

profit by his own wrong. This was well devised to secure the end of all free trade, namely, that nature, not artifice, should determine the channels of production. Every economist knows that a bounty on exportation is "a pernicious" but most successful form of aggressive protection, unless it is intercepted by a countervailing customs duty, and thus prevented from interfering with the natural course of "trade." (*Gladstone.*)

Lord Montague, in his famous speech in the House of Lords on the Import Duties justifies countervailing duties thus: "It would obviously be the height of all injustice were a state to permit the import of articles, the subjects of foreign bounties, to compete with similar home productions burthened with heavy duty." And further on in his speech, he said: "I believe that the skill, the industry, the capital, and unconquerable perseverance of the industrious classes of this country will, if the Legislature give them fair play, be more than a match for the competition of all the countries of the earth."

Lord Clarendon characterized Lord Montague's speech as "a statement more powerful, more replete with facts of the most important character, and with deductions the most logical and conclusive, it had rarely been his fortune to hear."

Sir Robert Peel. I could quote many appropriate passages from Sir Robert's speeches and other eminent statesmen. In all I find the words "reciprocity"—"fair play"—"equality," coupled with measures calculated to make them realities.

I have distinctly proved a case of manifest injustice and, unless my authorities are impugned, or my reasoning illogical, it is surely the clear duty of the Government and Legislature to grant me fair play. I ask only common justice, nothing equal to the protection afforded the other manufacturers of the Dominion.

You have done the cause good service by conceding a countervailing duty, and I very earnestly pray you will continue your powerful aid till our efforts are crowned with success.

Yours respectfully,

GEORGE GORDON DUSTAN.

Woodside, Halifax, N.S.

11th April, 1878.

Commercial.

MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, APRIL 11th, 1878.

MONTREAL, APRIL 18th, 1878.

The wholesale trade continues fairly active, and repeat orders in the dry-goods line are being received, showing that stocks purchased from sample are being pretty well reduced. The fine weather of this week has given quite a stimulus to the retail dry-goods trade, and a large quantity of goods are being disposed of. Remittances are improving. The money market is dull and unchanged. Stocks continue to tend upwards, and are firm, out of sympathy with the Bank of Montreal, which advanced in consequence of a 6 per cent dividend being declared. Some of our local Wall Street brokers did not believe that the Bank would be able to declare such a handsome dividend, and, having bought "short," are losers in consequence.

ASHES.—Receipts of Pots, light, sales during the week at \$3.90 to \$4.60 for light to good tares; two or three small bills sold at rather higher, for very heavy tares. No Inferiors received or sold this week. **Pearls.**—A few brls. Firsts sold for local use. We quote nominal at \$5.75 to \$6 for new. The receipts since 1st January have been 1,755 brls Pots and 60 brls. Pearls. The deliveries 514 brls. Pots and 310 brls. Pearls; and the stock in store on Wednesday evening was 3,135 brls Pots and 403 brls Pearls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There is a little more animation in trade the present week, the fine

weather causing an improved demand for light Spring and Summer goods, of which stocks in first hands are light. Prices are without change.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—During the past week business has been rather quiet in heavy lines, but country orders have been coming in pretty freely. We have no change to note in prices, which continue firm.

DRY GOODS.—The city retail trade for the last few days has been very busy, and the good results following a large lessening of those engaged in this line of business are now being felt. The wholesale people have had a good many buyers here, making their Spring purchases, during the last few days, and we hear of a good many repeat orders having been sent down of late from the West, which goes to prove that those who had bought from sample early are beginning to get already sold out of some desirable lines. Remittances continue to improve as the weeks wear on, and now that navigation has some prospect of being open eventually, let us hope that a turn for the better will be slowly realized.

FLOUR.—The demand has been moderate throughout the week, and prices are unchanged. Holders have refused to make any concessions, seeing that flour is now relatively cheaper than wheat, whilst buyers have been unwilling to take more than is necessary to supply their immediate wants. The stock shows an increase of about 4,000 barrels, within a fortnight, being now 72,000 against 68,000.

FURS AND SKINS.—No change to report and few skins offering. We quote:—Rat, Fall, 8c. to 10c.; Rat, Winter, 9 to 11c.; Rat, Spring, 11c. to 13c.; Fox, Red, \$1.00 to \$1.10; Mink, dark prime, \$1.00 to \$1.50; Mink, western, 50c. to 75c.; Fisher, \$3.00 to \$5.00; Otter, dark prime, \$4.00 to \$6.00; Beaver, Fall, clean pelt per lb, \$1.00 to \$1.20; Beaver, Winter, clean pelt per lb, \$1.25 to \$1.50; Marten, pale, 75c.; Bear, large prime, \$6.00 to \$8.00; Bear, medium prime, \$4.00 to \$6.00; Bear Cubs, \$3.00 to \$4.00; Lynx, \$1.25 to \$1.75.

HAIRDWARE.—In this line a good, steady trade is being done. A number of buyers are in town, though not quite so many as during the two previous weeks. A number of orders are being taken for shipment as soon as navigation opens. Comparatively few orders come from the West, as buyers can purchase as cheaply in Western markets, and the difference in freight operates against Montreal. The Grand Trunk will not reduce its rates till the Lachine Canal opens. Prices remain unchanged.

LEATHER.—Within the last day or two there has been a better feeling, and a very fair demand for such stock as Bull, Pebble and light Splits. Slaughter only in moderate demand. Light Buffalo Sole continues in good demand. We quote, No. 1, 20c; No. 2, 18c. Light waxed Upper will soon be wanted, but at present tanners do not feel inclined to accept the low price offered. There has been rather more firmness in the Hide market the past week. We do not think it advisable to alter quotations.

LIVE STOCK.—The arrivals of live stock at Point St. Charles last week were fifty-one carloads of cattle, 992 hogs, two mixed loads of cattle and sheep, and a carload of sheep. To the above there has been added this week seven carloads of cattle and 311 hogs. A good business has been done, but there are a good many cattle remaining unsold. Prices ranged from 3c to 6c per lb, the latter price being paid only for a few very extra cattle. A sale of four calves at \$8.50 each is reported. Some apprehension has been felt among dealers engaged in the export trade with reference to the effect of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon's Cattle Bill now before the Imperial Parliament, one provision of which required Canadian cattle to be slaughtered at the port of entry. That apprehension has been removed by a Cable despatch just received. The Government has agreed to relax the clause, and cattle from the Dominion will be admitted on the same conditions as Irish beasts. This satisfactory result has been brought about by the prompt and effective action of the Canadian Government.

We are pleased to observe that the character of Canadian bred cattle is keeping up in the United States. At a recent sale at Lexington, Kentucky, five Jerseys, bred by Mr. Romeo Stephens, at St. Lambert, sold for the following prices, \$340, \$290, \$235, \$320 and \$230. The demand for Canadian horses keeps up in England. A private letter states that a pair of Canadian carriage horses were recently sold in Liverpool for 350 guineas. And who wouldn't be a Canadian hog, provided they could be accommodated with such a luxurious residence as a Mr. Eddy of Finchville, Ky., has provided for a drove of choice Berkshires which he recently imported from Canada. The building is made of heavy stone, and through it runs a hallway 600 feet long, traversed by a rippling stream of water. Perfect light, ventilation, and other essentials to porcine comfort have been secured, and the entire establishment cost \$20,000.

LUMBER.—The *Timber Trades Journal* notices a considerable revival of activity in the London market. There is a greater willingness to buy, and stocks are moving off from the docks in an increasing ratio, which is pleasant to see. A certain weakness in prices, however, is admitted, as well as a positive drop in some kinds of goods, but neither has been sufficient to cause any stagnation of business as in regular bad times. Simson & Mason's wood circular confirms the above. At Liverpool comparatively few ships are being chartered, and those which have been engaged have been taken at low rates, especially for Canadian ports, and very few contracts have been closed at free-on-board prices, unless at low figures. We may therefore expect that the ensuing import season will bring a larger proportion of Canadian goods upon the open market than has been the case for some years past. Mr. Shane, editor of the *Lumberman's Journal*, published in London, Eng., was examined before the Immigration and Colonization Committee at Ottawa a few days ago with reference to the lumber trade. In his evidence he stated that the best Canadian white pine was in great demand in England for the finest joiner's work, but the importation had fallen off because a sufficient quantity of first-class pine could not be had. There were some 287,000 square miles of lumberlands in Canada. He gave interesting information regarding the English lumber trade, the supply in Northern Europe, etc. A Troy despatch says that the lumbering trade of Northern New York is unusually meagre this season. The quantity cut is 56,000,000 feet less than the preceding year, and one-third of that could not be transported to the mills owing to lack of snow. From the Muskoka district the reports are encouraging. The mills at Ottawa are expected to commence work next Monday. It is stated that Henry Fry & Co., of Quebec, have received a contract from the Imperial Government for the supply of timber required for the current year. The following are the prices in the Montreal retail market:

Ash, 1 to 4 in., per M.....	\$16 00	to	\$20 00
Ash, timber, per M.....	20 00	to	25 00
Birch, 1 to 4 in., per M.....	18 00	to	22 00
Basswood, 3 to 2 in., per M.....	12 00	to	15 00
Basswood, extra wide, per M.....	16 00	to	20 00
Black Walnut, per M.....	60 00	to	110 00
Cedar, round, lineal foot.....	00 04	to	00 07
Cedar, flat, lineal foot.....	00 03	to	00 05
Cedar, square, lineal foot.....	00 07	to	00 09
Elm, 1 to 4 in., per M.....	18 00	to	25 00
Elm, timber, per M.....	20 00	to	25 00
Elm, Rock, 1 to 4 in., per M.....	50 00	to	40 00
Hemlock, 1 to 3 in., per M.....	08 00	to	10 00
Hemlock, 3x3, scantling, each.	00 07	to	00 08
Hemlock, 3x4, scantling, each.	00 00	to	00 09
Hemlock, timber, per M.....	10 00	to	12 00
Maple, hard, per M.....	20 00	to	30 00
Oak, 1 to 4 in., per M.....	40 00	to	50 00
Pine, good clear, per M.....	25 00	to	35 00
Pine, sound, 1 in., planed.....	13 00	to	15 00
Pine, sound flooring, planed.....	11 00	to	12 00
Pine, roofing, planed, per M.....	10 00	to	11 00
Pine, strips, 1 to 2 in., per M.....	07 00	to	10 00
Pine, strips, planed, 1 to 2 in., per M.....	09 00	to	11 00