

Westcook, N.B., May 6.—Dwelling house of Mrs. Anderson was set on fire and totally destroyed.

Winnipeg, May 3.—Dominion Hotel burned.

Commercial.

MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, May 17th, 1877.

Trade continues fairly active but devoid of any special animation, and purchases generally are being made pretty much only to supply immediate wants. Travellers for some departments are out on the road, and others are about to start, on their sorting-up trip. Some fair orders have been received so far and a number of repeats are confidently expected. There have been considerable transactions in sugars during the week and prices continue to harden under the influence of almost certain future curtailment of supplies of raw material. Prospects for the harvest continue very promising although more rain is wanted in most districts, and would be beneficial to the weight and yield of the future grain crop. If all uncertainty on this point were over there is little cause to doubt that a good Fall Trade may be anticipated, and the immediate effect on business would be most favorable. In financial circles there has been a better demand for money, and rates show a hardening tendency though only slightly perceptible. The *Toronto Globe's* weekly review says:—The long-expected revival of business is steadily approaching; slowly indeed, but so generally that every speculative element is excluded from its forces, which are making a thorough work of building up and strengthening the interests which for three years have withstood the trials of depression. The attention of the mercantile and industrial community is turned forward in expectation of an abundant harvest, and if the breadth of land now sown yields its increase according to promise the country will emerge from recent disasters much stronger because they have happened. This country is comparatively unaffected by the war, nor will it have much direct result for Canadians until the coming harvest is ready for market. And every intelligent-minded man will be happy if even then it is found the country will not profit so largely by foreign misery as by the development, by well directed labour, of its own interests. The produce trade keeps quiet, until then, for we have not more than enough grain for our wants, so far as can be ascertained. Abroad the belief has gained ground that Britain will not be dragged into the war, and in consequence markets have receded. In England at the close of last year there was no English wheat remaining on hand worth talking about, but the season opened with ample stocks of foreign produce. Those stocks have, up to the present time, about compensated for the diminished importations since the commencement of September, but now that those stocks are reduced to a low point, and that Russian supplies are likely to be almost entirely cut off, no doubt of the fact can be entertained but that the position is a somewhat critical one. Admitting the fact that high prices have a great attractive power, and that they are a natural inducement for foreign growers to forward to Britain every bushel of wheat they can spare, it must still be borne in mind that the world's surplus is acknowledged to be below the average, and that it was a question for discussion as to the manner in which the deficiency would have been met between the present time and harvest, even had there been no war between Russia and the Ottoman Empire. So numerous are the countries which now supply Britain's wants that we naturally expect that high prices will attract what the country requires, and perhaps there is reason to believe that that result will be attained. At this distance, however, from harvest,

prices before the statistical position can be regarded as satisfactory, may rise to a high point. They are, indeed, already high; but during the next few weeks consumption and speculation, together with inadequate supplies, may have the effect of driving them up to an unusual level.

ASHES.—The demand for Pots continued good till the early part of the week, and as high as \$4.45 to 4.47½ was freely paid, and in some instances \$4.55. Receipts have been free since opening of the Canal, and many orders having been filled as low as \$4.22½ for light and \$4.30 for choice rares has been accepted, and the tendency at the close is unmistakably downward. Seconds, \$3.50; Thirds, none. Pearls—A few small lots of Firsts have arrived and been offered and sold on p.t. much below late nominal value. The receipts since 1st Jan. have been 4,355 brls. Pots and 122 brls Pearls; the deliveries 3344 brls Pots and 129 brls Pearls; and the stock in store at six o'clock this evening was 3,376 brls Pots and 765 brls Pearls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—A little sorting-up trade is doing, but the spring business is pretty much over. Stocks in first hands are very light. Travellers sent out with early samples have met with little encouragement. Prices remain unchanged.

DRY GOODS.—Travellers now out on the sorting trip—as the trade calls it—are sending in a good many small orders this past week, and all report a cheerful feeling on the part of retail men as to the prospects of crops. There have been quite a number of buyers in our market these last few days, but are all buying with more than ordinary care, adopting the idea that we have frequently advocated, "buy often and as the goods are wanted." Money receipts, from all that we can learn, are again on the wane, showing a falling off from what they were the same week in April. The retail trade of our good city has been very satisfactory since date of our last issue.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business has been pretty active during the past week, and considerable quantities of goods have changed hands ex-wharf at prices rather lower than has been prevailing for some time. Recent reports from England show that most leading lines have a drooping tendency, with rather light demand. There are several alterations in prices, which will be noted in another column.

FISH.—No change in this department. We repeat previous quotations.—Herrings \$5.00 to \$5.50; Draft Salt Codfish is lower at \$4. No. 1. Barrel Cod, also lower; No. 1. \$5.00 to \$5.50. Green fish, quiet; business flat.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—Our market has been a very dragging one all week, in fact almost impossible to make sales, each day prices being lower than the previous one. Sales of Spring Extra yesterday and to-day, \$7.75, being a decline in the week of 50c. per brl. Extra is offering at 8.30. No sales of Wheat. A small cargo Pens sold \$1.06 per 66 lbs. Shippers are offering 60c. for Corn. Stocks of Flour in store, in Toronto, on the 14th inst., were 9,001 barrels against 9,951 last week, and 16,418 on the corresponding date last year. Little doing for some days past, but an easier feeling is manifest, and buyers are holding off expecting concessions. Superior extra is generally held at \$8.75 to 9.00, extra at \$8.40 to 8.50, fancy at \$8.20 to 8.25, and spring extra at \$7.50 to 8.00, f.o.c., but no one is willing to pay these prices. The number of bushels of grain in store in the Toronto elevators, on the 14th inst., was as follows:—Fall wheat 73,901, spring wheat 149,786, oats 17,364, barley 19,285 pens 52,297, rye nil, corn 3,714, as compared with fall wheat 231,956, spring wheat 323,092, oats 8,730, barley 15,513, pens 103,204, rye nil, corn 400 on the same date in 1876. **Wheat.**—The views of buyers and sellers are widely apart, and no business has been transacted for some days. No. 2 fall is held at 1.9, and No. 3 spring is offered at 1.80 f.o.c., without any signs of leading to business. **Pens.**—Are held firmly at 1.98 f.o.c.; no sales. **Oats.**—Are firmer, with sales of Canadian at 55c and 56c on the track. **Barley.**—The season is over, but occasionally a car sells at 76 to 78c for No. 1 and 65c f. o. b. for No. 2.

Oatmeal.—Yesterday car lots sold at \$6 05 and \$6 on the track; small lots being \$6 45 to \$6 50; this is a considerable rise. **Brn.**—Car lots on the track sold at \$13 50 yesterday.

FURS AND SKINS.—The tone of the raw skin trade is one of inactivity. Prices as shown by our quotations are nominal and buyers are not particularly anxious to handle shipping furs. Lower prices may be reached at the next September sales. We quote:—Rat, Spring 19c.; D., Fall, 10c. to 14c.; Do. Winter, 12c. to 16c.; Coon, 25c. to 60c.; Fox, Red, 75c. to \$1.25; Fox, Grass, \$2.00 to \$3.00; Marten, Pale, 75c. to \$1.00; Mink, Western Canada, good colors, \$1.50 to \$2.00; Mink, Eastern Canada, prime large \$1.50 to \$2.00; Mink, Eastern Canada, prime small, \$1.00 to \$1.50; Otter, Dark, prime, \$5.00 to \$7.00; Fisher, Dark, prime, \$5.00 to \$7.00; Lynx, \$1.25 to \$1.75; Beaver, Fall, clean pelt, per lb., \$1.25 to \$1.50; Do, Winter, clean pelt, per lb., \$1.50 to \$1.75; Bear, large prime, \$3.00 to \$10.

FREIGHTS.—Grand Trunk Rates.—Rates on flour are as follows:—From Montreal to Point Lévis, 25c.; Sherbrooke, 30c.; St. John N. B., and Halifax via Intercolonial or via Portland or Danville Junction, 45c.

Through Rates to England.—Rates on flour via Allan line to Liverpool and Glasgow now stand at 3s per barrel. Beef and pork in brls, 40s per ton; boxed meats, tallow and lard, 40s per ton; Butter and cheese to Liverpool, 45s 6d; to Glasgow, 45s; oil casks 3s 6d per brl. to Liverpool and Glasgow.

Rates from Toronto are as follows:—**Grand Trunk Rates.**—Rates on flour now stand as follows:—To Montreal, 25c.; to Point Lévis, 35c.; to Kingston, 18c.; to Brockville and Prescott, 20c. By the Intercolonial, to stations between Rivière du Loup and Metapedia, 45c.; to St. John, 50c.; and all other stations on the line, including Halifax, 60c. The rate to St. John, via Portland, is 50c, and to Halifax, by the same route, 55c, but this exclusive of marine insurance.

Through Rates to England.—Rates on flour via the Allan Line now stand at 3s 9d per brl. to Liverpool, and 3s 9d to Glasgow; wheat is not quoted. Beef and pork in barrels 57s 6d; boxed meats, tallow and lard are 57s 6d per ton of 2,210 lbs; butter and cheese 62s 6d; oil cake 45s; oatmeal and flour in bags 52s and 51c to Liverpool, and 47s 6d to Glasgow. To Glasgow, boxed meats are 55s per ton; butter, 62s 6d; and oatmeal and flour in bags 47s 6d per ton.

GROCERY MARKET, WHOLESALE.—Sugars keep firm. Late English cable figure is 33s. for bright Yellow, equal to about 10½c. here, usual terms. Prices of all grades have rather tended upwards here. Ordinary Yellows 10c. to 10½c.; good to choice 10½c. to 10½c.; Granulated is 11½c. to 12 cents. Ordinary raw sugars held at 9½ and for good up to 10c. Foreign advices generally firm. **Tens.**—Quietness prevails, with a range of prices showing little variation from last and previous week's rates. Japans are 23c to 30c. for low to fair; 33c. to 35c. for good to choice. **Molasses and Syrups.**—Small supply of Molasses; Barbadoes 50c. to 52c.; Trinidad 47c. to 49c. Syrups firm at advance previously reported. **Coffees.**—Market advanced about 1c. for week; Maracaibo 23c. to 25c.; Rio 21½c. to 23c.; Java 27c. to 30c. **Rice.**—\$1.30 to \$1.62 firm. **Soda.**—Sal Soda \$1.20 to \$1.50; Bicarbonate \$3.25 to \$3.61. **Spices.**—Pepper 10½c. 11c.; Pimento scarce and high at 12c. to 12½c.; Cloves, Nutmegs, &c., steady. **Fruits.**—An advance is to be noted of 10s. the cwt. in England, on Sultan Raisins; speculation on account of war troubles in country of production. Layers and Valencia show no change of moment. Currants steady; Filberts 8c. to 9½c.; Walnuts 7½c. to 9c.

HARDWARE.—In some lines of heavy goods considerable quantities are arriving, probably more than the state of trade and the country will warrant; this arises from the feeling of some that certain lines may advance through the stimulation of war. We rather think that prices cannot advance except in the most gradual manner by the re-opening of works one by one till all are full, and there is a large margin