

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, May 19th, 1886.

We are pleased to note the feeling of content and confidence prevalent generally among business men. Trade cannot be called "booming" but there is a steady and healthy movement in nearly all lines, failures are few, and remittances and payments are markedly better this last fortnight, even the dry goods dealers, most prone to complain—and generally with reason—say they are being well paid and that in quite a few instances customers are anticipating payments. We have been favored with timely rains the past week, and the country is looking well, though the possibility of late frosts still exists according to the ideas of some. Rates for money are firmer, 4 per cent. being now the fixed rate for call loans, and the effect on the stock market is visible in weakened values generally.

ASHES.—The market has weakened again since last report, and the figure quoted for No. 1 pots is \$3.30, though some have been bought at \$3.25; the last transaction in pearls took place about ten days ago at something under \$6.00 it is believed, a few second pearls have realized about \$4.00. Receipts are freer, 100 brls. having come to hand last week; there have been shipments of about 75 brls. the last few days.

COMMENTS, &c.—Not much new in this line, beyond a general feeling of indignation at the Customs Department allowing two large lots of several thousand brls. each to pass at old duties, while the general trade have to pay revised rates. We quote Portland \$3 to \$3.25 in small lots, \$2.50 to \$2.75 in quantity; Roman \$2.75; Canadian \$1.75; fireclay \$2 a bag; firebricks \$25 per M., \$3.25 a hundred.

FISH.—The demand is almost nil, stocks are very small, and prices nominal to a large extent. Labradors nominally \$2.50; Cape Breton \$3.50 nominal. Dry Cod, \$2.75 to \$3.00; North Shore Salmon out of the market; Lake trout, \$3; Mackerel \$4 for No. 3.

DAY GOODS.—In this line of trade matters are in good shape, and a feeling of satisfaction pervades the houses generally. Sorting orders are coming in in goodly number, and make up in the aggregate a respectable figure, though not individually large. The city retail trade has been very active last few days, and dealers through the country report a good spring trade. The general improvement is evidenced in freer remittances, and several houses report that a number of their customers are anticipating payments.

FURS.—Cable advices report the Leipsig fair as over, and the results on the whole satisfactory, the weakening effect of the warlike news from the East being apparently only temporary. Fisher sold better, spring rats in demand, common not salable. Raccoon is expected to fetch usual prices for Northern and Western skins, Southern will be cheaper. Beaver, martin, mink and opossum are expected to hold their own, bear will likely decline. These remarks apply to Lampson's June sales, at which the Pacific collection will be offered, including fox, beaver, bear, martin, mink, fisher, &c. We quote:—Beaver, clean \$2.75 to \$3.25; Bear, per skin, \$10.00 to \$12.00; Bear, cub, per skin, \$5.00 to \$6.00; Fisher, per skin, \$4.00 to \$5.00; Red fox, per skin, 90 to \$1.15; Fox, cross, per skin, \$2.50 to \$5; Lynx, per skin, \$2.75 to \$3.25; Marten, per skin, 90 to \$1.15; Mink, per skin, 75 to \$1; Muskrat, large winter, 10 to 12c.; spring do., 15 to 17c.; Otter, per skin, \$8 to \$10.00; Raccoon, per skin, 50 to 60c.; Skunk, per skin, black, \$1.25; half black, 90c.; full stripe, 60c.; white, 25c.

GROCERIES.—Country orders are rather better though not specially active, but by 1st June, when farmers get through seeding, &c., travellers expect a more lively trade, Jobbers whose business lies in districts supplied by river boats are well employed. Payments are satisfactory on the whole. Sugars are again easier, refiners quoting 6½c. for granulated, though ½ would fetch a round lot; yellows are also off an eighth, and range from 5½c. upwards. Molasses about same at 32 to 32½c. for Barbadoes; Trinidad 26 to 28c.; syrups easy. A cable despatch under date 17th inst. from Yokohama, reports the market for Japan teas active and buying general, settlements to date \$5,000 piculs. There is no local scarcity, and

some fair sales at 22 and 27c. are reported; blacks and greens are unchanged. In spices, pepper is a shade higher, cloves rising at home. Rice \$3.25 to \$3.30 for A and B; Patna 4½ to 5½c. In dried fruits the demand is very light, but the supply is almost exhausted, and we don't believe 100 brls. of currants could be scraped up in the whole city, price is 6½ to 7c.; Valencias 8 to 8½c.; Malagas out of the market.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—In iron and metals business is not improved to speak of; what pig iron is coming forward is sold up, and there is very little stock in the market. Enquiries for future deliveries are few, and consumers are evidently looking for lower prices though what they base their expectations on is hard to say. The situation at home for all metals except tin is unchanged; tin is active and higher in all the markets of the world, statistics showing that the production is moderately lessened; the local price for ordinary lots is 25c.; tin plates must also eventually be affected. Canada plates are firmer; the price of these has been too low for some time past, lead and copper unchanged. In general hardware there is a very fair trade doing and payments are favorably spoken of, we quote Summerlee, \$17 to \$17.50; Gartsherrie, \$16.50; Langloan and Coltness, \$17 to \$17.50; Shott, \$16.50 to \$17; Eglington and Dalmellington, \$15; Calder, \$16.50 to \$17; Carnbroe, \$16; Hematite, \$18 to \$20; Siemens, No. 1, \$17.50; Bar Iron, \$1.60 to \$1.65; Best Refined, \$1.90; Siemens Bar, \$2.10; Canada Plates, Blaina, \$2.25 to \$2.35; Penn &c. \$2.35 to \$2.40. Tin Plates, Bradley Charcoal, \$5.75 to \$6.00; Charcoal I.C., \$4.25 to \$4.75; do. I.X., \$5.50 to \$6.00; Coke I.C., \$3.75 to \$4; Galvanized sheets, No. 28, 5½ to 7c., according to brand; Tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6½c.; No. 26, 7c., the usual extra for large sizes. Hoops and Bands, per 100 lbs., \$1.90 to \$2; Boiler Plate, per 100 lbs., —Staffordshire, \$2.25 to \$2.50; Common Sheet iron, \$2.00 to \$2.10; Steel Boiler Plate, \$2.50 to \$2.75; heads, \$4; Russian Sheet Iron, 10 to 11c. Lead, per 100 lbs.:—Pig, \$4 to \$4.25; Sheet, \$4.25 to \$4.50; Shot, \$6 to \$6.50; best cast steel, 11 to 13c. firm; Spring, \$2.75 to \$3.00; Tire, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Sleigh shoe, \$2 to \$2.25; Round Machinery Steel, 3 to 3½c. per lb.; Ingot tin, 25c.; Bar Tin, 27c.; Ingot Copper, 12½ to 13½c.; Sheet Zinc, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Spelter, \$4 to \$4.50; Bright Iron Wire, Nos. 0 to 6, \$2.40, per 100 lbs.

OILS, PAINTS.—Linseed oil is reported firm "at home," and quotes here at 57 and 60c. respectively for raw and boiled; turpentine easier, and the first barge load of new crop close at hand, we quote 60c.; olive oil \$1.00 for pure; castor 8½c.; fish oils dull with cod at 52½c. for Newfoundland and Gaspe; steam refined seal hard to move. Leads steady at home and local prices unaltered. We quote:—Leads (chemically pure and first-class brands only) \$6.00; No. 1, \$5; No. 2, \$4.50; No. 3, \$4.00. Dry white lead, 5½c.; red, do. 4½ to 4¾c.

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London washed whiting, 50 to 60c.; Paris white, \$1.25; Cookson's Venetian red, \$1.75; other brands Venetian red, \$1.50 to \$1.60; Yellow ochre, \$1.50; Spruce ochre, \$2 to \$3. Glass \$1.70 per 50 feet for first break.

SHOES AND LEATHER.—Shoe men manufacturing for the jobbing trade are fairly busy on fall goods, and travellers are out with fall samples to the Eastern Provinces, but the trade will not be generally busy till about the

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