

Merchants at 53½ to 94 to 98½; 196 Ontario at 78½ to 77½; 100 Molsons at 84 to 83½; 527 Commerce at 123 to 122½ to 123; 8 Eastern Townships at 102½; 32 Jacques Cartier at 72; 355 Montreal Telegraph at 94½ to 95½; 167 City Passenger at 96½ to 96; 50 Silver Plume Mining at 69 to 70; 175 City Gas at 122½ to 122½; 40 Dominion Telegraph at 64½ to 64; 12 Richelieu Navigation at 40½; 2400 Dominion Telegraph Bonds at 95. To-day, under a continuance of inactivity approaching stagnation, the following sales are recorded: 37 Bank of Montreal at 136½ to 136½; 65 Ontario at 78 to 77½; 9 People's at 78½; 40 Merchants at 93½; 132 Montreal Telegraph at 96 to 96½; 75 City Gas at 122½, and 8 City Passenger Railway at 96.

ASHES.—Receipts for June are fair, prices of Pots are stronger. The past week about 150 barrels have been sold at \$4.60 for Firsts, Seconds, \$3.30. Thirds scarce, \$3.20. Pearls have sold at \$5.10 for choice Firsts. Seconds and Thirds at about \$4.50 and \$4.00, receipts of the latter being trifling. Market for Pots closes firm; for Pearls, rather weak. Receipts since 1st January, 4,052 barrels Pots, 620 barrels Pearls. Deliveries, 3,392 barrels Pots, 306 barrels Pearls. Stock in store at six o'clock on Wednesday evening, 522 barrels Pots and 418 barrels Pearls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Apart from preparations for fall orders, about to open, there is little to report in this trade. Manufacturers are looking about for supplies, and picking up anything inviting that can be found, but it is yet too early for free purchases, which as a rule, under a normal condition of the market, are deferred until orders actually in hand determine requirements. Prices are complained of as low beyond the power of figures to explain. A single instance may be cited in ladies' buff balmaines, which are selling at the same price as last year, or at most at an advance of 5 per cent., while the goods cost on a moderate estimate at least fifteen per cent. more now than then. As competition was of the sharpest a year ago, it is difficult to calculate even an apparent profit to the manufacturer on the present basis. These are facts patent to the trade, and on their face they present the anomaly of doing business without any discoverable margin for bad debts, or for profits in case no bad debts are made. Some few travelers are out, and so far as heard from they report a very encouraging look to affairs in the country, based on the good promise of the crops.

CATTLE.—The market for the past week has been brisk, attended with a slight advance in prices over last week's figures. Monday's market was well attended by shippers, who bought the greater quantity early in the forenoon, leaving but a small number for the local trade. The prices paid were: good shipping from 5c. to 5½c. per lb.; Butchers from 4c. to 5c. per lb. Good calves brought from \$4.50 to \$6.50 each. Lambs from \$4 to \$5 each. Hogs, \$5.50 to \$5.75 per 100 lbs.

DAY GOODS.—Business is very quiet, fittingly to the season, and any house finding it better than this may well consider itself favored. The figures of the season's sales still compare favorably, so far as we can gather, with those for the corresponding period last year, and would do so after making every allowance at increased prices, but the number of houses has been considerably reduced since that time by failures, and so it is plausibly claimed there is very likely no real increase of business but merely a change in its distribution. It is impossible to collect data to determine this point, and we do not know that it is a material one to taking a cheerful view of the situation, since on the facts presented business is clearly on a sounder basis, and the profits will naturally be increased. The spirit of reaction has extended to this trade, and we have to record a reduction in Hudson Mills cotton yarns of 2c, from 28c to 26c, and in three-ply cotton bags of \$2, from \$28.50 to \$26.50. Some surprise has been expressed that the

Hudson Mills were permitted to take the initiative in this action, and that the example has not yet met with a following. Payments give no occasion for complaint, but the month is naturally a very light one for maturing bills.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There is very little to note by way of change in the aspect of affairs in this line. The market is still unsettled and dull. In England a good many orders have been coming in, but at such prices as manufacturers do not care to accept; as considerable stocks are accumulating on hand, it is expected that a break will have to take place. Prices here are nominally unchanged.

GROCERIES.—Sugars have ruled firm in this market for Refined Yellows, and an advance is to be noted of about ½c. for grades up to granulated, which is unchanged. In raw sugars some activity has prevailed, but market closes dull. Stock in New York remains large. *Texas.*—Some new crop Japan is offering, but as yet few sales are reported. Market holds firm for most kinds, and sales of about 1,000 pkgs. have been effected within a few days at full figures. Stocks are not heavy. *Coffees,* dull. *Arabic,* \$4 to \$4.40 as to lot and quality. *Spices,* unchanged; business light. *Fruits,* Valencia raisins No. 1, about 7½c. to 8½c.; layers steady. Currants dull.

HARDWARE.—A moderate business in manufactured goods continues, and is found satisfactory. The cut nail price list is maintained as in our prices current, but no one, so far as we learn, claims to be getting more than \$3.50 for 3 in. and on that basis. The only reduction in prices for the week is in Canada Plates, which are down 25c. to \$3.75 for Hutton and \$4.00 for Penn and Garth. Our quotations for tin plates are still too high, and should be regarded as nominal; we defer making a reduction until more general assent is given to the change. In the meantime a better guide to the state of the market is the fact that sales of I. C. charcoal are making in ordinary wholesale lots at \$7.25. The market for pig iron is now sufficiently established to justify quotations, and we give Gartscherrie \$17.50, Summerlee \$17.50; with other brands proportionately lower according to quality. The market seems to have found bottom, and that is about all that can be said of it. A bid of \$15 cash for 500 tons on the wharf has been made and not accepted. Sales of moderate lots have transpired at \$16.50, \$17.25 and \$17.50. It is understood that a considerable quantity of stock has changed hands at about these prices, and the end of the supply under special pressure is generally deemed close at hand. The very low prices have usually been made for stock on the wharf, which ought to be \$1 or so cheaper than stock in yard on account of saving expenses. Our quotation of \$17.50 is, however, for wholesale lots under the ordinary conditions.

HIDES.—The demand is eager at unchanged prices, and tanners find a double occasion for grumbling: first at the prices they have to pay, and next that they cannot get sufficient supplies at the prices. The current explanation of this is that there seems to be more money in competition for the purchase of hides than the profits of the business would ordinarily be considered to warrant. If this be the true state of the case, it is an evil that time alone will remedy, but it may be relied upon that ultimately capital will insist upon fairly remunerative employment.

HOES.—Trifling sales have taken place in this market since last report at varying prices, with 30c. as the maximum figure obtained for extra choice quality for one or two bale lots. The only sale of which we are advised which would seem to be any test of the true state of the market is that of a lot of 20 bales at 27½c., very good stock. We note a report of sales ranging from 30c. to 32c., about, but this is surely incorrect, for no transactions at such figures are known to the trade here and there has been no time when the very choicest stock

in the market has not been notoriously seeking a buyer at 30c. The New York market is substantially unchanged, and prices continue within the range of 32c. to 40c. for good to fancy stock.

FREIGHTS.—A plethora of regular steamer tonnage and a dearth of "irregular" give rates a wide range. Regular steamers to Liverpool, London and Glasgow make engagements for heavy grain at 3s. 6d. to 4s. per quarter, while vessels on orders obtain 5s. 6d. to 5s. 9d., and are in good request at these figures. We hear of an offer now under consideration of 5s. 6d. the season through, as many trips as can be made to the continent for a large steamer now several days outward bound. We are reminded that there is still to come to this port during the present season some 23,000 tons of steer rails, according to the contract for the purchase of 50,000 tons by the Government last year, and this tonnage will necessarily be seeking engagement in addition to the ordinary arrivals.

FRUITS.—The activity of this market is now centered in oranges, which continue to move off freely at \$8 to \$8.50 per case. A large consignment of very fine bananas has been placed on the market since last report meeting with ready sale at \$3 to \$3.50 per bunch, according to size. The first strawberries of the season have made their appearance, going quickly into consumption at 22c to 25c per quart, fancy prices which will of course disappear with the next consignment. Other fruits are unchanged. The lot of coconuts before mentioned is now in port, but has not yet been placed on the market.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—Shipments of grain are now fairly active, and the season is showing a gratifying increase in the volume of business as it advances. The total receipts of grain at this port last week were 533,738 bushels, against 423,061 bushels for the corresponding week last year, an increase of 110,677 bushels. The shipments of American Red Winter wheat No. 2 are large; none of Canadian wheat are reported. We are favored with a late report of the Continental markets to the effect that, after a period of torrid weather, the temperature turned quite cold, and the want of rain was much felt. Markets very firm and advancing. Orders in this market are now quite numerous for the continent, Antwerp and France, at prices allowing about \$1.20 for wheat and 5s. 6d. for freight, shipment immediate. The first shipment of buckwheat to Europe ever made from this port took place during the week, namely, 5,000 bushels per steamer Dalton for Havre, price 55c per 50 lbs. Coarse grains have witnessed a very good demand at a considerable advance in prices. A cargo of pence was done early in the week at 88½c, since when the price has steadily moved up to 90c to 91c. Oats have also improved, and sales have taken place at different prices up to 30½c. Corn has advanced to about 52c for immediate shipment, and late sales are reported at 51c to arrive within ten days. A further marked decline has taken place in the flour market, and this has induced much more active dealings. Superior Extra has commanded most attention, and large sales are reported, but other brands have witnessed a better business than for a long time past. The reported sales foot up over 5,000 barrels. The following is the range of prices for the week for actual sales: Superior Extra, \$5.75 to \$5.50 to \$5.52½; Spring Extra, \$5.70 to \$5.55; Strong Bakers, \$5.40 to \$5.30; Medium Bakers, \$5.30 to \$5.20; Middlings, \$4.10; Extra Superfine, \$5.45 and \$5.50; Superfine, \$5.25; Fine, \$4.60; Choice Strong Bakers, \$6.60 to \$6.50; Ontario bags, \$2.90 to \$2.75, to \$2.60.

FURS.—Spring collection of raw furs is about all in, and shippers are forwarding for the next London sales, to take place on the 5th to 13th July. Quotations are now nominal.

LEATHER.—The market for black leather is quite firm, and an improved inquiry is reported. We hear of the sale of a lot of 750 sides of heavy