

cost of production. There is some considerable demand for white basswood used in making key boards for musical instruments. If cut in the winter when the frost is in the log, and piled in the open, this wood brings about 20 per cent. more than the price paid for other cuts of basswood. Millmen are very careless in failing to regulate their cuts to the consumptive demand. A little energy spent in finding out what particular markets require would yield good results in the shape of advanced prices. For two-inch soft elm, cut free from the heart, there is good request. Inch is plentiful, as this cut enables millmen to dispose of their culls. For two-inch \$11 is quoted while \$9 is being paid for inch.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The markets are again weaker and prices to butchers declined another ½c. on Monday. As 8c. was paid for green hides in the autumn, and 6½c. is now quoted, it will be seen that there has been a marked decline in values within a very short time. The future is uncertain. Late reports from Chicago indicate weak markets, with quotations as follows: Native steers, 9c.; Texas, 8½c.; butt brands, 8 to 8½c., and Colorados and branded cows, 7½c. The Milwaukee grain leather tanners are said to have organized an effort to remain out of the market until the buff hide market declines to 7c. Stocks of hides in Toronto are very short. Merchants are well sold ahead. The only lots offering of which we have knowledge are some Manitoba hides. In Winnipeg offerings are not large, with 5c. quoted for frozen hides and a fraction more for fresh butcher's. Sheepskins are unchanged in the Toronto market, dealers quoting 75c. In tallow trade remains depressed and prices very low. An American firm have a representative in the market this week purchasing horse hides.

LEATHER.—A number of tanners were on the street this week in consequence of the annual meeting of the tanners' association held last Wednesday. It is the general opinion of the trade that the leather market is in a very satisfactory position notwithstanding the depression in hides. Stocks of leather are light; one tanner who carried a stock of 40 tons of splits last year has no stock on hand to-day.

PAINTS AND OILS.—Business in paints and oils is very quiet at present. The building season is over and naturally there has been a falling off in the demand for supplies. The only article for which there is good demand is window glass, and mail orders are very satisfactory. Stocks of glass are very complete and prices well maintained. The tariff inquiry commission has attracted considerable attention in the trade and before the sessions are over it is likely the jobbers' association will have something to say about paints and oils. A number of the Toronto houses are stock-taking and placing their affairs in order for the business of the new year. Prices remain very steady, few changes of importance in price lists having been made recently.

WOOL.—The local market is bare of interesting news. There is no stock of Canadian wool in the country, the surplus above the requirements of local manufacturers having been exported to the United States. There is considerable excitement in American markets over the possibility of the Dingley Bill, which proposes to restore 60 per cent. of the McKinley duties on wool, coming into force. Wool is being imported in large quantities from the United States, while holders of domestic wool have placed a valuation on wool that practically places it out of the reach of mill men. The town of Mazamet, in France, the principal seat of the European wool scouring industry, within the short period of only about 10 days sold to the United States between three and four million pounds of bleached scoured wool. This is equivalent to about fifteen million pounds of American unwashed fleeces. It would appear that the speculation in wool is being carried to excess by American operators, and a reaction is likely to follow during the eight or ten months that must elapse before a new tariff bill can be passed in the event of the Dingley Bill not passing as a "stop gap."

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 9th Dec., 1896.

ASHES. The present market is a dull one, with very light receipts, beyond one moderate lot, as things now go, from Sarina. Of shipments there have been none since last report. Quota-

tions are more or less nominal at \$3.40 to 3.45, for first quality of pots, seconds, \$3.00 to 3.05 pearls \$4.40.

CEMENTS, FIREBRICKS, &c.—Business is now of a very quiet character, trading being confined to the filling of small local orders, and there is no outside demand. The advanced figures as given by us last week are confirmed. We quote, British cement, \$2.10 to 2.15; Belgian, \$1.90 to 2.00; firebricks, \$17 to 22.00 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The present business in cheese is but limited; for finer grades of Western there is hardly any demand, and the only trading is in moderate lots of goods at about 9 to 9½c. per lb. The nominal quotation for fine September is about 10½c. Butter is also dull and inclined to weakness, fine creamery being quoted at 18 to 18½c., and the demand being only to fill local wants; Townships dairy is dull at 15 to 16c., and roll butter 13 to 14c. New laid eggs bring 20 to 22c., and limed are quoted at 14 to 15c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—The wholesale warehouses are not very busy, though in some cases a fair number of moderate sorting orders are reported. City retail trade is fair in extent, but in the country parts good snow roads are wanted for the general improvement of trade and enlargement of remittances. The only reported change in values of textiles is a slight advance in the linen market on canvas, grass-cloths, etc., owing to wet-spun yarns used in the manufacture of these lines, being dearer.

FURS.—Some fair lots of raw furs of mixed assortment are being received, and are showing some improvement in quality. More skunk is offered than dealers seem disposed to buy, as some of them have a good deal of stock held over from last season. The following quotations we give, it should be understood, are for prime skins: Beaver, fall, \$2 to \$3 per lb.; spring, do., \$3.25 to \$4; black bear, choice only, \$15 to 20; cubs and yearlings, \$1 to 5; fisher, \$5 to 7.50 as to color; red fox, \$1.20 to 1.50; cross do., \$4 to 10, depending on size and beauty; silver do., \$20 to 50; lynx, \$1.50 to \$2; marten, \$1.50 to 2.25; mink, \$1 to 1.50; muskrat, winter, 10 to 13c.; fall, 6 to 9c.; coon, 60c. to \$1; black, do., \$1.75 to 2.25; skunk, black, 75 to 90c.; short stripe, 50 to 60c.; long stripe, 20 to 30c.; white, 05 to 15c.

FISH.—Green cod and herrings are a little easier, more attention being apparently directed to fresh fish, of which there have been larger receipts. We quote: No. 1 green cod, \$4.50; No. 1 large, \$5 to 5.25; No. 1 Nova Scotia herrings, \$4 to 4.25; medium qualities, \$3 to 4; dry cod, \$3.75 to 4.25; finnan haddies easier, at 6 to 6½c.; fresh herrings from 60c. to \$1.35 per hundred as to size; haddock, 3½c. per lb.; pickled N.S. salmon, \$12 to 13; sea trout, \$6.50 to 7.50.

MONTREAL GRAIN STOCKS IN STORE.

	Nov. 23, '96.	Dec. 7th, '96.
Wheat, <i>Domestic</i>	632,152	447,377
Corn, ".....	41,696	35,327
Oats, ".....	115,087	91,261
Rye, ".....	13,378	20,910
Peas, ".....	90,169	107,076
Barley, ".....	37,559	33,094
Total grain	930,041	735,045
Oatmeal.....	67	..
Flour.....	34,213	93,993
Buckwheat.....	75,328	25,599

GROCERIES.—An auction sale of about 1,500 pkgs. of tea was held to-day, on instructions from the underwriters interested in the recent St. Peter St. fire, and very satisfactory prices were realized, even better, it is said, than anticipated, justifying the claims of a much stronger market that have been recently made by importers. In sugars the present demand from refiners is light, but country stocks are reported small, and better enquiry is anticipated, when good snow roads set in. Prices at the factory are 3½ to 4c. per lb. for standard granulated; yellows, 3½ to 3¾c. Molasses is dull; first hands quote Barbadoes, in lots, at 27c.; Porto Rico, 28 to 28½c. per gal. Canned goods show a strengthening market, and some standard brands of tomatoes are now held at 75c. in quantity. All lines of dried fruits are firmly held, with continued scarcity of Valencia raisins; dates are also in light supply. No new filberts have arrived yet, and are only expected about the 2nd inst., costing about 8½c.; old filberts have sold at 8½c. lately. In other lines we hear of nothing especially new.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—The market for hides is distinctly easier, following suit to Chicago and other American centres. Dealers have reduced quotations to butchers to 7, 6 and 5c. per lb., for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 green, respectively, and quote 7½ to 8c. for No. 1, cured, to tanners. Receipts last week were large, and went mainly into store. Calfskins come in slowly at this season, and continue to bring old figures, namely, 6 and 4c. per lb. for Nos. 1 and 2 respectively. Tallow is dull at 3 to 3½c. for rendered, and about 1½c. for rough.

HOPS.—The demand at the moment is dull, with 9 to 11½c. about the range for new crop, according to quality. Yearlings and olds are reported very slow of sale, and though dealers would ask 5 to 6c. for small lots of yearlings of good quality, they seem indisposed to add to their stocks of these except at considerably lower figures.

LEATHER.—Though hides are off a little in both the home and American market, and the present demand for leather is comparatively light, there is no disposition to concede on quotations, the more especially as stocks of leather are low and the tone of tanners' letters is decidedly stiff. One Western tanner reports a sale of 1,200 sides of buff and glove, to go to Antwerp, at figures netting better than 10 cents, and another reports an offer of 10 cents at the tannery for all his output of glove. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 22 to 23c.; do. No. 2, 21c. to 22c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 25c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; common, 17 to 18c.; waxed upper light and medium, 26 to 29c.; do. heavy, 24 to 27c.; grained, 25 to 30c.; Scotch grained, 25 to 30c.; western splits, 20 to 25c.; Quebec do., 15 to 17c.; juniors, 13 to 15c.; 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 22c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 14c.; 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, 11 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 11 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Quietude reigns in these lines. Foundrymen generally have laid in their winter supplies of pig iron, and in any event will shortly be shutting down for the usual yearly repairs. The demand for Canada plates has died out, but there is no weakening in quotations, as stocks are very small. There is said to be some likelihood of bars firming up a little. Iron piping is slightly cheaper, discount on list being increased about 5 per cent. Tin and copper are rather weaker in Britain. We quote:—Summerlee pig iron, \$20 to 20.50 ex-store; Carron, \$19.50; Ayrshire, \$18.50; Shotts, \$18.25 to 18.50; Carnbroe, \$18.50 to 19.00, ex-store; Siemens pig No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Ferrona, No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Hamilton No. 1, \$18.50; No. 2, ditto, \$18.00; machinery scrap, \$15.00; common do., \$12.00 to 13.00; bar iron, Canadian, \$1.40 to 1.45; British, \$2.00 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.40; Low Moor, \$5.00; Canada plates—Pontypool, or equal, \$2.40, 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets \$2.50; 75 sheets \$2.60; all polished Canadas, \$2.60; Terne roofing plate, 20x28, \$5.75 to 6.00; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.25 to 2.30; No. 26, \$2.15 to 2.20; No. 24, \$2.05 to 2.10; Nos. 17 to 20, \$2; No. 16 and heavier, \$2.30; tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$5.60 to 5.70; charcoal, I. C., Alloway, \$3.15 to 3.25; do. I.X., \$3.80 to 3.90; P. D. Crown, I. C., \$3.60 to 3.75; do. I.X., \$4.50; Coke I. C., \$2.80 to \$3.00; coke, wasters, \$2.70; galvanized sheets, No. 28, ordinary brands, \$4.25; No. 26, \$4.00; No. 24, \$3.75 in case lots; Morewood, \$5.00 to 5.10; tinne sheets, coke, No. 24, 5½c.; No. 26, 6c.; the usual extra for large sizes. Canadian bands, per 100 lbs., \$1.75; English ditto, \$2; hoops, \$2.15. Steel boiler plate, ½ inch and upwards, \$1.85 to 1.90 for Dalzell, and equal; ditto three-sixteenths inch, \$2.50; tank iron, ½ inch, \$1.50; three-sixteenths do., \$2.00; tank steel, \$1.75; heads, seven-sixteenths and upwards, \$2.45 to 2.50; Russian sheet iron 9c.; lead, per 100 lbs., pig, \$3.10 to 3.15; sheet, \$4 to 4.25; shot, \$6 to 6.50; best cast-steel, 8 to 10c.; toe calk, \$2.25; spring, \$2.50; sleigh shoe, \$1.85; tire, \$1.90; round machinery steel \$2.25; ingot tin, 15c. for L. & F.; Straits, 14½c.; bar tin, 16½ to 17c.; ingot copper, 11 to 12c.; sheet zinc, \$5.00 to \$5.25; Silesian spelter, \$4.50; Veille Montagne