

## Commercial.

## MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, March 21st, 1888.

Last week's tremendous storm and the subsequent soft weather, have made country travel very difficult, and the effect on wholesale trade is quite patent in the restricted movement of merchandise now to be noted in most lines, as will be seen by reference to our remarks under the various trade headings. Payments from the country are only fair, but it must be noted that failures for this province are neither numerous nor important. The only considerable failure for the last several weeks is that of a tanning firm noted in our summary columns.

**ASHES.**—Receipts are very light, and business is quiet, prices remaining about as last quoted, or perhaps a shade easier. First quality pots are worth \$4.25 to 4.30, seconds about \$3.80; pearls, no receipts or sales, prices nominal at about \$7.50 to \$7.75. Stocks in store are about 450 pots, 13 pearls.

**HIDES.**—The market still rules dull, with prices ruling on the easy side. Green hides are coming in only slowly and are still quoted at 7c. for No. 1, and proportionate prices for Nos. 2 and 3. Hamilton No. 1 have sold at 7½c.; dry hides weak. Calfskins and sheepskins as before.

**BOOTS, SHOES AND LEATHER.**—Spring orders for boots and shoes are now pretty well filled in most cases, and attention is being turned to the preparation of fall samples. In leather the feature of the week is the failure of a Quebec tanning firm with liabilities of about \$70,000. The market is no livelier, stocks in most lines still show undue accumulation, and prices have not assumed any firmer tone. English advices show a rather better feeling there, stocks are reduced and a better tone prevails; we hear of shipments of splits going forward from Quebec and Tiverton tanneries. We quote:—Spanish sole, B. A., No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, B. A., 20 to 22c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; No. 1 China, 20 to 21c.; No. 2, 18 to 19c.; hemlock slaughter, No. 1, 24 to 27c.; oak sole, 41 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 33 to 37c.; ditto, heavy, 31 to 35c.; grained, 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained, 36 to 42c.; splits, large, 16 to 26c.; do., small, 12 to 18c.; calf splits, 32 to 33c.; calfskins (35 to 46 lbs.), 55 to 70c.; imitation French calfskins, 75 to 85c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; harness, 24 to 33c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; pebbled cow, 10 to 14½c.; rough, 23 to 26c.; russet and bridle, 54 to 55c.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—A fair jobbing distribution is reported, and import orders for heavy chemicals are being placed more freely. A continued advance is reported in crude camphor, owing to short yield in China and

Japan, and refined is very firm and likely to be dearer; citric acid is firmer. Quinine again rules very flat, the slight buoyancy reported a fortnight ago having disappeared; quicksilver shows upward tendency; opium drooping, and morphia also easy. We quote:—Sal soda, \$1.00 to 1.05; bi-carb soda, \$2.40 to 2.50; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.70 to 1.80; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 11 to 12c.; cream tartar crystals, 34 to 36c.; do. ground, 36 to 38c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 54 to 55c.; do. powder, 55 to 60c.; citric acid, 75 to 80c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.40 to 2.60; sugar of lead, 10 to 11c.; bleaching powder, \$2.50 to 2.60; alum, \$1.65 to 1.70; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.60 to 2.75; roll sulphur, \$2.00 to 2.25; sulphate of copper, \$6.00 to 6.50; epsom salts, \$1.25 to 1.40; saltpetre \$8.75 to 9.25; American quinine, 60 to 65c.; German quinine, 60 to 65c.; Howard's quinine, 65 to 70c.; opium, \$5.25 to 5.75; morphia, \$2.50 to 2.75; gum arabic, sorts, 80 to 90c.; white, \$1.00 to \$1.25; carbolic acid, 55 to 70c.; iodide potassium, \$4.00 to 4.25 per lb.; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; iodoform, \$5.75 to 6.25. Prices for essential oils are:—oil lemon, \$2.00 to 2.50; oil bergamot, \$3.00 to 3.50; orange, \$3.50; oil peppermint, \$3.50 to 4.50; glycerine, 30 to 35c.; senna, 15 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 45 to 50c.; American do., 37 to 40c.; insect powder, 70 to 90c.

**DRY GOODS.**—There is nothing fresh in the situation. Travellers are all in, and letter orders have not been frequent or large since last report. The weather has been very unfavorable to trade, and advices from the country would indicate that storekeepers have not yet had much opportunity to work off spring goods, and the sorting trip may be later than usual this year. Payments are reported "no worse," a rather doubtful sort of compliment. Some few buyers have already gone home, but the great majority will not leave for several days yet. We have seen a letter from a buyer now in Britain, saying that such Canadian buyers as are there are operating very cautiously, and the conservative policy evidenced in the Customs returns of imports for January and February is likely to be continued through the year.

**FISH.**—The demand is slackening with the approach of Easter, but stocks of salt fish are low in all lines and prices are firm still, though next week may see a decline. Supplies of fresh fish are also low and prices are firmly held. We quote:—Green cod, No. 1, \$5.25 to 5.50; No. 1, large, \$7.00; dry cod, \$4.25 to 4.50; Labrador herring, \$4.50 to 0.00; Nfld. salmon, \$15.00 to 16.00 for No. 1; B. C. ditto, \$13; fresh herring \$1.00 to 1.10 per hundred; cod, 4c. per lb.; haddock, 3½ to 4c.; salmon, 13 to 15c.

**FURS.**—Receipts are almost nil, and trade is very quiet. Telegraphic advices regarding the

## Leading Wholesale Trade of Hamilton.

great London sales now in progress show a general decline, as anticipated by us all along. We hope to have fuller details for next week. We quote for prime skins:—Beaver, \$3 50; bear, \$10.00 to 12.00; cub ditto, \$4.00 to 5.00; fisher, \$5.00; red fox, \$1.00; cross ditto, \$2.00 to 5.00; lynx, \$2.00 to \$2.50; marten, 65 to 80c.; mink, 50c.; fall muskrat 8c.; winter muskrat, 12c.; raccoon, 25, 50 and 75c.; skunk, 25, 50 and 75c.; otter, \$8.00 to 10.00.

**GROCERIES.**—Business is quieter than is altogether desirable, the storm of last week having its effect very plainly. Payments are called fair. As regards prices there is nothing of a striking or novel character to note. Sugars show no further decline, and are steady at 7c. for granulated at refinery, yellows as last quoted. Teas are moving fairly well, and are steady in value; fine blacks are very scarce and much dearer than last year, prices

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