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—Briggs—"What is the longest street in the world?" Griggs—"Give it up; but I know the shortest." Briggs—"What's that?" Griggs—"Wall street."—Life.

—The Chauffeur—"Say! Do you know anything about the rules of the road?" The Pedestrian—"Well, I know that the golden rule is not one of them."—Yonkers Statesman.

Commercial

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 13th May, 1903.

Ashes.—The market has taken a further turn upwards, and buyers are now quoting from \$5.10 to \$5.20 per cental for first pots, according to tares, etc., and from \$4.50 to \$4.60 for seconds. Pearls are nominal at from \$6 to \$6.25. The shipments this season thus far to Britain are small.

Cements and Firebricks.—Business in these lines was almost brought to a standstill last week, and there is at the moment a large accumulation of stock on the wharves which it is difficult to move. Prices are steady at former quotations.

Dairy Products.—The cheese market showed quite a material decline last week owing to the unfavorable conditions then prevailing, but owing to better export demand, values are improved, and some holders are asking 12½c. for fine Westerns, with Quebecs ranging from 11¾ to 12c., though there is still some difficulty in moving goods. Receipts of butter are on the small side, a good deal

of what is coming in being shipped by express, on account of the teamsters' strike. For fine creamery from 18½ to 18¾c. seems to be about the figure being paid in the country.

Dry Goods.—The warm weather now prevailing generally is favorable to retail trade, and, judging by the manner in which money is coming in, country stocks are apparently moving out well. The markets generally continue to show much strength. Cable despatches have been received this week from two different French silk manufacturing firms advising an advance of from 10 to 20 per cent., a step due, it is said, to a large destruction of the silk worms through frost. A large Western woolen mill gives notice that no further repeats for fall goods can be accepted except at an advance, and the excited state of the market for raw cottons suggests a possible advance in cotton cloths.

Groceries.—Some of the grocery houses seem to think they are not doing as much as they should, and are under the impression that country orders are in some cases being diverted from Montreal, owing to the uncertainty entertained, as to prompt delivery. As long as the teamsters' strike continues, there is certainly some ground for this feeling. Collections, however, are good on the whole. As regards values there is little new to note. Refiners are able to move sugars out a little more freely than last week, and prices are unchanged at \$3.95 for standard granulated, with \$3.30 the lowest for yellows. Some fair sized lots of Austrian and German refined are reported on late steamship. Latest advices from Barbados would indicate that the crop of new molasses is about exhausted, and though at last quotations laid-down cost would be figured at about 38½c., some local jobbers are reported as still selling at 36 to 38c. Dried fruits are very dull, but prices are fairly steady and Valencia raisins are in light supply. In other lines there is nothing new.

Hardware and Metals.—The general conditions in these lines are not much improved, the strike situation, as regards the teamsters, being still unsettled, and some houses report that quite a number of outside orders have been cancelled owing to inability to promise prompt delivery. The wharves show a terrible accumulation of freight in these lines, and at the moment there are 34 ocean steamers in port, on some of which very little unloading has yet been done. Scotch pig iron is now in very fair supply, and a number of the old familiar brands are being offered, Summerlee, No. 2, at \$21 to 21.50; Gartsherrie at \$21, Eglinton and Carnbroe at \$20.50, net 30 days, ex-wharf, but the trouble is to get it off the wharf. Galvanized Canada plates are being offered at easier figures, and it is said round lots of 52 sheets could be done at \$4.25 to \$4.30; black sheets, \$2.40 to \$2.50; galvanized sheets, \$4.25 to \$4.40, as to quality. Very few Terne plates are coming forward, as these goods are be-

ing largely displaced by galvanized Canadas. Boiler plate is steady at \$2.20, and tank plate at \$2.10. Bars are unchanged. Ingot tin is firm at 33½ to 34c., and copper at 15¼ to 15½, but lead is a little easier at \$3.15.

Hides.—The hide market has not undergone any noteworthy change since a week ago. Receipts of calfskins are quite heavy, and stocks on spot show some growth, but dealers still quote 11c. for No. 1, and 9c. for No. 2. No. 1 beef hides are unchanged at 8c. per lb. for No. 1; lambskins at 15c., and sheepskins at 75c. each.

Leather.—Boot and shoe manufacturers seem fairly satisfied with orders

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