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SAYS the Ottawa Journal: The lumbermen at the Chaudiere are keeping abreast of the times in new and improved methods. Up to this season most of the lumber firms have been using in their mill a piece of machinery known as a "hog," which is a sort of cone shaped iron basin studded with sharp knives. This is situated beneath the saws, and the edgings and waste fall from the saws into it and are chopped into sawdust by the knives, and fall through the small end of the cone into the river. By this system much lumber suitable for making lath and other small lumber is wasted. Messrs. J. R. Booth & Co. are doing away with this piece of machinery, and are constructing a large lath mill, so that the waste lumber may be manufactured into lath. Other firms have also adopted this idea.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Feb. 1st, 1888.

There has been no cessation of the very stormy weather noted last week. Railway trains both east and south have been in some cases twenty-four hours late, and travel over country roads has been next to an impossibility. That this state of affairs should have its effect on wholesale trade is not to be wondered at, and we have to chronicle a rather quiet week as regards the movement of merchandise; payments have not fallen off so much as might be expected, and may be called fair, all things considered.

ASHES.—The continued stormy weather seems to affect the receipts of ashes which are very light. Trading is not active, but the market shows further advance, and first quality pots are quoted at \$4.30, seconds nominally \$3.90 to 4.00. Nothing doing in pearls.

FISH.—Dealers are now laying in their supplies for Lent, and there is a good all-round demand, while for green cod there is very brisk enquiry. Stocks of salmon are getting light. We quote Labrador herrings \$4.25 to 4.50; Cape Bretons \$5.50; dry cod \$4.25 to 4.50; green cod \$4.50 to \$4.75 for No. 1, large \$5.50 to 5.75; North Shore salmon \$13 to 16 as to grade, B. C. ditto \$12 to 13.00.

BOOTS, SHOES AND LEATHER.—There is little new here; the boot and shoe trade await with some anxiety the results of payments falling due the 4th Feb'y. In leather the demand has not livened up as was hoped, stocks show no diminution, and prices cannot be called any firmer. We quote:—Spanish sole, B. A. No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, B. A., 20 to 22c.; No. 1 Ordinary Spanish 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; No. 1 China, 20 to 21c.; No. 2, 18 to 19c.; Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1, 24 to 27c.; oak sole, 41 to 45c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 37c.; ditto, heavy 31 to 35c.; Grained 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained 36 to 42c.; Splits large 16 to 26c.; do. small 12 to 18c.; Calf-splits, 32 to 33c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46 lbs.), 55 to 70c.; Imitation French Calf skins 75 to 85c.; Russet Sheepskin Linings, 30 to 40c.; Harness 24 to 33c.; Buffed Cow, 12 to 14c.; Pebbled Cow, 10 to 14c.; Rough 23 to 26c.; Russet and Bridle, 54 to 55c.

DRY GOODS.—Trade does not show any increase from a week ago, indeed matters are

rather quieter, as the widespread stormy weather has had its effect on orders. But aside from this retailers do not seem in a hurry to fill up with spring stock. New goods are pretty well forward, though late lots are somewhat delayed by impeded traffic on the railways. As far as can be gleaned from present indications the volume of importations this spring will be lighter than last year. Collections may be classed as fair all things considered, and there are no further complications reported in the trade here.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There is a moderate jobbing trade in progress, but no large movement of heavy chemicals. Bleaching powder is rather firmer at home owing to reduced production; tartaric acid and cream tartar easier, with lower quotations to arrive for the former. Canada balsam is very scarce and firm; ergot advanced and likely to go higher; camphor dearer for crude, and higher prices likely to prevail for refined; canary and caraway seeds firmer; Paris green advanced in U.S.; quicksilver very firm. We quote:—Sal Soda \$1.00 to \$1.05; Bi-Carb Soda \$2.40 to \$2.50; Soda Ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.70 to \$1.80; Bichromate of Potash, per 100 lbs., \$11 to \$13.00; Borax, refined, 9½ to 11c.; Cream Tartar crystals, 34 to 36c.; do. ground, 36 to 38c.; Tartaric Acid crystal 54 to 55c.; do. powder, 55 to 60c.; Citric Acid, 75 to 80c.; Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 10 to 11c.; Bleaching Powder, \$2.50 to \$2.60; Alum, \$1.65 to \$1.70; Copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; Flowers Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.60 to \$2.75; Roll Sulphur, \$2.00 to \$2.25; Sulphate of Copper, \$5.50 to \$6.00; Epsom Salts, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre \$8.75 to \$9.25; American Quinine, 65 to 70c.; German Quinine, 65 to 70c.; Howard's Quinine, 70 to 80c.; Opium, \$5.25 to \$5.75; Morphia, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Gum Arabic sorts, 80 to 90c.; White, \$1 to \$1.25; Carbolic Acid, 55 to 70c.; Iodide Potassium, \$4.00 to 4.25 per lb.; Iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00; Iodoform \$5.75 to \$6.25. Prices for essential oils are: Oil lemon \$2.00 to \$2.50; oil bergamot \$3.00 to \$3.50; Orange, \$3.50; oil peppermint, \$3.50 to \$4.50; Glycerine 30 to 35c.; Senna, 15 to 25c. for ordinary. English Camphor, 45 to 50c. American do. 35 to 38c. Insect powder 70 to 90c.

FURS.—Receipts continue very moderate, and close sorting is the rule in buying. All unprime skins being rejected. Prices tend towards a lower basis if anything. We quote for prime skins:—Beaver, \$3.50 to \$4 per lb.; bear, \$10.00 to \$12.00; cub do., \$4.00 to \$5.00; fisher, \$5; red fox, \$1.00; cross do., \$2 to \$5; lynx, \$2.00 to \$2.50; marten, 65 to 80c.; mink, 50 to 60c.; fall muskrat 8c., winter muskrat, 12c.; raccoon, 25c., 50c., and 75c.; skunk, 25c., 50c., 75c.; otter \$8.00 to \$10.00.

HIDES.—The demand from tanners is a little better, and prices are steady at former rates. Hamilton hides have sold at 8c. for No. 1, Toronto hides quote at 8 to 8½c., green hides 7, 6, and 5c. for Nos. 1, 2, and 3; calfskins 8c., lambskins 70 to 75c.

GROCERIES.—In this line the frequent storms and impeded traffic in the country have affected the volume of trade to some extent. Sugars maintain their strong position, granulated being 7½c. at refinery in wholesale lots. Paris lumps 8½c., yellows 6½ to 6¼c.; syrups still very scarce at 42 to 60c.; molasses very firm at 39 to 40c. Teas show a steady tone in all lines, and sales of one or two large lots of common Japans are reported at 14 to 15c., with a fair general demand in other lines. For coffees the demand is not particularly brisk; we quote Mocha 25 to 27c., Java 22 to 24c., Ceylon 22 to 25c., Rio 21 to 22c. Dried fruits show only a moderate movement, with little change in values; Valencia raisins are quoted at 5½ to 6½c., sultanas 8c., currants in very light supply and firm at 6½ to 7c.; no prunes in this market, in New York Turkish are quoted at 3½c. in wholesale lots; evaporated apples 11 to 12c., dried ditto 6½ to 7c.; walnuts 9 to 15c.; filberts 8 to 9c.; figs 11 to 14c. Canned goods moving slowly, and prices as quoted last week still hold. Tobacco, spices and rice show no change.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Business in pig iron has been quiet, though some large consumers have been making enquiries as to future deliveries; firmness marks local prices. Glasgow warrants are cabled at 41/1d. Finished iron is in better demand at the higher prices lately established; tin plates also firm with a