

unfortunately for the masses, is still very largely in the category of luxuries." A large portion of the butter purchased, however, it is said, is being stored. On the whole, shipments to date are larger than they were a year ago, amounting to 21,248 packages from Montreal up to 18th June, against 6,926 for the same period last season. There has been somewhat of a flurry in the cheese market as we elsewhere note, and prices have advanced $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per pound.

FLOUR.—The market is sick. Buyers are conspicuous by their absence. Not only is there no opportunity to make new contracts but contracts made some weeks ago are being violated. There are few dealers we think who stop to carefully consider the immorality in the repudiation of a contract which has been partially performed. Merchants who purchased goods upon order some weeks ago, when prices were high, and having made prompt delivery, now in many cases find the goods refused on trivial grounds which are the barest subterfuges to conceal the fact that the buyers wish to drop out of the bargain and leave the flour in the hands of the seller. All prices are lower. We quote: Manitoba Patents, \$5.20; Manitoba Strong Bakers', \$5.90; Patents, \$4.10; Straight Rollers, \$3.90 per barrel.

GRAIN.—So far as Ontario wheat is concerned, although the feeling has been weak and the market contains few conditions of strength, prices remain as last quoted. Manitoba wheat is, however, much under last week's prices, ranging from 95c. to \$1.05. Barley is low and unchanged. Oats have declined to 27 to 28c. outside. Peas are down 2c. per bushel, as against last week's quotation. Corn is dull and quotations nominal.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—While trade is not quite as good as it has been, yet there is a considerable demand for harvest tools and other seasonable goods, values of which remain steady and unchanged. In rope, phenomenal advances continue to be reported daily, as a result of the immense crops which are certain to be harvested in America and other grain-producing countries, for which a considerable quantity of tools will be required, and the critical situation at Manilla and primary producing points. Manilla is now quoted on the basis of 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. while Sisal is at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Lath yarn too has advanced to 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. basis. Zinc spelter is firm, and dealers quote 5 to 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ c., while zinc sheet has advanced to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 6c. Reports from retailers throughout the country indicate a healthy condition of trade and lead the wholesale trade to expect a good autumn business.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Competition in the hide market is more keen. Purchasers during the past month or so have agreed to limit their prices for green hides to a point which would admit of a moderate margin to the handler, but this week in the advance of fifty cents per cwt., which has taken place, bringing green cow hides up to a quotation of 9c. and steers 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., it is very small indeed. However, there are no large stocks of hides on hand, and some of the dealers are well sold ahead. Calf skins are competed for at 10c. with rumors that more has been paid in order to secure the trade of certain butchers. From Chicago, June 21st. —The demand for packer hides was quiet, neither tanners nor dealers being anxious, buyers preferring to operate on a hand-to-mouth basis; packers, however, were not anxious to make sales, and values were well maintained, closing at 12 to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for native steers, 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 12c. for Texas; 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 11c. for butt brands; 10 to 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. for Colorados; 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for branded cows; 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for heavy native cows, and 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ for light do.

HOG PRODUCTS.—There is not as much buying this week as has taken place in the market during the past several

months. No doubt the hot weather has contributed to this end, while the cheapness of fruit has acted as a substitute for provisions and meats. However, for the season of the year, the demand is fairly good, and although orders are not large, they are regular. Prices remain steady with no advances.

WOOL.—As we predicted early in the season, the clip is moving very slowly. The farmers have shown more disposition to sell in certain districts than merchants who have bought from first hands. In certain districts, around Perth for instance, 17 and 18c. per pound has been paid for fleece wool. The standard quotation in Toronto is 16c. per pound, and even this offers no great temptation to exporters. It is little wonder then that buyers in the country are not disposed to sell on this market, while merchants here are not unwilling that the extravagant purchaser should carry the wool, and, as they think, pay the penalty of his folly.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 22nd June, 1898.

ASHES.—The market may be called somewhat firmer, not from any improvement in the demand, which is of the poorest, but from actual scarcity. There is reported to be only about 20 brls. in store, and receipts show no signs of increasing. We quote first quality of pots, \$3.65 to \$3.75; seconds, \$3.40 to \$3.45; pearls, \$4.75 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—There is some slackening off in the hitherto brisk demand for cements, but prices are steadily held at \$2.20 to \$2.30 for British, and \$1.80 to \$1.90 for Belgian; firebricks \$16 to \$22 per thousand. Receipts since last report have been small, namely 1,500 brls. of Belgian, and 46,000 bricks.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Cheese exports for the past week are again behind those of a year ago, being 64,102, which, though fairly large figures, are some 31,000 boxes less than the same week of 1897. The total shortage for the season thus far is about 114,000 boxes. The cable shows a little gain in the Liverpool market of sixpence a cwt., and the local tone is rather stronger. Quebec cheese is selling this week at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 7c., and a fair quotation for Western would probably be 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Butter shipments last week were the largest yet, being 9,942 packages, which is some 5,000 more than the same week last year, and the total gain this season to date is some 15,000 packages. The market continues practically on about the same basis as last week, creamery quoting at 16 to 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. per pound.

DRY GOODS.—Wholesale business in general dry goods continues of satisfactory character, and city retailers speak in a more cheerful strain regarding current sales than they have done for several years. The recent advances in the raw wool market are now making themselves felt in the prices of certain lines of dress goods, and makers' prices of French plain dress goods have been advanced ten per cent. Bradford goods are also reported very firm. Linens are strong, and it is expected that an advance is probable whenever the Americans begin any free buying.

FURS.—Full telegraphic advices regarding the London raw fur sales of last week are now to hand, and are as follows: Coon, red fox, lynx, wolf, mink and black bear sold at the same figures as last March; brown bear sold 20 per cent. lower than March, grizzly bear 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. lower, otter, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. lower, badger 20 per cent. lower, skunk 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. lower, spring rats, 15 per cent., lower than January, fall ditto, 5 per cent. lower than January, beaver same as January, marten, 10 per cent. higher than March, and possum 15 per cent. higher

than March. Some fair lots of pelts are reported this week from Manitoba and Upper Ottawa points. We quote: Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1 to \$1.25; marten, \$1.75 to \$2.25; fisher, \$4.50 to \$7; lynx, \$1 to \$2; otter, \$1 to \$12 for dark; pale, \$5 to \$7; red fox, large, \$1.30 to \$1.50; small, \$1; cross fox, \$3 to \$6; bear, cubs, \$3 to \$7; medium, \$7 to \$10; large, \$12 to \$15; skunk, 15 to 70c., as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c.; rats, fall, 7 to 10c.; kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	June 13.	June 20.
	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat	290,475	177,268
Corn	202,243	85,051
Oats	1,091,448	1,052,937
Rye	11,827	13,087
Peas	291,372	222,437
Barley	31,921	30,342
Total grain	1,919,286	1,581,122
Oatmeal	268	42
Flour	19,552	19,257
Buckwheat	54,313	53,374

GROCERIES.—Sugar prices have again been shaded a sixteenth since last writing, making standard granulated at factory now 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ c., and yellows from 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4c. per lb. The demand from the country is reported brisk, and jobbers are buying more freely. The lower prices have apparently checked business in foreign refined, and little business is reported in these lines the past week or so. Molasses continues very firm on spot at 30 to 31c. for Barbadoes in jobbing lots; the last quotation of first cost at the island is eleven cents. Some fair amount of business is reported between packers and jobbers in new canned strawberries, at \$1.25 to \$1.35, but the leading Western packers are withholding quotations of vegetable until the state of the crop is more assured. The tea market rules very strong on spot, and advices from Japan indicate great firmness there, with the cost of desirable goods from 2 to 3c. higher than a year ago. The steamer, which arrived at Vancouver on the 7th inst., is said to have some 700 or 800 packages of high-priced goods for this market, but it is said that comparatively few goods of medium grade have yet been secured for Canada, and some scarcity is predicted of these sorts. Cevlons coming forward are showing good value.

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