

stocks on the Continent and in the United Kingdom are so low as to require steady buying until another crop. The *N.Y. Journal and Bulletin* says: "Even with all Argentina and India can give her she will be in need of all the surplus of the Northern Hemisphere, and then go into next crop with comparatively depleted reserves, which will require another year of good crops to replenish. The outlook for wheat and wheat growers for another year is, therefore, very encouraging, though the old-time high-priced prophets are liable to modify their figures for the balance of this crop unless more serious crop damage than so far shall occur to the growing crops of this or other countries." Buckwheat is dull. Corn is steady. Rye continues unchanged. Peas are more active with sales at 59c.

GREEN FRUITS.—This trade is always quiet after the holiday season. There is this year no more than the usual lack of January demand from retailers. Oranges find fair request. We quote: Japanese Tangerines, 160s to 200s, \$1.50 to 1.75; Mexican, 126s, 250s, \$2.75; Bahamas, 150s, 176s, 200s, \$3.00 per box. Valencias are quoted: Ordinary to large, \$4.75 to 6.00 per case. Lemons are rather slow of sale, with new Messina quoted \$3 to 3.25. Extra fancy bananas are worth \$1.25 to 1.75 per bunch. Canadian cranberries are worth \$2.25 to 2.50 per box and \$5.50 to 6.00 per barrel, while Cape Cod are worth \$8 to 8.50 per barrel.

GROCERIES.—There is the usual falling off in trade after the holidays. Sugars are in only fairly satisfactory condition. A reduction of 3c. per lb. in the price of sugars was made by refiners this week. Dried fruits are steady. As we have elsewhere noted, the canned goods market is very strong. Stocks of canned vegetables are in small compass. Tomatoes, 3 lbs., 1897, are quoted \$1.25 per dozen. Corn, 2 lbs., 85c.; peas, 85c.; beans, 85c., and asparagus, \$2.25 per doz. There is a better supply of canned fruits. We quote: Pineapple, \$2 to 2.25; strawberries, \$1.50; citron, flat tins, \$1; peaches, 3 lbs., \$2; 2 lbs., \$1.30, and plums, 2 lbs., \$1 to 1.15 per dozen.

HIDES AND SKINS.—There were rumors early in the week that the local market was about to be more unsettled than it has been. However, conditions are about as last reported, and quotations given in our last issue still hold good. At country points in Ontario tanners are paying an average, we should say, of 7½c. for green cow hides, which is relatively lower than the price for Toronto inspected hides. Advices from Chicago, Jan. 8, state "market moderately active and firm. Tanners gave a fair amount of attention to the market, and yesterday sales were made of 2,500 native steers at 11½c. for No. 1, and 1,200 do. at 11½c. for do.; also recently about 10,000 branded hides at unchanged prices to ½c. advance. The close was firm at 11½ to 11¾c. for native steers, 9½c. for heavy Texas, 9½c. for light do., 9½c. for butt brands, 9½c. for branded cows, 9c. for Colorados, 10½c. for heavy native cows and 10½c. for light do." In the local trade, sheepskins are quoted \$1.10. Tallow is dull and inactive at nominal quotations.

LEATHER.—The principal interest of the trade is centred in the annual meeting of the Tanners' Section of the Board of Trade. There are representatives of several large tanning concerns in the city, and most of them report a fairly good year, but speak more cheerfully of the prospects for 1898. The tanners amuse each other with accounts of recent sales at advanced prices. If the office books tally with the accounts, there is certainly a bright outlook before the tanning industry.

PROVISIONS.—Receipts continue fairly liberal, although packers consider prices too high, especially for heavy hogs. In fact, more is being paid for heavy dressed hogs than the live hog market for the same weights would warrant. We cannot say how long this will continue. In a number of instances higher quotations are given for heavy in order to secure anxious to secure consignments that contain a large proportion of heavy weight hogs. There is a better demand the past week for all lines of provisions. Smoked meats and lard are moving freely. Values are well maintained. Lard is especially strong.

WOOL.—Business in Canadian fleece wool is at present inactive. In pulled wools there is a moderate movement. The mills are apparently busy, and are consuming the stocks of wool on

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 12th Jan., 1898.

ASHES.—The stock on spot continues very light and receipts small. The gain in firmness noted last week is maintained, and probably \$3.40 to 3.50 could now be realized for first pots; seconds, \$3.10 to 3.15, and pearls about \$4.80 per cental.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The city shoe factories are actively at work again, "Old Christmas," having come and gone, and the work-people, volatile or religious-minded, or both, having settled down after their prolonged holiday. Manufacturers have had to buy and contract for considerable quantities of leather, and in colored upper stock and goat-skins prices are decidedly firm. Remittances are pronounced satisfactory as a rule.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—Transactions in cement are few, but stocks are in quite moderate compass, and there is no inclination to shade prices. We quote British cements \$2.10 to 2.20; Belgian, \$1.95 to 2.05. Bricks are in a little better demand; quotations are \$17 to 22.00 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—For cheese there is some improvement in cable enquiry, and on the whole there is rather more business doing, though no really important transactions can be reported. The last cabled advance is maintained, and dealers are pretty firm in their ideas that they should get about 8½c. per lb. for finest Western goods. The butter market on the whole is slow; exporters are light buyers; there is a fairly steady local demand for finest creamery at 19 to 19½c., which shippers do not feel they can pay. Fine dairy quotes at 15 to 17c., roll butter 14 to 15c. per lb.

DRY GOODS.—Travelers are now all fully at work, and the volume of orders for spring goods is reported as gratifying. There is still some limited sorting demand for winter goods, but, of course, everything bought now goes under spring dating, four months from 1st April, or to Lower Province dealers four months from May 1st. The little run in city dry goods failures seems to have come to an end, though it is expected there may be a few more in the course of several weeks, when the usual seasonable weeding out arises among the weak ones. The ordinary current remittances from the country show a good lead on those of last year.

FURS.—Receipts of raw furs in the city continue quite light, and it is surmised that there must be a good many buyers in the country. Several American firms have also been soliciting consignments promising big returns, which the too-confiding shipper does not always realize. There is a tendency to improving values in several lines, such as mink, marten and fisher, and we amend quotations in these furs. There has also been quite a sharp advance in New York, in southern coon, due it is said to Russian demand, but Canada coon is not materially altered. We quote:—Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1.00 to 1.25; marten, \$1.75 to 2.25; fisher, \$4.50 to 7.00; lynx, \$1.00 to 2.00; otter, \$1.00 to 12.00 for dark; pale, \$5.00 to 7.00; red fox, large, \$1.30 to 1.50; small, \$1.00; cross fox, \$3.00 to 6.00; bear, cubs, \$3.00 to 7.00; medium, \$7.00 to 10.00; large, \$12.00 to 15.00; skunk, 15 to 70c., as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c.; rats, fall, 7c. to 10c. kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

GROCERIES.—The foreign markets for raw sugars have been somewhat erratic of late, and the tone is a somewhat easier one. On spot

refiners have reduced quotations an eighth of a cent, making factory prices now as follows: Standard granulated, 4½c.; Austrian refined, 3 15-16c.; yellows 3½ to 3¾c. per lb. The wholesale demand is at present very light, and both the Montreal refineries are shut down owing to the dullness. There is as yet no general improvement in the demand for teas, jobbers being seemingly pretty well stocked up, but there is no weakening in values. Molasses is good stock to hold; it is estimated by competent authority that the total stock in first hands here is only about 3,000 puncheons of Barbadoes, 1,000 puncheons of Porto Rico, and a little Antigua, a supply much below the figures usual at the season. For Barbadoes in a jobbing way 30c. is now asked; in quantity 28c. is quoted for Barbadoes, 26c. for Porto Rico and 23c. for Antigua. The market on the island for new crop will shortly open, and prices are expected to range at about 10 to 11c. first cost. In currants there is some scarcity and prices are firmer; Sultana raisins are also in light supply and high-priced; stocks of Valencias are ample. Canned goods have lost none of the strength lately noted, and it is reported difficult to buy tomatoes in quantity at \$1.25 per case.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—The market is without noteworthy change. There has been some revival of Quebec demand for hides, and some fair sales have been made in that quarter, since last report, at firm prices, which tanners before were indisposed to pay. Dealers are buying on the basis of 9 to 9½c. per lb. for No. 1, and quoting 9½ to 10c. to tanners. Few calfskins are coming in as yet; lambskins are worth 85 to 90c. each. Tallow is dull at 3 to 3½c. per lb. for rendered; 1 to 1½c. for rough.

HOPS.—Business rules on the quiet side, but quotations are quite steady at 12½ to 14c. for good Western; choice, 15 to 16c.; yearlings slow of sale at 6 to 8c. per pound.

LEATHER.—Some of the larger houses are doing a fair amount of buying, though a good deal of stock has been contracted for already. Dongolas and fancy calf are in good demand, and in the former line there is much firmness, as all advices from foreign sources of supply for raw goat skins indicate advancing markets. There are but few changes in price. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, 22 to 23c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 22 to 23c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 25 to 27c.; No. 2 do., 21 to 23c.; common, 20 to 21c.; waxed upper light and medium, 30 to 35c.; do. heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 32 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec do., 17 to 20c.; juniors, 15 to 17c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 24c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 12 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 11 to 14c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—There is no special revival of demand in these lines yet. In pig iron there is a little apparent tendency to easiness, and some small sales of Summerlee are reported at \$18, and a 50-ton lot of No. 1 Hamilton at \$16. The iron market is easier in the United States, and it is said local offers have been solicited from that quarter. Canadian bars are easy, no change having been made in the way of advance at late meeting, and they can be done at \$1.35, it is said, in quantity. Plates of all kinds are dull; quite a moderate lot of Canadas was placed a few days

Gold Medals, Paris, 1878: 1889.

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