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1843—ESTABLISHED—1843

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two declines of 10c. per 100 lbs. each. This somewhat unexpected circumstance was due, not to any disturbance in the statistical position, but more probably to the local decline in New York. General groceries are commencing to take on the aspect of a larger movement instead of the restricted buying which has prevailed since the New Year. Teas in bulk are not moving very freely, however, the trade having apparently found that packtrade naving apparently found that package teas present better advantages to their customers. For syrups of all kinds the demand is active. These, together with California evaporated fruits and prunes form a very noticeable proportion of the distribution at present tion of the distribution at present

HARDWARE.—Prices and conditions remain about as they were when last reported, while any striking advance is improbable, yet at the same time there is no likelihood whatever of any decline in the immediate future for staple shelf goods. The spring trade is opening up, and orders are coming in freely for such articles as screen doors, window screens, articles as screen doors, window screens, poultry netting, spring hinges, corn planters, spades and shovels, churns, wire nails, etc. Orders are coming in fairly plentifully too, for immediate delivery. The pig iron market across the line is very dull and prices are weakening. Buyers would appear to be well supplied for some time to come. Latest reports to hand from Scotland show that an erratic market prevailed there. that an erratic market prevailed there, with little fresh business being transacted. Pig tin in both London and the United States shows an upward tendency.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Trade has picked up somewhat during the past week, with a better demand prevailing. This duplicates the course of trade in this line in Chicago, though it is somewhat quiet there even now.

PROVISIONS.—Butter has been coming in more freely, and the market is a shade easier, the supplies being almost entirely large rolls which is selling at 18c. to 19c. Cheese is quiet and easy. The hog products market is firm, with not much doing, the high prices prevailing for hogs curtailing transactions. Eggs are easier, new-laid selling at 22c., pickled at 14c. and held fresh at 14c. to 16c.

Wool.—Offerings or wool at outside points are fairly large, but with the absence of demand from the United States, there is practically no business being transacted. At the London sale on the 19th the offerings numbered 13,169 bales. Bidding was generally at previous rates. Sellers in some cases asked an advance, without results. As a consequence 2,150 bales were withdrawn. Competition for fine scoureds was good, but the commoner grades, which were in large supply, were slow. Merinos sold freely at full rates. Crossbreds, which totalled over one-third of the offerings, sold largely to Vorkships. Suitable good largely to Yorkshire. Suitable good greasy was taken by American purchasers. The offerings for this week are 81,ooo bales.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

January 23, 1901. Ashes.—There is very little English demand, and the market is a dull one with easier values prevailing. First quality pots, average tares, have been bought at \$5. and seconds are quoted at about \$4.60. Of pearls there are none in stock or offering.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—January has been a very dull month in these lines, but with the advent of February some little improvement in demand is calculated on. We quote: Belgian cement, \$2 to \$2.20; English, \$2.40 to \$2.50; German, \$2.55 to \$2.65; firebricks, \$18 to \$26 per thousand.

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