at slightly lower prices, and a very large tonnage is now being inquired for, although the actual booking of the orders continues slow. The greatest consumers are the pipe foundries and these take a low grade of metal. Production is at the highest rate yet reached, but consumption is keeping pace, and it is claimed that it will ultimately require heavy buying on the part of the consumers to replace the metal which is now being withdrawn from stores. The market for pig seems to be nearing the point of the cost of production, and as it nears that point the decline will meet with greater resistance. The probabilities are that business will develop before the decline is carried much further; and should the buying movement become heavy there is likely to be a reaction which will put the market to a higher level. The larger furnace interests are not pressing sales, being satisfied that the rate of consumption is equal to taking care of all the metal being made, and that the commencement of the buying movement is entirely dependent upon how soon consumers will run through their metal. There is a slightly improved demand for finished steel material, and while prices have not shown an advance, they are holding very firm at levels established during the past two or three months.

In Great Britain, the position of the iron market is decidedly encouraging. There has been an improvement in many directions during the last fortnight, and the belief is gaining ground that the market is not likely to undergo any serious relapse. Business usually improves at this time of the year, and the spring of 1910 is proving no exception to the rule. The Board of Trade records are of a distinctly favorable character, as regards pig-iron. Exports are improving and local buyers are not nearly so chary of entering into new engagements as they were a short time ago. There is little doubt but that prices will have an upward turn, and an increased number of consumers are looking for forward delivery. Prices have shown a slight advance during the past few days, and the tendency is still in an upward direction.

In the Montreal market, conditions are very satisfactory, from a producer's standpoint. Furnace interests are well booked for orders and are not seeking business. Import iron is being purchased in liberal quantities for deliveries extending over the season of navigation. Shipments will start to arrive upon the opening of navigation, six weeks hence, and it is expected that the quantities of iron reaching Montreal during the present year will be the largest in the history of the country. Prices on foreign iron continue firm, with a slightly upward tendency. The stock of metal held for local stores is now being depleted, and consumers requiring supplies between now and the opening of navigation will find it hard to obtain them, unless they have arranged for goods to come along by winter shipment. Many importers put in the largest stock of iron last fall, for winter requirements, than they ever did before, but it would appear that some stocks are almost entirely consumed at the present time, and it will be approximately six weeks before supplies can be secured by the St. Lawrence route.

Prices are as follows:—

Antimony.—The market is steady at 8¼ to 8½c. (111).

Bar Iron and Steel.—The market promises to advance shortly. Bar iron, $1.85 per 100 pounds; best refined horseshoe, $2.10; forged iron, $2; mild steel, $1.85; sleigh shoe steel, $1.85 for 1 x ⅜-base; tire steel, $1.00 for 1 x ⅜-base; toe calk steel, $2.35; machine steel, iron finish, $1.90; imported, $2.20 (111, 119)

Building Paper.—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounces, $1.80 per 100 pounds; felt paper, $2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; dry sheathing, No. 1, 30 to 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; tarred year will be the largest in the history of the country. Prices on foreign fibre, 55c. per roll; dry fibre, 45c. (See Roofing; also Tar and Pitch). (164).

Cement.—Canadian cement is quotable, as follows, in car lots, f.o.b., Montreal:—$1.30 to $1.40 per 350-lb. bbl., in 4 cotton bags, adding 10c. for each bag. Good bags re-purchased at 10c. each. Paper bags cost 2½ cents extra, or 10c. per bbl. weight. (26, 164).

Chain.—Prices have advanced considerably of late, being now as follows per 100 lbs.:—¼-inch, $5.10; 5-16-inch, $4.50; ⅜-inch, $3.70; 7-10-inch, $3.45; ½-inch, $3.35; 9-16-inch, $3.25; ⅝-inch, $3.20; ¾, ⅞ ,and 1-inch, $3.15.

Coal and Coke.—Anthracite, egg, stove or chestnut coal, $6.75 per ton, net; furnace coal, $6.50, net. Bituminous or soft coal: Run of mine, Nova Scotia coal, carload lots, basis, Montreal, $3.85 to $4 per ton; cannel coal, $9 per ton; coke, single ton, $5; large lots, special rates, approximately $4 f.o.b., cars, Montreal

Copper.—Prices are strong at 14¼ to 14½c.

Explosives and Accessories.—Dynamite, 50-lb. cases, 40 per cent. proof, 15c. in single case lots, Montreal. Blasting powder, 25-lb. kegs, $2.25 per keg. Special quotations on large lots of dynamite and powder. Detonator caps, case lots, containing 10,000, 75c. per 100; broken lots, $1; electric blasting apparatus:—Batteries, 1 to 10 holes, $15; 1 to 20 holes, $25; 1 to 30 holes, $35; 1 to 40 holes, $50. Wire, leading, 1c. per foot; connecting, 50c. per lb. Fuses, platinum, single strength, per 100 fuses:—4-ft. wires, $3; 6-ft. wires, $3.54; 8-ft. wires, $4.08; 10-ft. wires, $5.

Galvanized Iron.—The market is steady. Prices, basis, 28-gauge, are:—Queen's Head, $4.10; Colborne Crown, $3.85; Apollo, 10¾ oz., $4.05. Add 25c. to above figures for less than case lots; 26-gauge is 25c. less than 28-gauge, American 28-gauge and English 26 are equivalents, as are American 10¾ oz., and English 28-gauge. (111).

Galvanized Pipe.—(See Pipe, Wrought and Galvanized).

Iron.—The outlook is strong. The following prices are for carload quantities and over, ex-store, Montreal, prompt delivery; No. 1 Summerlee, $21.50 to $22 per ton; selected Summerlee, $21 to $21.50; soft Summerlee, $20.50 to $21; Clarence, $19.50 to $20; Carron, No. 1, $21.50 to $22, and Carron special, $21 to $21.50. (111).

Laths.—See Lumber, etc.

Lead.—Prices are about steady at $3.55 to $3.65.

Lead Wool.—$10.50 per hundred, $200 per ton, f.o.b., factory.

Lumber, Etc.—Prices on lumber are for car lots, to contractors, at mill points, carrying a freight of $1.50. Red pine, mill culls out, $18 to $22 per 1,000 feet; white pine, mill culls, $16 to $17. Spruce, 1-in. by 4-in. and up, $15 to $17 per 1,000 ft.; mill culls, $12 to $14. Hemlock, log run, culls out, $13 to $15. Railway Ties; Standard Railway Ties, hemlock or cedar, 35 to 45c. each, on a 5c. rate to Montreal. Telegraph Poles: Seven-inch top, cedar poles, 25-ft. poles, $1.35 to $1.50 each; 30-ft., $1.75 to $2; 35-ft., $2.75 to $3.25 each, at manufacturers' points, with 5c. freight rate to Montreal. Laths: Quotations per 1,000 laths, at points carring $1.50 freight rate to Montreal, $2 to $3. Shingles: Cedar shingles, same conditions as laths, X, $1.50; XX, 2.50; XXX, $3. (112).

Nails.—Demand for nails is better and prices are firmer, $2.40 per keg for cut, and $2.35 for wire, base prices. Wire roofing nails, 5c. lb.

Paints.—Roof, barn and fence paint, 90c. per gallon; girder, bridge, and structural paint for steel or iron—shop or field—$1.20 per gallon, in barrels; liquid red lead in gallon cans, $1.75 per gallon.

Pipe.Cast Iron.—The market shows a steady tone although demand is on the dull side. Prices are firm, and approximately as follows:—$32 for 6 and 8-inch pipe and larger; $33 for 3-inch and 4-inch at the foundry. Pipe, specials, $3 per 100 pounds. Gas pipe is quoted at about $1 more than the above. (74, 188).

Pipe.—Wrought and Galvanized.—Demand is about the same, and the tone is firm, though prices are steady, moderate-sized lots being: ¼-inch, $5.50 with 63 per cent. off for black, and 48 per cent. off for galvanized; ⅜-inch, $5.50, with 59 per cent. off for black and 44 per cent. off for galvanized; ½-inch, $8.50, with 69 per cent. off for black, and 59 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 71½ per cent. off for black, and 61½ per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, $11.50; 1-inch, $16.50; 1¼-inch, $22.50; 1½-inch, $27; 2-inch, $36; 2½-inch, $57.50; 3-inch, $75.50; 3½-inch. $95; 4-inch, $108.

Plates and Sheets.—Steel.—The market is steady. Quotations are: $2.20 for 3-16; $2.30 for ⅛, and $2.10 for ¼ and thicker; 12-gauge being $2.30; 14-gauge, $2.15; and 16-gauge, $2.10. (111).

Rails.—Quotations on steel rails are necessarily only approximate and depend upon specification, quantity and delivery required. A range of $30.50 to $31 is given for 60-lb. and 70-lb.; 80-lb. and heavier, being $30; rails, per gross ton of 2,240 lbs., f.o.b. mill. Re-laying rails are quoted at $27 to $29 per ton, according to condition of rail and location. (73).

Railway Ties.—See lumber, etc.

Roofing.—Ready roofing, two-ply, 70c. per roll; three-ply, 95c. per roll of 100 square feet. Roofing tin caps, 6c. lb.; wire roofing nails, 5c. lb. (See Building Paper; Tar and Pitch; Nails, Roofing). (164).

Rope.—Prices are steady, at 9c. per lb. for sisal, and 10½c. for Manila. Wire rope, crucible steel, six-strands, nineteen wires; ¼-in., $2.75; 5-16, $3.75; ⅜, $4.75; ½, $5.25; ⅝, $6.25; ¾, $8; ⅞, $10; 1-in., $12 per 100 feet. (132).

Spikes.—Railway spikes are firmer at $2.45 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at $2.85 per 100 pounds, base of ⅝ x 10-inch, and ⅝ x 12-inch. (132).

Steel Shafting.—Prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is on the dull side.

Telegraph Poles.—See lumber, etc.

Tar and Pitch.—Coal tar, $3.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing about 500 pounds; roofing pitch, No. 1, 70c. per 100 pounds; and No. 2, 55c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, $8.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, and $4.75 per half-barrel; refined coal tar, $4.50 per barrel; pine pitch, $4 per barrel of 180 to 200 pounds. (See building paper; also roofing).

Tin.—Prices are firm, at $34.50 to $35.

Zinc.—The tone is easy, at 5¾ to 6c.

CAMP SUPPLIES.

Beans.—Prime pea beans, $1.85 per bushel. (38).

Butter.—September and October creamery, 28 to 30c.; dairy, 22 to 23c.

Canned Goods.—Per Dozen.—Corn, 80 to 85; peas, $1.05 to $1.15; beans, 75 to 80c.; tomatoes, 82½ to 90c.; peaches, 2s, $1.65, and 3s, $2.65; pears, 2s, $1.60, and 3s, $2.30; salmon, best brands, 1-lb. talls, $1.87½, and flats, $2.02½; cheaper grades, 95c. to $1.65.

Cheese.—Finest, colored, 12¾c.; white, 13 to 13¼c.

Coffee.—Mocha, 20 to 25c.; Santos, 15 to 18c.; Rio, 10 to 12c. (38).

Dried Fruits.—Currants, Filiatras, 5¾ to 6½c.; choice, 8 to 9c.; dates, 4 to 5c.; raisins, Valentias, 5 to 6c.; California, seeded, 7½ to 9c.; Sultana, 8 to 10c. Evaporated apples, prime, 9¼ to 9¾c.

Eggs.—New laid, 26 to 27c.

Flour.—Manitoba, 1st patents, $5.80 per barrel; 2nd patents, $5.30; strong bakers, $5.10.

Molasses and Syrup.—Molasses, New Orleans, 27 to 28c.; Barbadoes, 40 to 50c.; Porto Rico, 40 to 45c.; syrup, barrels, 3¼c.; 2-lb. tins, 2 dozen to case, $2.50 per case.

Potatoes.—Per 90 lbs., good quality, 40 to 50c.

Rice and Tapioca.—Rice, grade B., in 100-lb. bags, $2.95 to $3; C.C., $2.90. Tapioca, medium pearl, 4½ to 4¾c.

Rolled Oats.—Oatmeal, $2.45 per bag; rolled oats, $2.20, bags.

Tea.—Japans, 20 to 38c.; Ceylons, 20 to 40c.; Ceylon, greens, 19 to 25c.; China, greens, 25 to 50c.; low-grades, down to 15c.

Fish.—Salted.—Medium cod, $7 per bbl.; herring, $5.25 per bbl.; salmon, $15.50 per bbl., for red, and $14 for pink. Smoked fish.—Bloaters, $1.10 per large box; haddies, 7½c. per lb.; kippered herring, per box, $1.20 to $1.25.

Provisions.—Salt Pork.—$30 to $34 per bbl.; beef, $16 per bbl.; smoked hams, 16 to 19c. per lb.; lard, 17 to 18c. for pure, and 11½ to 13½c. per lb. (38).

* * * *

Toronto, March 23rd, 1910.

A week's mild weather and sunshine has encouraged builders to activity of mind and body. There is an increasing demand for materials. Much cement is contracted for, to be moved by earliest water carriage while plain and fancy bricks are in request. Lumber is in growing demand, and dealers do not seem at all disquieted by the current talk of imposition against us by the United States of the maximum tariff.

Nothing new is to be said on the subject of metals, prices being well maintained all round. There are no changes in quotation of camp supplies, since those noted last week.

The following are wholesale prices for Toronto, where not otherwise explained, although for broken quantities higher prices are quoted:—