

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 7th Feb., 1906.

Ashes.—In the absence of any transactions of consequence values tend to easiness, and \$5.20 would be about the present outside figure for No. 1 pots; seconds, about \$4.70. Pearls are variously quoted from \$6.50 to \$7 per cental.

Dairy Products.—The cheese market continues to rule very dull as far as movement is concerned, but holders of choice Western stock are firm in their quotations at 13 to 13½c. The colder weather has had something of a steadying effect on the butter market, and, though offerings of roll butter are more liberal quotations are fairly firm at 22 to 22½c. for choice creamery; under-grades, 21½ to 22c.; dairy and rolls, 19½ to 21½c. per pound.

Dry Goods.—The 4th of the month was, as is usual, quite a heavy day for payments, which are reported as having been well up to the average. Travelling salesmen continue to send in very fair orders, and spring deliveries are being actively made. The Dominion Textile Co. has announced an advance in the output of the Magog and Colonial Mills, namely, prints, cretonnes, flags, printed flannelettes, dress satens, and other lines of printed goods. The advance ranges from 5 to 12½ per cent, and is to take effect on the 15th inst.

Furs.—The prices paid by local buyers of raw furs, as announced at the opening of the season, have not been materially modified as the result of the late London sales, and we quote for prime pelts as follows: No. 1 large beaver, \$6 to \$7; medium ditto, \$5 to \$5.50; kilts, \$2; black bear, \$15 for large No. 1, \$10 for medium, and \$5 for small; badger, 40 to 60c.; fisher, \$6 to \$7 for fine dark; red fox, No. 1 Northern, \$3.50; Eastern and Ontario, No. 1, \$3; No. 1 silver fox, \$100 to \$175; cross fox, \$7 to \$10 for dark; wolverine, \$7 for No. 1 dark, other grades, \$2 to \$5; lynx, \$6 to \$7 for No. 1; marten, Western and British Columbia, No. 1, \$6 to \$7; Eastern ditto, \$4.50 to \$5; mink, \$7 to \$8 for large No. 1, and \$4 to \$6 for medium; winter rats, 16 to 18c. for large; otter, No. 1 large, dark Labrador, \$30, and \$15 for Western; coon, \$1.75 to \$2.50; skunk, \$2 for No. 1 prime black, \$1.50 for short stripe, other grades \$30 to 75c.

Groceries.—The country roads are still suffering from a lack of snow, and traffic in the interior is consequently impeded with the result that business in this line is of a somewhat slow character. The sugar market continues to rule on the weak side, and jobbers are evidently only buying for present wants, in the expectation that still lower quotations may develop. The factory figure for standard granulated remains for the present at \$4.10 in barrels, and \$4.00 in bags, with yellows ranging from \$3.75 to \$4. A cable from Barbados to-day quotes new molasses at 13c.,

a figure materially lower than the quotation of a year ago. Owing to the causes before alluded to, canned tomatoes have been advanced to \$1; packers are also reported to be sold out of corn, and higher prices are looked for in this line.

Hides.—As anticipated last week, the easiness in hides has taken definite shape, and buyers are now quoting 11 to 11½c. per pound for No. 1. The decline in calfskins is confirmed, the general quotation for No. 1 being 13c., and for No. 2 the figure is 11c. per pound. Lambskins are unchanged at \$1.10 each.

Leather.—Though the boot and shoe factories of the city are all busy, they are apparently well supplied with stock, and leather dealers report just a moderate demand. There is, however, a very fair export movement in sole, with firmness in quotations. Slaughter sole is quoted at 29 to 30c., manufacturers' No. 2 at 25 to 25½c., and No. 2 jobbing at 26c. Black leathers all remain exceedingly firm at last quotations.

Metals and Hardware.—There appears to be an impression in some quarters, whether well based or not is hard to say, that iron values have about reached the highest point for the present, and that some gradual decline is likely to develop in the near future. In support of this view it is reported that orders for Canada plates have been booked in Britain at shaded figures, namely, £8 15s. as against £9, the late quotation. Lead has shown further easing off, and is now at \$4.40 to \$4.45; ingot tin is firm at 39½ to 40c.; copper is a trifle easier at 20 to 20½s.; also spelter at 7 to 7¼c.; antimony is again advancing, and is now quoted at 16 to 16½c. Galvanized sheets are steady at \$4.10 to \$4.35; tin plates, \$4.25 for standard charcoals, and \$4 for cokes; Canada plates, \$2.60; black sheets, \$2.40 for 28 gauge; boiler plate, \$2.40; iron pipe, \$4.37. Bar iron and steel are steady at the late advance.

Oils and Paints.—A firmer market is reported for linseed oil, and 59c. is quoted for boiled in fair lots. Turpentine is firmer at 95c. per gallon, in single barrels. Fish oils are slow of sale, but steam-refined seal is fairly firm at 42½ to 45c.; cod oil, 35 to 40c.; whale oil, 35 to 38c. for best quality, but there is a considerable range. Castor oil has advanced from ¼ to ¾c. per lb., and we quote 8½ to 9c. for mechanical. Leads, putty, window glass, etc., remain unchanged.

THE BEGINNINGS OF ONTARIO COMMERCE.

Trade conditions in Ontario in early Loyalist times were as primitive as the country itself. In his *Life of Simcoe*, the latest volume in "The Makers of Canada" series (Morang & Co., Toronto), Duncan Campbell Scott draws a striking picture of how the early settlers transacted business and

how they laid the foundations of the commercial life of to-day:

"They were not greatly troubled with money; they made their own in effect by trade and barter, or, in fact, by writing on small slips of paper, that passed everywhere at their face value until they became indecipherable from soil or friction, when the last holders made fresh copies, and on they went with their message of trust and confidence. The earliest settlers had no means of producing wealth. Their markets were their own simple tables; their exports reached the next concession or the nearest military post. Their first and chief source of ready money was the sale of potash, a crude product from hardwood ashes. In fact, not many years have passed since the disappearance of the V-shaped ash vat and the cumbrous potash kettle. Their next source of revenue was the provisioning of the troops, and in 1794 agriculture had so developed that the commissariat was in that year partly supplied from the provincial harvest. Then timber became the staple, and the whole of the exports—potash, grain and pork—were freighted to Montreal on rafts. Cattle at first were scarce, and hard to provide for. Some of the earliest settlers had cows and oxen at places in the States that had to be driven hundreds of miles through the woods over paths slashed out for their passage. In the first settlement at Oswegatchie (Prescott) for a population of five hundred and ninety-seven there were only six horses, eight oxen, and eighteen cows."

CHATHAM BOARD OF TRADE.

On the 28th ult. was held the annual meeting of the Board of Trade of Chatham, N.B., with the Hon. W. B. Snowball, its president, in the chair. It was decided to co-operate with the Montreal Board of Trade towards the holding of a conference of boards of trade in that city next summer. The secretary related how beneficial had been the results of the board's efforts during the past year to improve the conditions surrounding local business men. Especially had this been the case in the matter of railroad freight rates, subsidizing the Miramichi Steam Navigation Company, etc. The following gives the result of the election of officers: W. B. Snowball, president; D. P. MacLachlan, vice-president; W. L. T. Weldon, secretary; V. A. Danville, treasurer; J. F. Benson, auditor. The council and board of arbitrators were re-elected except J. F. Benson was substituted for another member.

MR. DOOLEY ON BANKS.

"Bankin' is a strange business anyhow. I build a brick house, put iron gratings on th' window, an' ye an' Donohue fight each other to see who'll get his money first to me. I accept it