

8½c. per lb. Supplies of eggs are coming forward very freely, and city picklers, as well as those at country points, are busily employed. At Ontario points 8½c. per dozen is quoted, but in the city 9½c. to 10c. is the standard price.

DRY GOODS.—The wholesale warehouses are not usually active at this season of the year. The spring movement is over and the only business doing is in the sorting trade. Considerable interest, however, is turned to the purchase of autumn supplies. Many buyers of carpets, tweeds, serges and suitings, have finished their work, and returned from the United Kingdom and the Continent. Those representatives entrusted with the purchase of men's furnishings, silks, satins, dress goods, linens, gloves, prints, small wares and haberdashery of all kinds, are still abroad making selections for the autumn. Values remain on the whole very steady, and few if any changes of importance have been made during the past two weeks.

GREEN FRUITS.—There are free offerings of California oranges, but the demand is also good, and stocks do not accumulate. The following quotations are submitted: Washington Navel, 90s, 112s, 126s, \$3.25 per box; do., 150s, 176s, 200s, 216s, \$3.50 per box; California Seedlings, 150s, 176s, 200s, 216s, \$2.50 per box; do., 120s, 250s, \$2.25 per box. The fine weather of the past few days has resulted in an increased consumption of lemons, and prices are firm. We quote: New Messina, fancy, 300s, 300s, \$2.75 to \$3; do., choice, 300s, 300s, \$2.50 to \$2.75. The consumption of bananas is increasing, but enquiries are still for small lots. There is only a small trade in pine-apples as yet, but the trade is developing. The local movement in apples is limited. Several large export shipments of cold stored apples are being made. The experiment was made last year, but dealers were not satisfied with the test of the markets then made, and by large shipments hope to get a more accurate idea of the possibilities of this trade.

GRAIN.—There are fair offerings of wheat when the season of the year is considered. Red winter is quoted at 83c. at outside points. Barley is quiet and uninteresting. At 48c. rye is somewhat weaker. For corn there is a steady market, dealers quoting 31c. per bushel. Peas continue without change. For oats there is fair enquiry, 28c. being quoted at outside points.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—Business has opened up nicely. There is a decided improvement in the situation within the past two or three weeks. Large shipments of barbed wire and ordinary fence wire have been brought here recently from the United States. The Canadian manufacturers appear to have lost their hold on the wire market since the reduction in the customs tariff. Prices are very low, merchants quoting \$2 f.o.b. Toronto. Orders for spring supplies are being freely booked. viz.: Screen doors, screen windows, harvest implements, garden tools and lawn mowers. There has been a brisk demand for ropes, and prices have advanced, merchants quoting manilla on a basis of 8c., and sisal 7½c. per lb. In iron pipe there is considerable activity, and from 1½ to 1¾ per ft. is quoted for from ¼ to 2-in. pipe. A new brand of horseshoe nails has recently been placed on the market, made in only one pattern countersunk head, which is being offered at 20 per cent less than the regular prices. In metals trade is fairly steady, and most lines have an upward tendency. Ingot tin is firm at 16¼ to 16½c. Ingot copper has advanced materially, selling now at 12¾c. in quantity, and 13c. in small lots. Sheet copper is accordingly firmer in price. Sheet zinc is firm at 5½c. in cask lots, and 5¾c. quoted for broken parcels.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The hide market is rather weak in tone, and values have an easy tendency. For green hides merchants are paying 8c. for No. 1 Toronto inspected, and 1c. per lb. less for each lower grade. Cured hides are quoted at 8½ to 8¾c. per

lb. Calfskins are coming forward slowly, and are quoted at 8 to 10c. per lb. There is little doing in sheepskins. Tallow is dull and quiet. From Chicago, March 29, we have the following: "Market was irregular. There was a limited enquiry for light hides, and they sold at steady prices; but for heavy hides demand was flat, with packers looking for bids. The close was at 10¾ to 11c. for native steers, 9¾ to 10c. for Texas, 9½c. for butt brands, 9¼ to 9½c. for branded cows, 8¼ to 8¾c. for Colorado, 9¾ for heavy native cows and 10c. for light do."

PROVISIONS.—For pork products there is good demand, extending over all staple lines. Dry-salted meats are active, while barrel pork finds good request. Prices are steady at former quotations. Dressed hogs are coming in freely for the season of the year, and the receipts are considerably larger than was expected. Light-weights continue to be the principal part of the offerings, and few heavy hogs are coming forward. Products of the heavier class are in short supply. Merchants quote select weights at \$5.90 to \$6, and heavy-weights, \$5.75 to \$5.80 per cwt.

WOOL.—The local market is very quiet and the offerings coming forward are unwashed and limited in amount, bringing 10 to 11c. per lb. There continues to be a good attendance at the London wool auction sales. The bidding has been active, and the tone of the sale firm. The offerings at late auctions consisted principally of merinos. The Continental buyers took the most of Queensland greasy, a supply of scoured and good cross-breds, which were principally medium.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 30th March, 1898.

ASHES.—There is neither improvement in the demand nor any increase in receipts, and the business doing is of a limited peddling character. For first quality of pots about \$3.50 to \$5.50 is being realized for good tars, seconds \$3.15 to \$3.20, pearls \$4.50 to 4.75 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—A good local demand is now reported for small lots of cement, but no large orders for import are being placed as yet. European markets continue very firm, and shaded cable offers for round lots have been declined. Prices for new stocks to arrive have not yet been fixed, and sales from stock continue to be made at \$2.10 to 2.20 for British, and \$1.95 to 2.05 for Belgian. Firebricks sell at from \$17 to \$22 as to brand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—In cheese there is still an almost total absence of business, and the same difficulty, as before stated, exists with regard to establishing a quotation, though about 7½c. is regarded as about the limit for fine goods. The butter market is steady, with good demand for fresh made goods; new creamery is held at 20 to 21c., held stock 18 to 19c.; there is a scarcity of new dairy, but a fair supply of rolls at 17 to 18c. Eggs are in large supply, and have been quoted as low as 9½c. per doz.

DRY GOODS.—Trade in general dry goods is keeping up very steadily. The cut railway rates continue to attract country dealers to the city in order to make personal selections. Wholesale houses say they have not seen so many of their customers for years as within this month, and are much gratified at being able to come into personal contact with their clients. In the city the large departmental stores are well employed, but the general run of retailers do not seem over busy. Country collections are satisfactory for the season of the year.

FURS.—The report of Lampson & Co.'s sale of raw furs in London, following the Hudson Bay Co.'s sale, and closing on the 24th March, is as follows: Cross fox, 3,300 skins, sold 20 per cent. higher than in March, 1897; 3,200 blue fox, 15 per cent. higher; 2,600 fisher, 12½ per cent. lower; 33,600 squirrel, same as last March; 1,000 wolverine, 10 per cent. lower; 955 sea otter, 20 per cent. higher; 1,100 silver fox, 25 per cent. higher; 32,000 red fox, 20 per cent. higher; black bear, 30 per cent. higher; 4,500 lynx, 10 per cent. higher; 10,000 wild cat, 40 per cent. higher; 18,000 marten, 17½ per cent. higher; 2,800 Labrador otter, same as last March; 650,000 muskrat, about same as Janu-

ary, except fall drats, which sold 10 per cent. lower than January; 25,000 black muskrat, 10 per cent. higher than January; 155,000 mink, 5 to 30 per cent. higher than last March; 17,000 gray fox, 10 per cent. lower; 203,000 skunk, 25 per cent. higher; 125,000 coon, of these the Western and South-Western sold from 10 to 25 per cent. higher; Northern, same as last March; 5,600 wolf, 40 per cent. higher. We quote:—Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1.00 to 1.25; marten, \$1.75 to 2.25; fisher, \$4.50 to 7.00; lynx, \$1.00 to 2.00; otter, \$1.00 to 12.00 for dark; pale, \$5.00 to 7.00; red fox, large, \$1.30 to 1.50; small, \$1.00; cross fox, \$3.00 to 6.00; bear, cubs, \$3.00 to 7.00; medium, \$7.00 to 10.00; large, \$12.00 to 15.00; skunk, 15 to 70c., as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c.; rats, fall, 7c. to 10c. kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

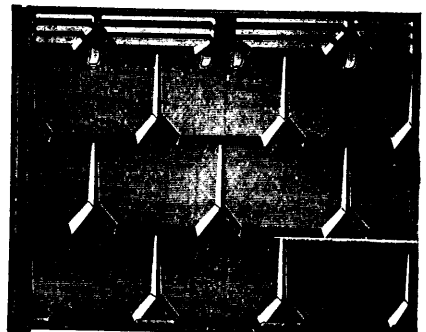
MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	March 21, 1898.	March 28, 1898.
Wheat, bushels.....	93,295	96,024
Corn, "	43,587	60,115
Oats, "	915,910	1,044,649
Rye, "	42,084	42,823
Peas, "	128,274	140,007
Barley, "	38,492	39,116
Total grain	1,261,742	1,422,734
Oatmeal	63	146
Flour	20,311	21,307
Buckwheat	54,984	61,701

GROCERIES.—Sugars continue very inactive, both the local refineries reporting a very dull demand, even more pronounced than a week ago, but there is no weakening in quotations, standard granulated being quoted at 4½c., Austrian refined 4 to 4½c., and yellows ranging from 3½ to 3¾c. per lb. With regard to molasses, the situation in Barbadoes is apparently unchanged, and no transactions are reported during the week for this market. A cable quotation received to-day figures out laid-down cost here at about 22½ to 22¾c. per gal. In teas trading on spot continues pretty much of a hand-to-mouth character, buyers apparently holding back in hopes of a break in prices, but importers are satisfied to hold out stiffly at present quotations. Some moderate sales are reported to the west, and there has been some American enquiry for Japan teas about 15c. California advices report very disastrous damage to prunes, apricots, etc., which are in the bud, there having been 15 degrees of frost registered pretty generally in the fruit-growing districts; as a result prices of dried fruits generally are very much stronger. Already dried apricots are advanced a full cent, and shippers don't know what to ask for prunes. The grape vines are said not to be affected, and prices of raisins are about the same. Supplies of Mediterranean fruit are very light on spot; cable advice was received to-day that one of the direct Medi-

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