

CANADA PLATES

Were even more excited, and commanded proportionately higher rates than any article yet mentioned. The year opened with light stocks and moderate demand, at about \$4.50 for ordinary brands. Between January and June prices in England had risen from £14 to £30 5s. for best brands, and as the early Fall demand was heavy, prices here rose rapidly from \$5 to \$9 per box, at which extreme rates many parcels were placed. These high figures brought forward large shipments in October, when our market became dispirited and sensitive, and prices fell fully \$2 per box, with a very limited inquiry. Before the close of the year they rallied about 50 cents, and some large parcels of superior quality were placed at \$7.50—4 mos.

CUT NAILS

During the entire year were in good demand at regularly advancing prices. There was a large production, but the wants of buyers seemed to absorb all that were made. In January they were held at \$4 per keg, but by June had advanced to \$6, at which rate the greater part of the Fall sales were made. In November they dropped to \$5, and the year closed at this rate. Stocks are not heavy, and are in the hands of a few firms, who are not anxious sellers at present prices.

RUSSIA SHEET IRON

was in limited supply—but the demand also was light, principally on account of high prices. Fine numbers sold at 16 cents, and coarse ones at 15 cents per pound, at which rates they are still held. Stocks are lighter than usual.

SHELF HARDWARE

has been active and remunerative during the greater part of the year, with steadily improving prices. The jobbing trade has been larger than usual, and the quality of the goods much better, indicating a growing taste and enlarged means on the part of

consumers. On staple articles the advance in price has been fully fifty per cent, and even at these rates orders were executed in England with difficulty and unusual delay. At the close of the year some depression existed, but a more hopeful feeling has since prevailed, with firmer prices.

CANADIAN MANUFACTURED HARDWARE.

This heading embraces a great variety of articles, far too numerous to notice separately. It includes, in part, Agricultural Implements and Machines of various descriptions, Axes, Spades, Shovels, Scythes, hay and manure Forks, Augurs, Bitts, Saws, Stoves, Cut and Horse Nails, a large variety of malleable castings, &c., &c. These goods are now manufactured in sufficient quantities to supply the entire wants of Canada, and are of superior quality. The numerous establishments where they are produced, give employment to an immense number of artisans, and are sources of wealth and prosperity to every town or hamlet in which they are located. They are increasing every year in quantity and improving in finish, and now form a large and important portion of the Hardware Trade. Taken as a whole, they have been prosperous, and are adding largely to the rapidly accumulating capital of the Dominion. An export demand has set in, and several establishments make shipments every season to Australia, West Indies, South America, Great Britain, and even the United States.

We regret not being able to supply our readers with the *quantities* of many of the leading articles imported at Montreal in the Iron and Hardware Trades, but the following statement will, to some extent, show their *values* for the years 1871 and 1872. The great increase is to be attributed more to the enhanced cost than enlarged quantity. They are copied from the official returns at the Custom House here.

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