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Deposit made with the Dominion Government for the protection of policyholders.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Sept. 5th, 1900.

ASHES.—Owing to the very light supplies coming forward, and to the English demand, prices are much firmer, as high as \$5.15 being paid for good tars in No. 1 pots; seconds are correspondingly strong at \$4.65 to \$4.70, and pearls are quoted at \$6 to \$6.25.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—No change is reported, and business is but of a moderate character. We quote: Belgian, \$1.90 to \$2.10; English, \$2.30 to \$2.40; German, \$2.45 to \$2.55; firebricks, \$18 to \$24 per thousand. Receipts of firebricks, 54,750.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Cheese has developed a rather firmer tone, with a better demand, and we quote finest Western at 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 11c.; Eastern, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ c., and fine Quebec, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. In butter business is not very brisk, buyers and sellers having conflicting ideas, and the market is barely so strong as a week ago. We quote: Finest creamery, 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; seconds, 20 to 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; dairy, 17 to 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. Exports of cheese last week were 62,861 boxes, as against 81,294 boxes the same week of 1899. Butter shipments were light, 5,147 packages, as compared with 21,090 packages same period last year. In butter exports this season there is a shortage of some 70,000 packages; while in cheese there is a gain at date of about 100,000 boxes.

DRY GOODS.—The fourth was not a very heavy day for customers' payments, and such engagements as fell due are said to have been very fairly met. A good many millinery people are in town this week, attending Messrs. Thomas May & Co.'s opening, and some buyers of dry goods are up from Nova Scotia and the West, as well as from near at hand points. The new price-list for Magog spring prints is in the hands of the trade, and shows an all-round advance on last year's figures of from 5 to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Crum's well-known English prints are up about a cent a yard.

GROCERIES.—Some moderate parcels of new Valencia raisins, via Liverpool, are due here on the 10th inst., and are figured to cost 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for fine off-stalk. The Denia market is cabled firm at 23s. 6d. for off-stalk and 26s. 6d. for fine selected. A Patras cable reports a further advance in currants of sixpence, and strongly advises immediate buying, quoting 37s. for fine Filiatras. Old fruit has sold on spot at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., a sale of 25 barrels having taken place at that figure here the other day. Sultanias still range exceedingly high, at from 40s. for a poor, dark quality, up to 55s. Prices are now out for California prunes, 7c. being quoted for Santa Clara, 40 to 50s.; French prunes of small size can be laid down at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ c., and nineties at 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Bosnians are quoted at from 17s. to 31s. 6d. A cable regarding Sicily filberts reports an advance of 3 shillings, quoting 33s., cost and freight to New York, for October shipment. Tarragona almonds are cabled at 47s., at which figures stock is being rapidly taken up for shipment by second direct Mediterranean steamer, crop being short. The first direct steamer for this port with Mediterranean goods, sails from Patras to-morrow, and is due to leave Denia, her last port of call, on the 15th. The sugar market is firmer, and one of the local refineries has advanced standard granulated to \$5.25, but no other factory has yet followed suit. Raws are reported very strong, with marked scarcity of cane. Molasses firm at 40 to 41c. for Barbadoes; only one more cargo, of about 800 puncheons, is due here this season. New canned corn is expected to be in the

market this week, and will be quoted at about 85c.

HIDES.—There has been an all-round change in prices this week. Beef hides are up half a cent owing, mainly to competition in buying, though a little more enquiry is also reported. We quote dealers as buying at 8c. for No. 1. Calfskins, on the other hand, are lower at 8 and 6c. for Nos. 1 and 2, respectively. Lambskins are advanced to 60c.

LEATHER.—Trade is quiet. Fall orders in boots and shoes have not been so large as expected, and Quebec manufacturers are also said to be not very busy. Spring samples are now in hand, and when travellers get out with these, it is hoped they also may secure some fair sorting orders for fall footwear. Black leather, of Quebec make, inclines to easiness; sole and fancy leathers are fairly steady. We quote: Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; No. 2, B.A., 23 to 24c.; No. 3, B.A., 22 to 23c.; No. 1, ordinary, Spanish, 24c.; No. 2, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 23c.; No. 1, slaughter, 27 to 28c.; No. 2, ditto, 25 to 26c.; common, 20 to 21c.; Union crop, 32c.; waxed upper, light, and medium, 30 to 35c.; ditto, heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 32 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; Western splits, 20 to 22c.; Quebec, ditto, 15 to 17c.; juniors, 15 to 17c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calfskins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 24c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskins linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; harness, 31 to 33c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebble cow, 11 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove-grain, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—In the general hardware trade, goods are said to be moving out well, but heavy metals are

ECONOMICAL

Fire Ins. Co. of Berlin, Ont.

Cash and Mutual Systems.

Total Net Assets.....	\$ 300,089 22
Amount of Risk.....	\$5,307,774 51
Government Deposit.....	36,300 00

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