

—A summary of ship building in Maine during last year showed that 121 vessels were constructed, with aggregate tonnage 68,211 tons. There were five steamers, four ships, one barque, seven barquentines, eighty-nine schooners, and fifteen sloops built, but no brigs.

—A long journey is undertaken by the schooner "Otto," which cleared from Halifax ten days ago, bound for Victoria, B. C. She takes a crew of nine, and will be commanded by Capt. C. H. McLeod, of Pictou, formerly of the schooner "Josie." About 30 or 40 men were to leave Halifax by rail about the first week of the new year for Victoria, B.C., where they will join the sealing fleet.

—The last 45 miles of the Cape Breton railway is now about completed; the first engine passed over the line on this day week. Trains have been running on the western end of the road from Mulgrave to Grand Narrows since November last, and the *Eastern Chronicle* says that after Monday the connection will be between Sydney and Mulgrave on the Strait of Canso, joining the Intercolonial, and establishing direct communication between Sydney, the United States and the Upper Provinces.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, JAN. 7th, 1891.

ASHES.—The American demand has fallen off considerably, and the market rules quiet. First quality pots are quoted at \$5.50 nominally, though it is said an occasional transac-

tion has transpired below these figures; seconds have been sold at about \$4.60. Of pearls there are only 13 brls. in store, and the only late transaction reported is two brls. of seconds at \$5.00.

According to a statement made up by E. J. Major, ashes inspector in Montreal, the quantity of pot and pearl ashes received during 1890 was 2,469 barrels, consisting of 2,087 barrels pots and 382 barrels pearls, as compared with 3,780 brls. pots and 284 brls. pearls, making in all 4,064 brls., in 1889. The quantity in store last Friday was only 94 barrels, mostly pots, against 421 barrels at corresponding date 1889.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The factories only show moderate life as yet; the trade as a whole report rather more orders than usual at this time, and seem satisfied with the trade prospects, but cutting for spring goods has not yet actively began, nor have the operatives yet settled down to their regular labor.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The stringency in the British money market has had some slackening effect on the values of certain kinds of heavy chemicals at home, but no change can be made in the local list just now. We refer to chemicals under British markets. Opium has rarely been so depressed as at present, and we lower inside figure to \$2.50; Quinine flat; oil lemon much firmer and we advance quotations. We quote:—Sal soda, \$1.15 to 1.25; bicarb soda, \$2.50 to 2.60; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$2.00; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 9 to 10c.; cream tartar crystals, 26 to 28c.; do. ground, 29 to 30c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 46 to 48c.; do. powder, 48 to 50c.; citric acid, 55 to 60c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.50 to 2.75; sugar of lead, 10

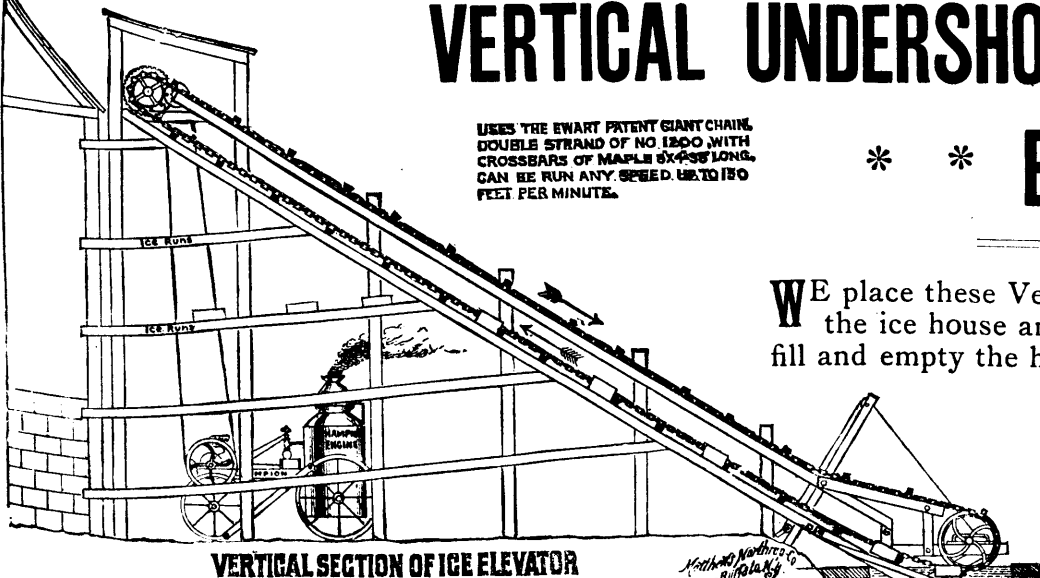
to 12c.; bleaching powder, \$2.25 to 2.40; alum, \$1.75 to 2.00; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.25 to 2.40; roll sulphur, \$2.10 to 2.25; sulphate of copper, \$6.00 to 6.50; epsom salts, \$1.65 to 1.75; saltpetre, \$8.25 to 8.75; American quinine, 45 to 50c.; German quinine, 45 to 50c.; Howard's quinine, 50 to 55c.; opium, \$4.50 to 5.00; morphia, \$2.10 to 2.20; gum arabic, sorts, 60 to 80c.; white, 90c. to 1.10; carbolic acid, 40 to 50c.; iodide potassium, \$3.75 to 4.00 per lb.; iodine, re-sublimed, \$4.75 to 5.00; commercial do., \$4.25 to 4.75; iodoform, \$5.75 to 6.25. Prices for essential oils are:—Oil lemon, \$2.00 to 2.50; oil bergamot, \$3.50 to 4.25; orange, \$3.00 to 3.50; oil peppermint, \$4.00 to 5.00; glycerine, 25 to 28c.; senna, 12 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 70 to 75c.; American do., 65 to 70c.; insect powder, 40 to 45c.

DRY GOODS.—Payments in this line are still reported as very much off color, despite the hopes entertained from the result of the holiday trade, which was generally reported very fair; remittances from the North-West are now complained of, though very fair a few weeks ago. Travellers are all out with spring samples and some pretty good orders are already reported, notably from British Columbia and the North-West. City retail trade has quieted down some, though the offer of bargains by leading retailers is still attracting a good many shoppers. Values show no change in any description of textiles.

FISH.—We note no special activity in this line as yet. Labrador herrings are worth about \$5.00 to 5.25; shore ditto \$4.75 to 5.00; Cape Bretons about \$5.50; dry cod, \$5.25; green cod in light supply and rather firmer; No. 1, \$5.25; large, \$5.50 to 6.00; sea trout, 10

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