

Commercial

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 21st Feb., 1900.

ASHES.—Business is very inactive in character, and enquiry from England is practically nil, though letters thence report a pretty steady market. For first quality pots, of good tare, from \$4.60 to \$4.75 would be paid; seconds are in poor request at \$4.20 to \$4.30, and pearls would not bring a great deal more than No. 1 pots.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—With the advancing season a little more enquiry is to be noted for cements, though actual business is still confined to moderate jobbing lots. We quote: Belgian, \$2.10 to \$2.20; English, \$2.45 to \$2.60; German, \$2.60 to \$2.75; firebricks, \$18.50 to \$27 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The cheese market is firmer, the public cable quotation having been subject to several recent advances, and holders are quoting 12½ to 12¾c. or a shade higher, for fine West-via the seaboard last week were 26.207 boxes, just about equal to the figures of last year at the same date. Butter shows a steady jobbing movement, but little export movement, supplies being barely sufficient for local consumption. We quote fine creamery, 22½ to 23c. dairy, 19 to 21c. Supplies of new laid eggs are fairly liberal, and prices are easing off. We quote new laid, 20 to 22c.; limed, 14 to 16c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—Buyers are reported in town this week from quite a number of widely-apart points, including British Columbia, the North-West, the Maritime provinces, also a large buyer from the Alaska region, and some very fair-sized selections have been made by these visitors. General business keeps up well, and payments are favorably spoken of, considering the time of year. The further advances in cotton goods, anticipated by us last week, are materializing, and to-day the Montreal Cotton Co. issued a circular advising higher prices for a number of lines, including linings, foulards, silesias, surah twills, etc. The Canadian Co. has also withdrawn quotations on some lines of flannelettes and shirtings.

FISH.—Business has been fairly active, and increased demand is looked for next week. Stocks generally are reported fairly liberal. We quote: Nova Scotia herrings, \$5 to \$5.25; No. 1. Labrador herrings, \$5.25 to \$5.50; No. 1. green cod, \$5; No. 1. large, \$5.25 to \$5.50; No. 2. \$3.75 to \$4.00; dry cod, \$4.75; N.S., salmon, \$13; B.C. do., \$12 to \$13; sea trout, \$8.50 to \$9; dressed cod, \$4.25 to \$4.50; boneless cod, 5½c. per lb.; fresh herrings, \$1.60 to \$1.75 per hundred; fresh haddock, 4 to 5c.; fresh cod, 3 to 3½c.

FURS.—Receipts have been pretty liberal, and some fair-sized consignments have gone forward for the London March sales. We quote for prime skins: Mink, dark, \$2 to \$2.50; pale, ditto, \$1 to \$1.50; marten, dark, \$5 to \$10; large pale ditto, \$3 to \$3.50; small pale, \$2 to \$2.50; fisher, \$4 to \$7; lynx, \$3 to \$4.50; otter, dark, \$10 to \$13; pale, \$5 to \$7; red fox, \$3 to \$3.50; cross, ditto, \$4 to \$10; silver, \$20 to \$150; skunk, 30c. to \$1; coon, 20c. to \$1; large fall rats, 10c.; medium, 7c.; kits, 2 to 5c.; winter rats, 11 to 14c.

GROCERIES.—The molasses market opened in Barbadoes last Friday, the cabled quotation for new crop being 15c. per gal., three cents higher than last year's opening figure, and equal to a laid down cost of 32c. New Orleans molasses is appearing more in Canadian markets, and some think importations of Barbadoes

goods will decrease. The local sugar market is dull, under an easier feeling, reflected from New York, where it is believed competition is again developing between the trust and the Arbuckles; quotations, however, remain exactly the same for the present. Rice is firmer, and the milling company will not contract beyond July, as a material advance is expected, owing to the famine in India, and other causes. Dried fruits move sluggishly. Tapicoa is firmer, and it is said for immediate importation would cost 5 to 5½c. Good medium Japans are becoming scarce, and are firmer in New York; low grade blacks are also firmer, but better class Congous are reported easier in London.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Bushels. Feb. 13.	Bushels. Feb. 20.
Wheat	54,940	54,065
Corn	20,193	19,793
Oats	300,364	350,000
Rye	14,316	14,316
Peas	54,374	57,071
Barley	24,185	28,369
Total grain	468,372	523,614
Oatmeal	398	675
Flour	30,047	31,064
Buckwheat	36,825	39,892

LEATHER.—Shoe manufacturers in this province are reported to be buying a little more freely, but most of the large factories are said to be still receiving deliveries of leather on contracts made before December last. Sole tanners are still busy on English orders, and expect to continue so for some months to come. All values rule very steady. We quote: Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 26c.; No. 2, B.A., 24½ to 25½c.; No. 3, B.A., 23½ to 24c.; No. 1, ordinary Spanish, 24 to 25c.; No. 2, 22½ to 23c.; No. 1 slaughter, 28 to 29c.; No. 2, ditto, 25 to 27c.; common, 20 to 21c.; waxed upper, light, and medium, 30 to 35c.; ditto, heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 32 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; Western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec ditto, 18 to 20c.; juniors, 16 to 17c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calfskins, (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 24c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskins linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 31 to 33c.; buffed cow, 13 to 15c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebble cow, 12½ to 14c.; polished buff, 12 to 13c.; glove-grain, 12½ to 14c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Wholesale hardware men speak favorably of the state of business, and in heavy metals the movement is ahead of this time last year. Some fair-sized sales of Calder pig iron are reported at \$26.75 for No. 1, and \$25.75 for No. 3; Summerlee continues firm at quotations of \$27.50 to \$28.50. There seems to be an expectation in some quarters of an advance in bars. Ingot tin is again firmer, 35c. being quoted for L. & F., in fair lots; lead also is firmer if anything. Black sheets of 24 gauge have been offered at something under our quotation, but this was an outside lot, and all large holders continue very firm in their views. Terne plates are being held at \$8.75 by some dealers. Galvanized sheets show strength, owing to reported consolidation among American producers. Some recent sales in Canada of American iron pipe have been reported lately, in competition with the domestic article, and there are some who seem to expect cutting in prices in this article. Following are the quotations: Summerlee pig iron, \$27.50 to \$28.50; Carnbroe, \$26; Calder, \$27; Hamilton, No. 1, \$30.00 to \$30.00; No. 2, do., \$30.00 to \$30.00; Ferona, No. 1, \$25.75; machinery scrap, \$19 to

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