

welcomed here. Western packers have been buying hogs at about 2c. per lb. less than Ontario packers, which, offsetting the duty, combined with lower freight rates, gave them an advantage in British Columbia and the western part of Canada. Our packers now feel hopeful of being able to hold this trade.

SEEDS.—Some considerable export shipments of clover seed are reported as having been made during the week, but this movement is pretty well completed. We quote: Alsike, \$3 to \$4; red clover, \$3 to \$3.70, and timothy, \$1 to \$1.75, according to quality. Foreign markets are not unusually interesting.

WOOL.—The local situation remains without change of moment. In a couple of months interest will be taken in the new clip, but until then Canadian markets will not attract special attention. Last week we reported the first series of London wool sales for the year. We are indebted to Messrs. Helmuth, Schwartze & Co., for a more detailed report: The broad result of these sales is a rise of 5 to 10 per cent. on Australian merino wools. Light conditioned and deep-grown Riverina and Queensland profited most by the improvement, and these descriptions, owing to American support were fully 10 per cent. dearer. As much may be said of light bulky broken and pieces, and of bellies, which to the end were in strong demand. In superior Western wools the advance is less marked, though some brands realized exceptional prices. For the bulk of medium and inferior grease wool the rise ranges from 5 to 7½ per cent., heavy descriptions showing it least. The improvement in scoured is similar to that in grease; fine Sydney lots were in special request, but all classes of scoured participated in the rise. Superior fine cross-bred was favored by the market as merino wool, but the lower classes, though at one time they showed some advance, lost it again, and at the close of the series barely maintained the previous level. Cape wools, especially grease, fluctuated in price to some extent, but on the average a rise of ¼d. on grease and ½d. on scoured can be recorded. The sales, which close very firmly, were largely attended, and witnessed better competition from the Continent than the market has experienced of late. America took also, as expected, not a large, yet a fair proportion, but the chief support of the sales was the home trade, which bought freely throughout. The next series will commence on Tuesday, the 15th March, with a limit of 300,000 bales, the list however, being closed not later than the 11th March. The next available amount will be about 240,000 to 250,000 bales. The commencement of the third and fourth series has been fixed for the 3rd May and 28th June, with a limitation of 300,000 bales in each case.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 16th Feb., 1898.

ASHES.—A leading dealer just returned from England, reports a steady decline in the consumption of Canadian potash in Britain, and looks for only a steady decline in the trade. Business on spot continues dull, with receipts limited, and only about 20 brls. all told, in store. Some few purchases of fair tares of first quality pots are reported at \$3.45; seconds are worth about \$3.15 to 3.20; and pearls, about \$4.75 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—Some further Western enquiries are reported for cement, but spot business continues very dull. Firebricks are wanted in moderate lots. We quote British cement firm at \$2.10 to 2.20; Belgian, \$1.95 to 2.05; bricks, \$17.00 to 22.00 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The cheese market shows a tendency to more steadiness, but there is really hardly enough doing to gauge the situation, and quotations are more or less nominal at 8 to 8½c. for finest. Butter, too, is very dull; it is claimed that a few parcels of extra fine new made dairy have realized 19 to 20c., but 18 to 18½c. is the ordinary quotation for fine; dairy, 15 to 16½c.; rolls, 14½ to 15½c. New

laid eggs are in more liberal supply and are easier at 18 to 19c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—Wholesale business in this line may be called brisk at present. Orders keep coming in well, and quite a few Western dealers are writing for the despatch of their spring goods, so that the warehouses show quite a degree of bustle. Some North-West buyers have also been in town making fair selections. Outside the big departmental stores, the city retail trade is dull, in fact in almost poor shape, and it is getting more and more evident that the days of the man of moderate calibre are numbered. Manufacturers' agents, representing French and Bradford dress goods makers, report that Americans are free buyers, and that the market shows signs of stiffening.

FISH.—The market may be said to rule almost quiet, considering that Ash Wednesday is only a week ahead of us, but with the very much modified Lenten regulations now in vogue in the Roman Catholic Church, no very brisk business in fish is looked for as in past years. We quote:—Green cod, No. 1, \$3.25 to 3.75; No. 1, large, \$4 to 4.25; dry cod, \$3.25 to 3.75; No. 1 herrings, \$4.25 to 4.50; N. S. salmon, \$12 to 13.00; B. C. ditto, \$10.50 to 11.00; sea trout, \$6.50 to 7.50; haddies, 6 to 7c.; bloaters, \$1 to 1.25 per box; boneless cod, 4½ to 5c. per lb.; whitefish, \$4.75 to 5.00 per barrel.

FURS.—The week has developed nothing new in this line. Quotations remain as before. We quote:—Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1.00 to 1.25; marten, \$1.75 to 2.25; fisher, \$4.50 to 7.00; lynx, \$1.00 to 2.00; otter, \$1.00 to 12.00 for dark; pale, \$5.00 to 7.00; red fox, large, \$1.30 to 1.50; small, \$1.00; cross fox, \$3.00 to 6.00; bear, cubs, \$3.00 to 7.00; medium, \$7.00 to 10.00; large, \$12.00 to 15.00; skunk, 15 to 70c., as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c.; rats, fall, 7c. to 10c. kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Feb. 7, 1898.	Feb. 14, 1898.
Wheat, bushels.....	94,415	88,766
Corn, "	60,499	60,099
Oats, "	677,175	693,201
Rye, "	47,796	34,737
Peas, "	118,331	94,798
Barley, "	40,361	45,652
Total grain	1,038,577	1,016,653
Oatmeal	98	63
Flour	15,961	17,147
Buckwheat	33,748	35,752

GROCERIES.—The week has been without special feature in groceries. Sugars maintain the slight advance noted last week, and are in a little better request. Quotations for molasses on the island have opened at 8c. first cost; but no cargo orders have been placed by local operators yet, and New York dealers are also said to be holding aloof, apparently in expectation of easier prices. The crop is estimated as a good one, being calculated at some 40,000 puncheons, as against about 37,000 puncheons last year. The improvement in the demand for teas, which was looked for after the middle of January, has not yet materialized to any great extent, and trading between first hands and jobbers is not all of an active character, but stocks on spot are comparatively low, with no more goods available in Japan till new crop, and holders say there is nothing whatever in the situation to cause them to ease off in their firm views. There have been reports of large seizures of low grade teas by the Customs

these lack definite confirmation. Coffees are in fair request only, with a rather easier tone to the market. We quote:—Rio, 9 to 10c.; Maracaibo, 11 to 13c.; Santos, 10 to 12c.; Java, 25 to 28c.; Mocha, 24 to 25c. Trading in dried fruits is dull, but prices are pretty steady. Sultana raisins are firmer abroad, and Valencias are in quite moderate supply on spot, with stocks exhausted in Denia. Shelled walnuts are advancing, and for almonds firmer prices are being asked.

HIDES.—The market retains all its firmness, though hides now offering are, as a rule grubby. Dealers are paying 9½c. for green, and in some cases 10c. it is said, though rarely getting beyond latter figure for cured from tanners, Calfskins are advanced a cent, and are quoted at 9 and 7c. per lb. for Nos. 1 and 2 respectively; lambskins, 95c. to \$1 each.

LEATHER.—There is continued active foreign demand for sole, and the large Canadian tanners are said to be shipping more actively than usual. Values are very firm in this line, quite fair sales being reported of No. 2 manufacturer's at 22½c.; for No. 1 slaughter 26 to 28c. is quoted, and holders are not anxious sellers of large lots. Black leathers do not move actively, but dongolas are moving out well, and the market all around is a strong one. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, 22 to 23c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 22 to 23c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 26 to 28c.; No. 2 do., 22 to 24c.; common, 20 to 21c.; waxed upper light and medium, 30 to 35c.; do. heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 32 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec do., 20 to 21c.; juniors, 18 to 20c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 24c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c. harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 13 to 13½c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 12 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—A sale of 100 tons of No. 1 Hamilton pig iron is reported at something under \$16, but in Scotch and other brands there is little movement. Bars are in moderate request; in some quarters it is thought the burning of the large rolling mills in Hamilton may help to stiffen the market. In plates there is a fair jobbing movement. There have been quite a few enquiries regarding opening spring prices, but as yet comparatively few import orders have been placed. Pig lead keeps gradually easing off, and is now cabled at £12 7s. 6d., being a decline of about a pound since the highest advance of two months ago. We quote:—Summerlee pig iron \$18 to 18.50; Carron, No. 1, \$18; No. 3, \$17.25; Ayrshire, No. 1, \$17.00; No. 3, \$16.50; Shotts, \$17.25 to 17.60; Carnbroe, \$17.00, ex-store; Siemens pig No. 1, none; No. 2 Siemens, none; Ferrona, No. 1, \$15.00 to 16.00; Hamilton No. 1, \$16.00 to 16.50; No. 2, ditto, \$15.50 to 16.00; machinery scrap, \$14.00 to 15.00; common ditto, \$12.00 to 13.00; bar iron, Canadian, \$1.40 to 1.50; British, \$2.00 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.40; Low Moor, \$5; Canada plates—Pontypool, or equal, \$2.10 to \$2.15; 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets, \$2.25; 75 sheets, \$2.35; all polished Canadas, \$2.40; Terne roofing plate, 20x28, \$5.90 to \$6.00; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.25; No. 26, \$2.15; No. 24, \$2.05; Nos. 17, \$2; No. 16 and heavier, \$2.15; tin plates

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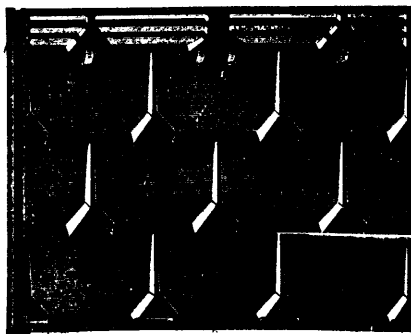
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