

—About 200 men are employed in extracting coal at the Carthage mines near Socorro, New Mexico. Fifty car loads of coal were loaded and shipped from the Cerillos mines in November.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Jan. 5, 1886.

Wholesale business generally has partaken of a decidedly holiday character since last writing, a state of affairs which has been intensified by the steady rain for almost the last four days. Snow roads have completely gone in this vicinity; and recourse must again be had to wheels. It can readily be imagined that this does not help business in the country. Still, there is an improvement in dry-goods remittances, and merchants, here, in other lines are also being fairly paid. Failures few. The share market opened strong on Monday, with higher values in several lines of stocks: Montreal has sold up to 204½ to 204½; Toronto, 187; Commerce, 119½; Merchants, 116.

ASHES.—The statement of receipts &c. for the year just closed shows a material falling off in business from the figures of 1884. Of pots only 5,148 brls. were received in 1885, against 6,247 brls. in 1884, being a decrease of 1,099 brls. In pearls the falling off was over 50 per cent., the figures being 422 brls. for 1885, as against 836 for 1884. The deliveries for 1885 were 5,251 pots and 488 pearls, and 6,152 pots, and 785 pearls for 1884. There were in store January 1st, 1886, 1,352 brls. pots, and 141 brls. pearls. Business at the moment is very dull indeed, receipts being very light, and the demand ditto. Sales are confined to a few small lots of No. 1 pots at \$3.45 to \$3.50. Nothing doing in pearls or second pots.

DRY GOODS.—Travellers are getting out on their respective routes and the end of the week will see the city pretty well clear of them. Actual business at the moment is light, but prospects are considered favorable to a fair spring trade. There is a very noticeable improvement in payments, we are pleased to be able to say; three-months paper for domestic goods, maturing on the 4th has been well met, and general remittances have been much freer since the turn of the year. City retail trade has suffered from the continued rainy weather of the last three or four days.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The movement just now is very light in all lines. Quinine is again weaker, Howard having reduced prices three pence and we revise quotations. Carbolic acid is also easier than it was. Heavy chemicals generally unchanged. We quote: Sal Soda \$1.00 to \$1.10 per 100 lbs.; Bi-Carb Soda, \$2.50 to \$2.60; Soda Ash, \$1.65 to \$1.75. Bi-Chromate of Potash, per 100 lbs., \$8.00 to \$9.00; Borax, refined, 11 to 12½c.; Cream Tartar crystals, 33 to 35c.; do., ground, 37 to 38c.; Tartaric Acid crystals, 52½ to 55c.; do., powder, 56 to 60c. per ; Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11c.; Bleaching Powder, \$2.25 to \$2.75 according to lot; Alum \$1.60 to \$1.75; Copperas, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; Flowers Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.75 to \$3.00; Roll Sulphur, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sulphate of Copper, \$5.00 to \$5.75; Epsom Salts, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre, \$9.00 to \$9.50; German Quinine, 85 to 90c.; American do., 90 to 0.00; Howard's quinine, 95c. to 1.00; opium, \$4.00 to \$4.50; Morphia, \$1.75 to \$1.90; Gum Arabic sorts, 50 to 60c.; White, 75 to \$1; Carbolic acid, 40 to 50c.; Iodide Potassium, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per lb.; Iodine, \$5.00 to \$5.50; Iodoform, \$7.50 to \$8.00.

FISH.—There is still an absence of business in this line, and prices are more or less nominal. We quote:—Labradors \$3.13 to \$3.25; Cape Breton, none in market. Dry Cod \$3.00 to \$3.25; Green do. \$4 to \$4.25; large do. \$4.50 to \$4.75; North Shore Salmon \$10.50 to \$11, for No. 1. \$9.50 to \$10 for No. 2. \$9.00, for No. 3; British Columbia \$9.00 to \$9.50; Lake trout, \$3.75.

FURS.—The receipts of raw furs for the past fortnight have been very light indeed, and at the moment there is little or no business doing. Local wants are all supplied, and the outlook as regards shipping furs is very poor. The

prices below are more or less nominal, and liable to change. We quote:—Beaver \$2.00 to \$2.50 per lb.; Bear \$8.00 to \$12.00; do. cub \$4.00 to \$6.00; Mink 40c to 50c.; Muskrat 5c. to 7c.; Otter \$7 to \$9; Skunk 30c. to 40c.; Fox 60 to 75c.; martin 60 to 75c. Fisher \$3.00 to \$5.00; Lynx, \$2.00 to \$2.75; Raccoon 25 to 50c.

GROCERIES.—Salesmen are leaving for their routes, but country orders are not numerous as yet. There is a considerable local improvement in teas, and since Xmas, it is said, some 8,000 packages of Japans and Young Hysons have changed hands, this, of course is principally a speculative movement. All low grade Young Hysons and Japans below good medium are very firm, and nothing desirable in the former line can be had under 17c. Sugars are rather stronger and refiners are trying to establish an advance on the strength of a firmer New York market; they are asking 6½c. for granulated, but ½ would likely bring a round lot; 5½c. was refused lately for a lot of dark yellow, which could have been got a week ago for 5c. A good many syrups are moving; a lot of 500 brls. was sold to go west the other day, quality better than B. at about 2c. Molasses 29½ to 30½c. and the stock in about two hands. A thousand box lot of Valencia raisins sold this week at 9c., the biggest price paid yet; in Sultanias nothing under 8c.; a sale of Elemes is reported at 8½c. and inferior fruit at that. In Malagas, layers are entirely sold out, and the entire stock of this kind of fruit does not exceed a few hundred boxes. New currants very scarce, and it is a question if they could be bought at 6c. in quantity, old fruit in fair supply at 4 to 5c. as to quality, but not wanted. French prunes dull at 4 to 4½c.; figs in one lb. boxes are scarce at 11 to 12½c.; pulled figs in bags, 60 lb. boxes and kegs in good supply at 5 to 8c. New Grenob e walnuts to hand and selling at 12c.; Marbot walnuts 8½ to 9c.; Sicily filberts 9c.; Levant ditto 5½ to 6c.; Taragona almonds 14 to 15c.; Ivica 12½ to 14c. A poor sample of black pepper has sold at 18½c. good is worth 19 to 19½c., white, Penang 31c. and Singapore 33 to 35c.; cassia firm at 7c.; nutmegs dull and cheap. Rice dull, and sales for the past year have been below those of former years; we quote \$3.20 to \$3.30.

LEATHER AND SHOES.—A degree of quietude pervades these lines this week, a good many of the shoe factory hands being off holiday-making, as is usual to the season. Leather prices, however, are as strong as ever, and buff may be called a little dearer. One tanning concern has contracted to supply 8,000 sides heavy buff during year at 16½c. There is very little upper leather coming forward just now, and stocks are light. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 25 to 27c.; ditto, No. 2 B.A. 21 to 24c.; No. 1, Ordinary Spanish, 24 to 25c.; No. 2, ditto, 22 to 23c.; No. 1 China, 23 to 24c.; No. 2, 21½ to 23c.; ditto, Buffalo Sole, No. 1, 21 to 23c.; ditto, No. 2, 19½ to 21c.; Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1, 26 to 27c.; oak sole, 45 to 50c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 39c.; ditto, heavy, 32 to 36c.; Grained, 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained, 36 to 42c.; Splits, large, 22 to 28c.; ditto, small, 16 to 24c.; Calf-splits, 28 to 32c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46 lbs.), 70 to 80c.; Imitation French Calfskins, 80 to 85c.; Russet Sheepskin Linings, 30 to 40c.; Harness, 24 to 33c.; Buffed Cow, 13 to 16½c.; Pebbled Cow, 12 to 15½c.; Rough, 23 to 28c.; Russet and Bridle, 45 to 55c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—As might be expected, the movement is very light, but local values are well maintained, and in some lines show increased firmness owing to reduced stocks, &c. The feeling too is pretty well fixed that prices generally cannot go lower, and a good many orders are being placed now for spring shipment in anticipation of the probability of an increase in values. In Britain, copper is quiet but firm, £45 10/- being last cabled quotation for b. s.; tin steady at £91 10/-; English lead £12 16/-; English tin plate market dull, values here are firm; some cannors have been feeling the market for their supplies; better grade charcoals are firmer locally. Pig iron firmer, if anything, with a scarcity in some lines; Scotch warrants are cabled at 41/1d. We quote:—Gartsherrie and Summerlee \$18.50 to \$19.50 and very scarce; Langloan, and Coltness, \$18.50 to \$19.00; Shott, \$18.00 to \$18.50; Eglinton and Dalmellington, \$16.50 to 17; Calder, \$17.50 to \$18.50; Carnbroe, \$17 to \$18; Hematite, \$18 to \$20; Siemens, No. 1; \$18 to \$18.50; Bar Iron, \$1.60 to \$1.65; Best

Refined, \$1.90; Siemens bar, \$2.10; Canada Plates, Blaina \$2.30 to \$2.40; Penn &c. \$2.45 to \$2.50. Tin Plates, Bradley Charcoal, \$5.75 to \$6.00; Charcoal I.C., \$4.35 to \$4.75; do I.X., \$6 to \$6.25; Coke I.C., \$3.75 to \$4; Galvanized sheets, No. 28, 5½c to 7c, according to brand; Tinned Sheets, coke, No. 24, 6½c; No. 26, 7c, the usual extra for large sizes. Hoops and Bands, per 100 lbs., \$1.90 to \$2; Boiler Plate, per 100 lbs. Staffordshire, \$2.25 to \$2.50; Common Sheet iron, \$2.00 to \$2.10; Steel Boiler Plate, \$2.50 to \$2.75; heads, \$4; Russian Sheet Iron, 10 to 11c. Lead, per 100 lbs.:—Pig, \$3.50 to \$4; Sheet, \$4 to \$4.25; Shot, \$6 to \$6.50; best cast steel, 11c to 13c, firm; Spring, \$2.75 to \$3.00; Tire \$2.50 to \$2.75; Sleighshoe, \$2 to \$2.25; Round Machinery Steel, 3½ to 3¾c. per lb.; Ingot tin, 23 to 25c; Bar Tin, 27c; Ingot Copper, 12½ to 14c; Sheet Zinc, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Spelter, \$4 to \$4.50; Bright Iron Wire, Nos. 0 to 6, \$2.75 per 100 lbs.

OILS AND PAINTS.—Linseed oil remains at about same level as a week ago, 59 to 60c.

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