and prime stock of that is very scarce, and held for \$5.12½ to 5.50; all other kinds of fish are nominal.

Freights.—Although no tonnage has as yet come into harbor owing to the ice bridge holding fast at Quebec, there have been some few engagements made during the week, both by steamship and sail. Heavy grain to Glasgow and Liverpool by steamship at 8/1, and by sailing ship at 7/6. We have not heard of any engagements for flour. Rates for ashes, butter and cheese are unchanged.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the past week 24,545 bls; total receipts from 1st January to date, 173,450 bls; being an increase of 5,117 bls on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1873. The stocks in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 1st inst., were 119,154 bls; against 106,817 bls on the 15th ult., and 86,501 bls on the 1st May 1873. A pretty fair trade for local requirements has been done, and several round lots of spring extra have changed hands for delivery first half of May, at \$5.82½ to 5.85, but as a rule, buyers are very cautious in making purchases. To-day the market closes firm, showing more activity—a fair amount changing hands within our range of quotations. Superior extra \$6.40 to 6.50; extra \$6.10 to 6.25; strong baker's flour \$5.90 to 6.10; spring extra \$5.70 to 5.75; superfine \$5.50 to 5.55; fine \$5.00 to 5.05; middlings \$4.70; Pollards, \$4.00; U. C. bag flour \$2.70 to 2.85; Oatmeal, \$5.20 for common grades, and 5.50 for choice brands. Cornmeal, \$3.20 to 3.30.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—Receipts for the past week 23,150 bush; total receipts from first of January to date 127,827 bush being an increase of 11,197 bush; stocks in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 1st inst were 605,934 bush against 578,310 bush on the 15th ult and 127,304 bush on the 1st of May 1873. Market has been quiet some 70,000 bush, having changed hands at prices within our range. Upper Canada winter \$1.43 to 1.45; Canada red winter \$1.37½; Upper Canada Spring \$1.35 to 1.36; Chicago No 2 \$1.31 to 1.32; Milwaukee \$1.32½ to 1.35. *Maize* stocks in store 94,433 bush, market quiet at 70 to 75c; *Peas* market steady, sales of a few parcels ex store at 87½ per 66 lbs; for cargoes afloat 91c is asked. *Oats.*—Market very firm at 43 to 44 ex store, a large sale today for May delivery on p. t. *Barley* quiet and unchanged at \$1.10 to 1.15; *Pot Barley* \$1.10; *Pearl Barley* \$1.18; *Timothy seed* \$3.00 to 3.15; *Clover seed* 11c to 11½.

GROCERIES.—Teas.—There has been a moderate business done in Japans at an advance of from 3 to 7c on late prices; but buyers are not disposed as yet to buy largely at these figures. The very fine and very low grades are difficult to place. *Spices.—Pepper.*—Is rather weaker and small sales are reported at 17½ to 18c; nutmegs are firm, stocks getting low, and prices advanced since last week 95c to \$1.10; mace \$1.30 to 1.40; cassia 20 to 22c; allspice 9½ to 10c. *Sugars.*—Demand light and market has been inactive owing to the uncertainty as to what the new tariff would be. Our quotations are nominal; Porto Rico 7½ to 7¾c; Cuba 6½ to 7¼c; Barbadoes 7½ to 7¾c; Centrifugal 8½ to 9¼c; Scotch refined 7½ to 9c. The quotations for Local refined are unchanged. *Molasses.*—Stock is in one hand, market inactive. Clayed 32½c; Muscovado 30c; Trinidad very little here, small sales at 35 to 36c; Barbadoes 40c; Golden syrup 44c; Amber 67. *Fruit.*—Stock small, market quiet. Layer Raisins have been selling on the spot at \$2.47½ to 2.50; there have been some considerable sales to arrive at \$2.25; Valentias are scarce and high prices rule, 8 to 8½c being paid for any lots offering. Currants, 5½ to 6c is still quoted for new. Nuts and almonds, stocks are low and quotations unchanged. *Rice.*—The market is bare, but there is a

fair enquiry for this article at \$5.50 to 5.75 some lots to arrive have been placed at \$5.00; *Coffee.*—Very little doing beyond a few small sales of Java at 28 to 29c, Rio 25 to 26c; Ceylon 26 to 27c; market has a downward tendency.

HIDES.—The demand is good and the advance noted last week in quotations, as been maintained. We continue to quote: No. 1 inspected \$8.50 to 9.00; No 2 ditto \$7.50 to 7.75; No 3 ditto \$6.50 to 6.75; *Calfskins* 15c per lb.

HARDWARE.—A very fair business has been done during the week, the unusual lateness of the opening of navigation and the uncertainty as to the changes in the tariff have caused the volume of trade to be less this year than was anticipated. The Western steamers have now commenced running, and a large quantity of goods are ready to be shipped by them. We make very few changes on our list this week. We quote: *Pig Iron* per ton—Gartsherrie \$34.50 to 35.00; Glengarnock \$32.25 to 32.50; Carnbroe, \$31.50 to 32.; Hematite, \$41.50 to 42. *Bar Iron* per 100 lbs. Scotch and Staffordshire, \$3.00 to 3.10; best ditto, \$3.25 to 3.50; Swedes and Norway, \$5.50 to 6.50; Lowmoor and Bowling, \$7 to 7.50. *Canada Plates* per box—Glamorgan and Budd, \$6.25 to 6.50; Arrow and Garth, \$6.25 to 6.50; F. and W. Crown, \$6.50 to 6.75; Hatton and Penn., \$6.25 to 6.50; Squares and 14 x 20, 25c extra. *Tin Plates* per box—Charcoal IC, \$10.75 to 11; ditto IX, \$12.50 to 13.00; ditto DC, \$9.75 to 10.; Coke IX, \$9.00. *Tinned sheets* No. 26 Charcoal best 15c; *Galvanized sheets* 10½c. *Hoops and Bands* per 100 lbs, \$3.75 to 4.00; Sheets, best brands, \$4.00 to 4.25; Boiler plate per 100 lbs, \$4.00 to 4.50; Russia Sheet Iron, per lb, 16c to 17c. *Cut Nails* per 100 lbs, 4 to 4.75. *Wrought Spikes* per 100 lbs, \$0.00. *Pressed Spikes* per 100 lbs, \$5.50 to 6. *Shot*, Canadian, per 100 lbs, \$7 to 7.25; ditto, English, \$7.50. *Lead* per 100 lbs—Pig, \$6.50; Sheets, \$6.50; Bar, \$7.00. *Steels* per lb—Cast, 13 to 14c; Spring per 100 lbs, \$5.50 to 6; best ditto, warranted, \$6 to 6.50; Tire ditto, \$6 to 6.50. *Ingot Tin*, 28 to 30c; *Ingot Copper*, \$22.50 to 23. *Horse Shoes* per 100 lbs, \$5.75 to 6. *Proved Coil Chain*, ¾ in., \$7.25 to 7.50. *Anchors* 7 to 8c; *Anvils* 10 to 12c; *Iron wire* 6 per bdl \$3.00 to 3.10; *Boiler tubes* 2 inch 18c, 2½ 21c, 2¾ 23c, 3 25c, 3½ 35c, 4 inch 45c per foot. *Window Glass*, 4th quality, per 50 feet, to 25 added inches \$2.60; to 40 added inches \$2.80; to 50 added inches \$3.00.

LEATHER.—There is still some scarcity of Spanish sole, demand good at full prices. Very little enquiry for Buffalo sole. Slaughter sole is difficult to move. Prime stock of harness sells readily within our range of quotations. Nothing doing in Russetts or Pebble. We now quote:—Hemlock Spanish sole No. 1 B. A. 26c; ditto No. 2 23 to 24c; Buffalo sole No. 1 22 to 23c; ditto No. 2 18 to 20c; Hemlock slaughter 26 to 31c; waxed upper light and medium 37 to 42½c; ditto heavy 35 to 38c; grained upper 37 to 42c; splits large 26 to 32c; ditto small 18 to 25c; calfskins 27 to 36 lbs 60 to 75c; ditto 18 to 26 lbs 50 to 65c; sheepskin linings 30 to 42c; harness 26 to 32; buffed cow 14 to 17c per ft.; enamelled cow 18 to 19c; patent cow 19 to 20c; pebbled cow 14 to 17c; rough leather 27 to 29.

LIQUORS.—Baundy.—There has been a fair degree of activity in this article, and sales of the favorite brands in wood have been made at \$2.70 to 3.00; in cases \$9.00 to 9.50; other brands in wood bring from \$2.35 to 2.75. *Gin.*—Owing to light stocks there has not been much movement in this article, but the market is very firm at last week's quotations. *High Wines.*—A good demand and steady business has been done at \$1.67½. Rye whiskey 89½.

NAVAL STORES.—There is no material change to note in the state of this market; the decline in prices noted last week has not been recovered. We continue to quote: *Sp. Turpen.*