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Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Sept. 9th, 1903.

Ashes.—The market is without change. Both pots and pearls are wanted, but there are none of the latter offering, and it would be difficult to establish a close quotation. For first pots from \$5.80 to \$5.85 can be readily realized.

Cements and Firebricks.—Supplies of German cement are still coming in liberally, in anticipation of the surtax going into effect October 1st. Last week 11,500 bags and 3,180 barrels of German cement were reported, and for week ending to-day, 4,700 bags and 13,700 barrels. Of English cement the arrivals for the past two weeks have been only 800 barrels. Firebricks are moving slowly, but a very fair jobbing trade is reported in cements, with a couple of 1,000-barrel lots being negotiated for. We quote Belgian cement at from \$1.70 to \$1.95; German, \$2.05 to \$2.25; English, \$2.05 to \$2.15. Firebricks, \$16 to \$22, as to quality.

Dairy Products.—Export business in cheese continues active. The "Iona" alone took out 32,994 boxes to London last week, and the total shipments for the week were 80,515 boxes, as against 73,876 boxes for the corresponding week of 1902. The total shipments for the season thus far aggregate 1,530,081 boxes, being 257,000 boxes ahead of last year. Butter shipments were also fairly large, amounting to 22,502 packages, as compared with 23,929 packages a year ago. Cheese has shown a further gain since a week ago, finest Ontarios being now quoted at 11¼c., with Townships quoting at from 11 to 11¼c., and Quebecs from 10¾ to 11c. Some Manitoba dairy butter has been offering lately, but runs

very unevenly as to quality, prices ranging all the way from 12½ to 15½c. Fine Quebecs are quoted at 19 to 19½c., and Townships at 19½ to 19¾c.

Dry Goods.—Retail payments on the 4th were very fairly met on the whole, a general average being apparently about 65 per cent., which is considered pretty good for the time of the year; city payments were rather better than the country ones. There are not so many outside buyers in town this week, but travellers continue doing well. A circular just issued to the trade by the Merchants' Cotton Co., which says that owing to the declining market for raw cottons they will not for the present show samples for spring, and advising buyers to defer placing their orders, is creating some comment. The Penman Mfg. Co. have advised an advance in certain lines of their knitted goods.

Groceries.—An increasing demand is noted. In sugars there has been no change as yet, but the market is a very steady one at \$4.20 for standard granulated, and yellows from \$3.50 to \$4, these being barrel prices; bags are 5c. a cental less. First lots of new Valencia raisins, via Liverpool, are due in a few days on the "Pretorian," and are quoted in a jobbing way at 7 to 7¼c. for fine offstalk; selected at 7¾ to 8c. The same fruit by first direct steamer, timed to leave Denia about the 12th or 15th, is quoted at 5¾ to 6c. for fine offstalk, from 6¾ to 7c. for selected, and 7 to 7¼c. for 4-crown layers. Fine Filiatra currants by direct steamer are quoted at

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