

Montreal Markets.

Flour—Buyers who were eager to secure stocks on the late bulge in wheat have withdrawn, fearing a further drop. Choice straight rollers are offered in car lots on track here at \$2.90. Newfoundland buyers, however, want to get it at \$2.80 on track. Regarding strong bakers', dealers and bakers say prices are back again to old figures, namely, \$3.40 for choice brands. The export demand is quiet both for Newfoundland and England. Holders who a short time since were quite sanguine over the future of the market have again become discouraged. We quote:—Patent, spring, \$3.05 to 3.75; Ontario patent, \$3.25 to 3.60; straight roller, \$2.90 to 3.15; extra, \$2.65 to 2.85; superfine, \$2.40 to 2.60; fine, \$2.15 to 2.35; city strong bakers, \$3.40 to 3.60; Manitoba bakers, \$3.25 to \$3.40; Ontario bags—extra, \$1.35 to 1.40, straight rollers, \$1.50 to 1.55; superfine, \$1.25 to 1.35; fine, \$1.05 to 1.15.

Oatmeal—Car lots of granulated and rolled at \$4.10 on track here.

Bran, etc.—There is still a marked scarcity in bran, which is wanted at \$19. A car of shorts was also sold at \$18.50, but \$19 to \$20 is now asked.

Wheat—The market here is purely nominal at 78 to 80c for No. 1 hard, and 76 to 77c for No. 2. Ontario red winter wheat is quoted at 67 to 68c.

Barley—The market is quiet at 44 to 45c for feed and 50 to 52 for malting grades.

Oats—The sales of a few car loads for local use reported at 49½ to 40½ per 34 pounds for No. 2.

Cured Meats—The market is firm and higher, mess pork being now quoted at \$17.00 to 17.50 Canada short cut. Lard is steady, compound being quoted at \$1.40 to 1.50, inside figure for car lots; and pure lard \$1.80 to 1.85 per pail. There is fair demand for smoked meats, which have an upward tendency. We quote Canada short cut pork, per bbl, \$16.50 to 17.50; Canada, clear mess, per bbl, \$15.50 to 16; extra mess beef, per bbl, \$12.25 to 12.60; plate beef, per bbl, \$16.25 to 16.50; hams, per lb, 9½ to 11c; lard, pure, in pails, per lb, 10 to 11c; lard, compound, in pails, per lb, 7½ to 7¾; bacon, per lb, 11 to 12c; shoulders, per lb, 8½ to 9c.

Butter—Eastern townships dairy is gradually increasing with an easier feeling, and sales of good sized lots have taken place at 22½c and at 23 to 23½c in a jobbing way. A few lots of Brockville and Morrisburg are coming in and selling at about the same as eastern townships. Several creameries have started, the product of which is finding its way to this market and selling at 25 to 25½c and 26c. Creamery, early made, 20 to 22c; creamery, fresh 24 to 25c; eastern townships dairy, 19 to 20c; do, fresh made, 21 to 23c; western 18 to 19c per lb. Add 1c to above for single packages of selected. Roll Butter—The market is steady, with sales of choice Morrisburg at 22 to 22½c, and western at 19 to 21c.

Cheese—The few lots of fodder goods that have sold here for local purposes have brought 10½ to 11c. The factories have started unusually early this year.

Eggs—Round lots have realized 11 to 11½c, one lot of 100 cases selling at the outside figure, but this could not be obtained to-day. We quote 10½ to 11c as a fair range of value.

Maple Products—Maple syrup is not selling as fast as was expected, probably because it is looked upon more as a luxury than a necessity. A few sales in wood are reported at 4 to 5c as to quality. In cans, 5 to 5½c are at the quoted rates, or 55 to 60c per c.n. Maple sugar is quoted at 6 to 7c, a fine lot selling at 8c.

Hides—The regular price for is 3½c for No. 1 light hides, and at this figure the bulk of the stock is sold. One firm, however, is bidding up prices to 3½c and 4c, as butchers have informed us that they were offered the outside figure, but they refused to leave their old dealers, and

accepted to 3½c, as they stated the fight would only last for a few weeks. Tanners are only paying 4c, and in some instances that figure is said to have been shaded. No. 1 heavy steers have been sold at 5½ No. 2 at 4½. Heavy bulls have been placed at 3½c. Calfskins, are dull at 5 to 6c. Lambskins, are selling at 10 to 15c, sheepskins at 75 to 80c, and clips at 15c.

Apples—Are selling slowly at \$5 to 6 for No. 1, \$4 to 4.50 for No. 2.—Trade Bulletin, April 20.

Montreal Metal and Paint Prices

The heavy iron and metal market continues dull. There have been few changes and values run much the same. A decline of 50c onterne plates has been established, however, and they are now being quoted at \$6 50 to 6 75 with recent sales of some fair-sized lots at these figures for future delivery. Copper also continues easy in tone as last noted, and prices have been shaded further, the sale of a five-ton lot transpiring recently at 9½c, and we quote 9½ to 10c. In all other lines the feeling is about steady, but business has ruled very quiet. In fact importers are much disappointed that orders are not coming in as well as they should for this season of the year.

The dominant feature in the paint and oil market at present is the keen competition that is going on between dealers, for business and prices all round are uneasy and unsettled on almost everything. As a consequence it is extremely difficult to give any reliable quotations. The agreement which existed among oil dealers in regard to prices for some time past has come to an end, consequently the market during the past week has been demoralized owing to the fact that holders have been cutting prices right and left, and sales have been made in some cases at very low figures. In coal oil the situation is very unsettled, and sellers now of new stock are not offering to any great extent, but we heard of one round lot being offered at 36c in the week; old stock on spot is quoted at 45 to 50c as to quantity. The requirements and the use of kral oil is not what it used to be, which probably may be one of the great reasons for buyers holding off so long. Linseed boiled is quoted at 59 to 61c and raw at 56 to 58c.—Gazette, April 20.

The Proposed Insolvency Act.

We have received from Ottawa this week the insolvency bill, which received its second reading at Ottawa on Friday. While it appears to meet, upon the whole, with approval among our merchants and boards of trade, there is one feature which is markedly objectionable. This is the part which the official receivers are to play in the working of the law. Section 17 recites that the Government may appoint at any time, and from time to time, such persons as are thought fit to be official receivers, and they shall be officers of the court for the districts wherein appointed. And by section 22 such receiver "shall, immediately upon taking possession of the estate of the insolvent, prepare an inventory of the estate" and a statement of the assets and liabilities," and so on. And the receiver has twenty days in which to handle an estate before he needs call a meeting of creditors.

This portion of the proposed machinery of the Act had no place, we are told, in the draft of the Act agreed to by the Montreal and Toronto boards of trade. It is most strenuously opposed by every wholesale man we have consulted. "Rather than have such receivership machinery," said one gentleman, "I say perish the whole Act." It is not difficult to foresee that the proposed sections would bring about the very sort of thing that was hated in the old Act—one set of expenses for the receiver; another set of expenses for the assignee; all to come out of the estate. It is very significant to hear, as we do, from Ottawa that there are already two hundred applications at Ottawa

for the prospective positions of these receivers. The prospect is, as these applicants see, that a receivership under the proposed clause is likely to be a fat berth. This is not what the business community wants. On the contrary, the business men want the kind of receiver indicated in the previous bill, who shall receive the estate, call the creditors together to appoint an assignee, and receive a low fee for his service. It is business appointments, not political appointments, that are wanted in the premises. There should be no room left for log-rolling.—Monetary Times.

The Boom in the Cattle Market.

The sensational advance in the cattle market was the subject of general comment. Men who a few weeks ago had felt that as bad as the cattle market was it was bound to get worse rather than better were disposed to change their views, and gave as their reasons that they thought the available crop of beef cattle was much lighter than expected. Uncle Tom Ponting and others who generally see all there is from the hopeful points of view doubtless feel good over the somewhat unexpected turn of the cattle market. It was but a short time ago that cattle were selling at about the lowest on record, and the fact, instead of making owners let go, rather tended to strike them with terror, and many of them acted as if the \$3.75 buyers were willing to pay for good cattle would soon be wiped away, and they might have to pay some one to relieve them of incurring further feed bills. Week before last there was a strong upturn in prices. The wise ones all said, "look out for a deluge." They really thought too many cattle would crowd forward, and acting upon the idea they held back what they could, and the result was another demonstration of the real strength in the market. It seems that the stronger tendency increased the confidence of feeders, and so the present week opened with about 13,000 cattle, not much more than half the number wanted. The result was a phenomenal jump in prices, and the proverbial "hot cakes" were "not in it" with the way cattle changed hands. Telegrams by the thousands flashed the glad news to shippers and feeders, and unless the result is a big and excessive run of cattle, buyers will have to accept the fact that there is no excessive number of cattle in the country. It seems needless, however to remind readers that these spasms are dangerous, and violent changes almost surely beget sharp reactions.—Chicago Drovers' Journal.

Fruit Crop on the Pacific.

Very encouraging reports come in as to the prospects for fruit crops throughout most of California. One report says that in northern California the fruit crops bid fair, with the addition to the young trees just coming into bearing, of being the largest ever known, and from the mountains nothing but good reports are given. In southern California the prospects for fruit are also good, and in Los Angeles, oranges, peaches, pears, plums and prunes have passed the blossom period and have set for a full crop, as well as apricots. The promise for a large deciduous crop is excellent. Strawberries are ripe and are being picked for the market and sent off rapidly. Similar reports are received from San Bernardino county, where the prospects are good for a very heavy crop. The fruit crop promises well also in San Diego county. In the Willamette valley, Oregon, peach and cherry trees have passed the blossom and other fruit trees are doing well. Strawberries are growing finely and the berries will soon be ripe. In Jackson and Douglas counties plum, peach, cherry, pear, apricot and silver prune trees are all dropping the bloom and altogether the fruit crops of western Oregon are said to have never been better.

In Clackamas county frosts injured some peach bloom on the second inst. Very light frost occurred up to the 7th, but the harm was not serious.