

ish Isles. It was about this time that England began her work of colonization, to which the great spread of the English tongue is mainly to be attributed.

The rapid spread of English is largely to be attributed to the simplicity of its grammar, which is less complicated than that of any other Western nation. Its marked poverty of inflection, as distinguished, for example, from the German, is a great point in its favor, and thus it is much easier for a German to learn English than for an Englishman or American to learn German. On the other hand, the extraordinary orthographic inconsistency of the language is a decided drawback, and there is little doubt that if English were written on phonetic principles, as Spanish or German, its spread would be much more rapid, to say nothing of the great boon this would be to the Anglo-Saxons themselves, who spend years of unnecessary toil in learning to read and write their own language.

It is not likely, however, that any change will be made in this direction in the near future, at least in England, for the English as a nation are noted for their conservative habits, and, although they recognize the great advantages of a phonetic system, are in no hurry to adopt it. Any change in this respect must probably be looked for to America, where a few innovations have been already introduced. Thus, the spelling "vigor," "favor," "honor," etc., are American innovations, as are also "plow," "traveler," "center," "theater," etc. Other more recent forms, as "program" and "catalog," are already well established in America, but have found little favor in England.

English speakers may be divided into four great branches, as follows: (1) The European, (2) the American, (3) the South African, and (4) the Australasian. Each of these branches has its peculiarities, and the divergence between the four is becoming more marked every year. Of the extra-European branches, American, although the oldest, has diverged least from the parent stem. It is surprising what a number of American words have been introduced into England, many of which are now considered indigenous to the soil. A large proportion of the slang spoken by the middle classes in England may also be said to have an American origin. On the other hand, the Americans have retained many good old English words which have long ago dropped out of our home vocabulary.—*Chambers' Journal*.

## MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, July 4, 1894.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—Manufacturers report orders for foot-wear coming in rather slowly, but now that the hurly-burly of elections is over in the Province of Ontario, better business is looked for from that quarter.

**CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.**—There are two London steamers now in with fair supplies of cement; the demand, however, has slackened, if anything, and prices are easy at \$1.75 to 1.90 for Belgian and \$1.90 to \$2.05 for English. Firebricks steady at \$14 to 19.00 per thousand.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—In butter there is little export movement, and trading is not of an active character. Values rule just about as a week ago, creamery being quoted at 18½ to 19½c.; Townships dairy, 16 to 18c.; Western, 14 to 16c. per lb. Business in cheese has also been comparatively light, and prices may be called off a point. We quote: Fine colored, 8½ to 9c.; white, 8½ to 8½c. Strictly fresh eggs bring about 10c. per dozen.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—In this, as in most other lines of merchandise, the movement is a light one. Values generally tend to weakness, but buyers are not disposed to take advantage of the situation or buy beyond immediate wants. In bismuth there has been a fall, and much lower figures are prevailing. Salicine and salicylic acid rule low; citric, also flat; carbolic, steady and in good demand. Cream tartar has advanced from its very low position. Menthol, much firmer, it being claimed new crop of peppermint will be poor. Quicksilver firm and likely to be dearer. We quote:—Sal soda, 85 to 90c.; bicarb soda, \$2.40 to 2.60; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$2; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 7 to 9c.; cream tartar crystals, 18 to 19c.; do. ground, 20 to 22c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 30 to 33c.; do. powder, 32 to 35c.; citric acid, 45 to 50c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.50 to 2.75; sugar of lead, 10 to 11c.; bleaching powder,

\$2.75 to 3.25; alum, \$1.70 to 1.90; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$1.60 to 1.90; roll sulphur, \$1.60 to 1.90; sulphate of copper, \$4.25 to 4.75; epsom salts, \$1.40 to 1.60; saltpetre, \$7.50 to 8.00; American quinine, 35 to 38c.; German quinine, 35 to 38c.; Howard's quinine, 40 to 42c.; opium, \$4.40 to 4.90; morphia, \$1.90 to 2.00; gum arabic, sorts, 18 to 30c.; white, 40 to 60c.; carbolic acid crystals, 35 to 45c. per lb.; crude, 90c. to \$1.00 per gallon; iodine, resublimed, \$4.75 to 5.00; commercial do., \$4.25 to 4.75. Prices for essential oils are:—Oil lemon, \$1.75 to 2.25; oil bergamot, \$3.50 to 4.00; orange, \$2.50 to 2.75; oil peppermint, \$3.75 to 5.00; glycerine, 18 to 20c.; senna, 12 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 55 to 60c.; American do., 55 to 58c.; insect powder, 25 to 35c.

## MONTREAL STOCKS OF GRAIN IN STORE.

	June 25, '94.	July 3, '94.
Wheat, bushels .....	595,405	594,089
Corn, " .....	669	1,608
Oats .....	205,104	194,575
Rye .....	26,046	26,046
Peas .....	164,361	149,393
Barley .....	8,052	12,593
Buckwheat " .....	658	850
Total grain .....	1,000,295	979,454
Flour, barrels .....	51,947	.....
Oatmeal " .....	37	.....

**GROCERIES.**—The week since last writing has been a broken one, and there has been but a moderate volume of trade doing, but there are those who profess to see some signs of improvement, and who look for some freer demand in the near future. There is certainly a larger business doing in sugars, which are steady at the advanced prices, namely, 4 3-16c. per lb. at refinery for granulated, and 3 3-16 to 3½c. for yellows. An advance of a cent is reported in molasses at the island; local quotations are 27½ to 30c. per gal. as to quantity. New Japan teas are coming forward in moderate quantity, but there is as yet no great enquiry for these goods. Canned goods are dull, and no quotations have yet been made for new pack of vegetables. Rice prices are fairly established at \$3.45 for B quality, Japan \$4.50, and Patna \$5. Valencia raisins very scarce and firm at 6c. for fine off stalk.

**HIDES AND TALLOW.**—There has been rather more business doing in hides since last writing,

and tanners who have been hanging off for some time to try and beat hides down to 3½c. per lb. for No. 1 inspected, have made some moderate purchases at 4c. Dealers continue to buy No. 1 green at 3½c., and other grades at proportionate figures. Calfskins are weak at 5c.; lamb-skins 20 to 25c. each. Tallow rather easier at 5½ to 5¾c. per pound.

**LEATHER.**—The leather market remains dull, and in prices we hear of nothing new. The American market is depressed through coal and railway strikes, and English advices show no notable improvement there. The boot and shoe factories are not by any means busy. We quote: Spanish sole B. A. No. 1, 18 to 20c.; do. No. 2 to B. A., 16 to 17c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 17 to 18c.; No. 2, 15½ to 16½c.; No. 1 slaughter, 18 to 20c.; No. 2 do., 17 to 18c.; American oak sole, 39 to 43c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 24 to 26c.; do., heavy, 20 to 24c.; grained, 24 to 26c.; Scotch grained, 25 to 27c.; splits, large, 13 to 15c.; do., small, 10 to

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