

Steel Rails.—80-lb., \$35 to \$38 per ton. The following are prices per gross ton; Montreal, 12-lb. \$45, 16-lb. \$44, 25 and 30-lb. \$43.

Sheet Steel.—In moderate supply; 10-gauge, \$2.65; 12-gauge, \$2.70.

Tar.—Market unsettled, \$3.50 per barrel the ruling price.

Tank Plate.—3-16-in., \$2.65.

Tin.—Irregular abroad, but higher on the whole; price here 33 to 34c.

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Montreal, April 22nd, 1908.

The pig iron markets of the world have been exceedingly dull during the past few weeks, and the Easter season seemed to put a stop to even the little that was going on. In the United States and in England and Scotland there is a feeling of hesitation which is not any too reassuring to those who are interested in the maintainance of prices. For the most part, however, makers are maintaining prices, although the demand at quoted figures is not very encouraging. It is doubtful, however, if it would be any better were quotations to be reduced, and it is probably this suspicion, as much as anything else, which supports the market. It is considered by a good many that if a buyer were to make an offer for good round lots at something less than prices generally quoted he might succeed in getting the goods.

In the local market, interest is increasing as the opening of navigation approaches. Already a dozen ships have cleared for the port of Montreal, and among the cargoes carried by these is a very considerable quantity of iron. Practically everything included in the early arrivals has been sold for prompt delivery, and will be forwarded as quickly as possible to its destination.

The situation in finished and partly finished material is not particularly encouraging. There has been an increase of demand, lately, but trade is slow as compared with a year ago, and all the elements of confidence are wanting. The market, however, remains very steady, hardly a change having taken place in prices since a week ago.

Antimony.—The market holds steady and sales are being made at 9½ to 10c. per lb.

Bar Iron and Steel.—Prices continue unchanged and business is not very active. Bar iron, \$1.90 per 100 lbs.; best refined horseshoe iron, \$2.15; forged iron, \$2.05; mild steel, \$2.00; sleigh shoe steel, \$2.05 for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$2.05 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$2.50; machine steel, iron finish, \$2.15.

Boiler Tubes.—The market holds steady, demand being fair, prices are as follows:—2-inch tubes, 8 to 8¼c.; 2½-inch, 11c.; 3-inch, 12 to 12¼c.; 3½-inch, 15 to 15¼c.; 4-inch, 19¼ to 19½c.

Building Paper.—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounce, \$2 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, No. 1, 60c. per roll of 400 square feet No. 2, 40c.; dry sheathing, No. 1, 50c. per roll of 400 square feet, No. 2, 32c.

Cement—Canadian and American.—Canadian cement, \$1.70 to \$1.75 per barrel, in cotton bags, and \$1.95 and \$2.05 in wood, weights in both cases 350 pounds. There are four bags of 87½ pounds each, net, to a barrel, and 10 cents must be added to the above prices for each bag. Bags in good condition are purchased at 10 cents each. Where paper bags are wanted instead of cotton, the charge is 2½ cents for each, or 10 cents per barrel weight. American cement, standard brands, f.o.b. mills, 85c. per 350 pounds; bags extra, 10c. each, and returnable in good condition at 7½c. each.

Cement—English and European.—English cement is steady at \$1.85 to \$1.90 per barrel in jute sacks of 82½ pounds each (including price of sacks) and \$2.20 to \$2.30 in wood, per 350 pounds, gross. Belgian cement is quoted at \$1.75 to \$1.85 per barrel in bags, and \$2.05 to \$2.20 per barrel, in wood.

Copper.—The market is steady at 14 to 14½c. per pound. Demand continues limited.

Iron.—Prices for delivery after the opening of St. Lawrence navigation are approximately as follows: No. 1 Sum-

merlee, on cars, Montreal, \$20.50 to \$21 per ton; No. 2 selected Summerlee, \$20 to \$20.50; No. 3, soft, \$19.50 to \$20; Cleveland, \$18.50, and No. 3 Clarence, \$18; No. 1 Carron, \$22 to \$22.50; Carron special, \$20.25 to \$20.75; Carron, soft, \$20 to \$20.50. Stocks on spot are light. Clarence No. 1 is quoted at \$20.50 to \$21; Clarence No. 3 at \$19 to \$19.50; Carron No. 1 at \$24.50 to \$25, and Carron, soft, at \$22.50 to \$23, cars, Montreal.

Lead.—Trail lead is unchanged, at \$3.90 to \$4.00 per 100 lbs., ex-store.

Nails.—Demand for nails is moderate, but prices are steady at \$2.30 per keg for cut, and \$2.25 for wire, base prices.

Pipe—Cast Iron.—Trade dull and prices steady at \$36 for 8-inch pipe and larger; \$37 for 6-inch pipe, \$38 for 5-inch, and \$39 for 4-inch at the foundry. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

Pipe—Wrought.—The market is firm but dull. Quotations and discounts for small lots, screwed and coupled, are as follows: ¼-inch to ¾-inch, \$5.50, with 54 per cent. off for black and 38 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 66 per cent. off for black and 56 per cent. off for galvanized: ½-inch, \$8.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1¼-inch, \$22.50; 1½-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; and 3-inch, \$75.50; 3½-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

Spikes.—Railway spikes are in fair demand, \$2.60 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at \$3.15 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 10 inch and 5½ x 12 inch.

Steel Shafting.—Prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is on the dull side.

Steel Plates.—Demand is good, and the market steady. Quotations are: \$2.55 for 3-16, \$2.40 for ¼, and \$2.30 for ⅜ and thicker, in smaller lots.

Tar and Pitch.—Coal tar, \$4 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing 575 to 600 pounds; coal tar pitch, No. 1, 75c. per 100 pounds, No. 2, 65c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$4.35 to \$4.50 per barrel of about 280 pounds; pine pitch, \$4.25 per barrel of 180 to 200 pounds.

Tin.—The market is steady at 33½ to 34c. per pound.

Tool Steel.—Demand is light, but the market is firm. Base prices are as follows: Jessop's best unannealed, 14½c. per pound, annealed being 15½c.; second grade, 8½c., and high-speed, "Ark," 60c., and "Novo," 65c.; "Conqueror," 55 to 60c.; Sanderson Bros. and Newbould's "Sabon," high-speed, 60c.; extra cast tool steel, 14c., and "Colorado" cast tool steel, 8c., base prices. Sanderson's "Rex A" is quoted at 75c. and upward; Self-Hardening, 45c.; Extra, 15c.; Superior, 12c.; and Crucible, 8c.; "Edgar Allan's Air-Hardening," 55 to 65c. per pound.

Zinc.—The market is unchanged, at 5¼ to 5½c. per pound.

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Winnipeg, April 21, 1908.

The opening up of spring, and the general bright appearance on the outlook for building, has caused a considerable activity in contractors' supplies. Building material is in good demand, as also heavy hardware for railroad camps, and cement agents report an excellent demand for their goods. The lumber companies throughout the country are experiencing some difficulty in filling orders, as they expected little or no business until the summer. Bricks and cement blocks are being enquired for from many headquarters. Pig-iron is in active demand, and owing to a large amount of

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