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MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, April 18th, 1888.

ASHES.—The market has ruled very dull indeed since last writing, receipts have been less and business again smaller; prices show quite a break, and are to-day down to \$3.80 for first quality pots; seconds hardly quotable, but would not bring over \$3.40. A small lot of pearls, about six barrels, has come in, and represents the total stock. We quote about \$7.25.

BOOTS, SHOES, AND LEATHER.—A very quiet week is reported in these lines. A little sorting business is being done among the shoe houses, but there is no active cutting yet being done on fall stock, and the demand for leather is of a very light character. Prices of leather still rule easy all around, but it is to be noted that stocks are not coming in so freely of late, tanners apparently curtailing the output so that when the demand for the fall cut sets in the chances favor the probability of a firmer feeling. Reports from England show a gradual toning up of the market there. We quote:—Spanish sole, B. A., No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, B. A., 19 to 20c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 18 to 19c.; No. 1 China, 20 to 21c.; No. 2, 17 to 18c.; hemlock slaughter, No. 1, 23 to 26c.; oak sole, 40 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 33 to 37c.; ditto, heavy, 31 to 35c.; grained, 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained, 36 to 40c.; splits, large, 16 to 26c.; do., small, 12 to 18c.; calf splits, 32 to 33c.; calfskins (35 to 46 lbs.), 55 to 70c.; imitation French calfskins, 75 to 85c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; harness, 24 to 33c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; pebbled cow, 19 to 14c.; rough, 23 to 26c.; russet and bridle, 54 to 55c.

CEMENTS, &c.—Portland cement continues to be sold at \$2.75 for ordinary lots; import orders are being booked at \$2.20 for 500 bbl. lots, ex ship. Firebricks and clay as before quoted.

FURS.—Receipts still very small, due to bad roads in interior of province and depressing effects of late London fur sales. We still repeat quotations. We quote for prime skins:—Beaver, \$3 50 to 4.00; bear, \$10.00 to 12.00; cub ditto, \$4.00 to 5.00; fisher, \$5.00; red fox, \$1.00 to 1.25; cross ditto, \$2.00 to 3.00; lynx, \$2.00 to \$2.50; marten, 60 to 65c.; mink, 50 to 60c.; fall muskrat, 8c.; winter muskrat, 12c.; spring, 15c.; raccoon, 25, 50 and 75c.; skunk, 25, 50 and 75c.; otter, \$8.00 to 10.00.

DRY GOODS.—Wholesale trade has not gained much in activity since last report; the weather in this section has not proved favorable to business in the country, where roads are still very bad. Some of our wholesale houses have still travellers at home. In this city, retail trade is active and healthy, but in the city of Quebec business is apparently in a bad state, and we hear of well-rated houses asking renewals in full for one, two, and three months. Remittances as a whole are rather poor, showing a falling off since the first of the month, when

the average was only a fair one. In prices there is nothing fresh.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business is about as last noted, and there is little or no change in price list as given on the 11th inst. Heavy chemicals are quiet and will not be subject to change until arrival of new stocks at opening of navigation. Quinine and opium remain dull and stagnant; camphor, insect powder, glycerine, and carbolic acid all rule firm. We quote as under:—Sal. soda, \$1.00 to 1.05; bi-carb soda, \$2.10 to 2.25; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.70 to \$0.08 bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$1.10 to 13.00; borax, refined, 9½ to 10½c.; cream tartar crystals, 34 to 36c.; do. ground, 36 to 38c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 54 to 55c.; do. powder, 55 to 60c.; citric acid, 70 to 75c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.40 to 2.60; sugar of lead, 10 to 11c.; bleaching powder, \$2.50 to 2.60; alum, \$1.65 to 1.70; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.25 to 2.50; roll sulphur, \$2.00 to 2.25; sulphate of copper, \$6.00 to 6.50; epsom salts, \$1.25 to 1.40; saltpetre \$8.25 to 8.75; American quinine, 60 to 65c.; German quinine 55 to 65c.; Howard's quinine, 65 to 75c.; opium, \$4.50 to 5.00; morphia, \$2.25 to 2.50; gum arabic, sorts, 80 to 90c.; white, \$1.00 to \$1.25; carbolic acid, 55 to 65c.; iodine potassium, \$4.00 to 4.25 per lb.; iodine, \$5.25 to 5.75; iodoform, \$5.75 to 6.25. Prices for essential oils are:—oil lemon, \$2.00 to 2.50; oil bergamot, \$3.00 to 3.50; orange, \$2.75 to 3.00; oil peppermint, \$3.50 to 4.50; glycerine, 25 to 35c.; senna, 15 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 40 to 45c.; American do., 36 to 40c.; insect powder, 70 to 90c.

GROCERIES.—The actual present movement is not much more active than a week ago, but orders for shipment at opening of navigation are coming in more freely. Sugars rule steadily at 6½c. for granulated in round lots at the refinery. Very large sales of yellows are reported for the west, and the range of them is from 5½ to 6½c.; grocery raws not active. The immense receipts of maple syrup during the last two weeks has materially affected the demand for molasses; Barbadoes, however, is very scarce and prices rule steady at 40 to 41c. There is a better distribution of teas in progress and prices if anything more firmly held; the New York market is very active, and a sale of 83,000 packages in one block is reported. Ping Suey gunpowders are reported advanced from 3 to 4c. in New York and London; good to fine blacks, which are very scarce in England, are very firm, and Montreal houses have offered 4d. a pound over last November prices without being able to effect a purchase. Valencia raisins are firmer in all outside markets and 6c. is about as low as they can be had now. Currants are also up 1/- to 1/6d. a hundredweight and 7c. is asked here for sound fruit. Pepper is 2c. higher in London and New York. Canned tomatoes sell at \$1.10 to 1.25 per dozen as to brand with an easy tendency. Salmon \$1.65 to 1.75. Prices for contracts of new pack are up another 5c. on Pacific coast, making cost laid down here \$1.65 net cash. Lobsters higher, and wholesale houses have been selling back to packers at \$5.00 a case in 100-case lots to supply a demand from California. Other lines unchanged.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Business in these lines is very quiet. Import orders for iron are not being booked at all freely owing to a weaker market at home and hopes on the part of importers of a further decline, and sales from stocks here are of a very limited character. Warrants are cabled at 39 shillings and makers' prices are also easier. Bar iron is unchanged; Canada plates very dull at \$2.50 to 2.60, with former figure slightly shaded for large lots. Tin plates quiet at \$4.25 to 4.50 for I. C. charcoals and \$4.00 to 4.25 for cokes; tin and copper firm at last figures. We quote:—Coltness, \$23; Calder, Gartsherrie, and Summerlee, \$23.00; Eglinton and Dalmellington, \$21.00 to 00.00; Siemens, 22.00 for No. 1. No Carnbroe or Shotts here; cast scrap, railway chairs, &c., none; machinery scrap, \$17.00 to 19.00; common ditto, \$16.00; bar iron, \$2.10 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.35 to 2.40; Siemens, \$2.10 to 2.15; Canada plates—Blaina, \$2.50. Tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$6.00 to 6.50; charcoal I.C., \$4.50 to 4.75; do. I.X., \$5.50 to 6.00; coke, I.C., \$4.00 to 4.25 as to lot; galvanized sheets, No. 28, 5c. to 7c., according to brand; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6c.; No. 26, 6½c.; the usual extra for large sizes. Hoops and bands, per 100 lbs., \$2.35