Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

MONTREAL, Jan. 3, 1871.

We have had fair weather for the season, but as yet, we have no ice-bridge, and until really cold weather comes, no change in the river can take place, the thermometer has indicated as low as 12 degrees below zero, but only for a short time.

Business in all departments has been dull for wholesale trade, but for retail, there has been the usual demand, until the holiday season is over there is no expectation of much business being done, except for retail wants. The flour market is firm but not active, ashes firm; provisions firm but without much animation.

Stocks have been easy and very little demand can be noted. Sterling Exchange has been in fair demand at about late rates.

ASHES.—*Pots*—In the early part of the week prices were very firm at late rates, since then a decline on the part of buyers took place and prices to day are $5.90 to $6 per firsts; Seconds, $5; Thirds, $4.50; *Pearls*—The market for this ash has been weak, but prices now are firm although lower than last week. Firsts have been sold at $6 to $6.05. No seconds in market. Stocks now in store are Pots, 779 brls.; Pearls, 704 brls., being a decrease of 256 brls. Pots, and an increase of 257 brls. Pearls on the stock in store on the same period of 1869.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There has been the usual business done during the past week, but nothing to alter the state of prices has transpired, after the holiday season is over there is expected an advance in prices owing to the stiffness in Leather.

CATTLE.—There has not been much actvity in this branch during the last week; arrivals are light, and really good stock was at once taken up for Christmas. The prices for the market to-day are firm, but the supply of hogs is small and hardly equal to the demand. Cattle, Extra, 9c. to 10c.; Cattle, 1st quality, 8c. to 8½c.; Cattle, 2nd and 3rd quality, 7½c. to 5c.; Milk Cows, $30, $35, $45, $50; Sheep, 3c. to 6c.; Extra Sheep, 8c. to 10c.; Lambs, 2½c. to 3½c.; Hogs, 5½c. to 6c.

COALS.—A fair business has been done for the retail trade, but at the last quotations market generally has been firm, and an advance on late rates is looked for.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There is a very little change to note in this market, Caustic Soda is scarce and prices are firm and advanced to 4c. to 4½c., with this exception, there is no change to note in any article, but late prices can easily be obtained.

FISH.—The supply of Labrador Herring has been light but full prices have been obtained, and the same remarks apply to any other kind of fish—the quotations at present are as follows:—Salmon, tierces, $23.50; Salmon, brls., $15.50 to $16; Labrador Herrings, $6.50 to $7; Bay of Island Herrings, $2.50 to $3.50; Dry Cod, $5.25 to $5.50; Canso Herring, brls., $6 to $6.25; do. half brls., $3.25 to $3.37 1 2.

FREIGHTS.—The rates lately quoted are still the quotations given by the only parties who are using the Allan line from Montreal, *via.* Portland to Liverpool, and we cannot make a change from last weeks rates.

FLOUR.—Receipts during the past week 3,600 brls. Total receipts during the year from 1st January '70 to date, 1,027,890 brls. against 981,329 brls. in corresponding period of 1869, being an increase of 46,561 brls. There has been very little of what may be called wholesale business done during the week, the trade being limited to the supply of retail wants, wholesale traders are apart in their views and until after the holidays, no wholesale business is looked for; the prices in to-day's market are firm, but without material change from last week's prices. They are as follows:—

Superior Extra	$6 40 @	$6 50
Extra	6 20	6 30
Fancy	5 80	6 00
Fresh Supers, (Canada Wheat)	5 45	5 50
Western States Supers, (Canada Wheat)	5 65	5 80
Strong Bakers'	5 85	6 10
Supers from Western Wheat (Welland Canal) free	5 50	0 00
Supers, City Brands, (Western wheat) free nominal	5 50	0 00
Canada Supers, No. 2	5 00	5 02
Western States, No. 2, free	5 00	0 00
Fine	4 70	4 85
Middlings	4 00	4 20
Pollards	2 75	3 50
U. C. bag flour, per 100 lbs	2 50	2 60
City bags, (delivered)	2 70	2 75
Oatmeal, per 100 lbs	5 70	5 90

GRAIN.—*Wheat*—Receipts for the part week none. The total receipts from 1st January '70 to date, 6,152,392 bushels against 7,330,854 bushels in corresponding period of 1869, being a decrease of 877,462 bushels. During the week there has been no movement of consequence to change the price; buyers and sellers are still apart in their views, and whatever sales that come before the public are on private terms, we understand that some considerable sales have taken place for future delivery, but as the terms are private, we cannot even give the particulars; all quotations for wheat are in the meantime nominal. *Oats*—Have been rather quiet, demand is moderate, but prices on the whole have been firm at 43c. to 44½c. per 32 lbs. *Barley*—Very steady in price at from 55c. to 60c. per 48 lbs, but only a limited amount of business doing.

GROCERIES.—*Teas*—We cannot change our late prices but at present prices are firm. *Sugar*—There has been no demand for Raw Sugar during the week. The only sales of consequence has been of Scotch Refined at 8¾c. to 9¼. Our refiners here are busy and quotations are the same as last week. *Molasses*—are dull and no change can be noted in prices. *Fruits*—Layer Raisins are dull and are now quoted at $1.62½ to $1.70; Valencias, 6c. to 7¼, a trifle less has been had for choice lots. *Currants*—are scarce and price is now 6¾c. but higher figures are now asked for really choice lots. *Coffee*—There have been some sales of Java at 25c. Laguayra and Rio are unchanged in value but a fair demand is experienced for all kinds.

HARDWARE.—As may be looked for at this season of the year, there is very little doing; but the prospects of the coming season are good, meantime the prices for all kinds of the staple articles are firm, and a steady business is looked for in a short time.

LIQUORS.—Although there has been nothing doing beyond the merest retail trade, prices remain firm and unchanged from last weeks rates, High Wines are now quoted at 55c. to 60c. No particular business doing in other kinds and we continue our rates from last week.

LEATHER.—There has been a good demand for Spanish Sole which is still scarce and firm, in other kinds there is a firm feeling but no advance in price to note. Sole Leather No. 1, B. A. 26, to 26 1-2c.; ditto, No. 2, 24c. to 24 1-2c.,; Buffalo Sole No. 1, 21 1-2c. to 22c.,; ditto, No. 2, 19 1-2c. to 20c., others unchanged.

OILS.—The prices of all kinds remain the same as last week, and until the spring trade begins we cannot look for much change in this business.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter*—Receipts 855 kegs, shipments 2,853 kegs. Business has been quiet during the week and the prices are firm. Choice to Extra 21c. to 22c.,; good to choice, 19c. to 20 1-2c.,; inferior grades, 20 1-2c. to 18 1-2c. *Cheese*—Receipts 350 boxes, shipments 815 boxes; market has been busily all week and prices are firm at 12 1-2c. to 13 1-2. *Pork*—has been very dull and no wholesale transactions have taken place, prices remain as last week; as soon as the ice bridge is formed here a good deal of business is looked for with the prospect of an advance on late rates.

RICE.—The market is steady and only small sales have transpired at from $3.65 to $3.90.

SALT.—There have been very little done in this business during the week and no change can be noted from the prices given in last weeks report.

TORONTO MARKET.

There is little or no improvement to note in the wholesale trade of this city for the past week, although a considerable increase of activity is reported throughout the country generally, the weather having been favorable and the roads good. Sleighing is now excellent everywhere, and buiness must soon show a decided improvement. Here the temperature has not fallen at any time very low, the winter so far on the contrary having been an unusually mild one.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There is not much activity at present. Dealers have been taking stock and will not now do much until they commence to take orders for spring goods. Stocks are reported to be large for this season of the year, more having been manufactured than was required, from the expectation that there would be a more marked increase in the trade as compared with the previous year.

DRY GOODS.—Only a very small sorting up business has been done during the week. Stocks at the end of the year are not reported as being in any way excessive, or beyond the probable wants of the trade between this time and the arrival of new goods for the spring trade.

DRUGS.—Business very quiet during the week, but evidencing a little more activity towards the close. No change whatever to note in prices.

FREIGHTS.—The following are the winter rates on the Grand Trunk, now in operation: Flour to Kingston, 35c., grain 18c.; flour to Prescott, 43c., grain 22c.; flour to Montreal, 50c., grain 25c.; flour to St. Johns, Q., 60c., grain 25c.; flour to Point Levis, 80c., grain 40c.; flour to St. John, N. B. $1.02, grain 51c.; flour to Halifax, $1.10, grain 55c.; flour to New York and Boston, 90c., grain 45c., gold. The steamers Chase and Carlotta leave Portland for Halifax on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

GROCERIES.—There has been only a moderate trade since last report, and few changes to note in prices. *Coffee*—Very little selling, and quotations are without alteration. *Fish*—Trout and White fish are in fair demand and prices are steady. Dry Cod is not in active request, selling slowly at about quotations. *Fruit*—Raisins are decidedly firmer, some of the overstock held here having been disposed of in some of the United States markets, and making holders decidedly stiffer in their askings. Layers are now held firm at $1.90 and Valentias at 8c. to 8½c. Currants are without change, and meet only a moderate enquiry at 7c. to 7 1-2c. for new, and 6c. for old. *Rice*—is quiet at unchanged quotations. *Spices*—are generally inactive. Nutmegs are somewhat scarce for good samples and are held firmly at 68c. to 70. *Sugars*—are very firm and holders are not pressing sales, under anticipations of a still further improvement in prices. Recent advices from the West Indias report an advancing market there, and at present prices here there is very little margin of profit on importations. Refined sugars are also very firm, but are not moving off very fast at present. *Teas*—are inactive and unchanged. *Tobacco*—has little enquiry at present, and only taken in comparatively retail lots. *Wines and Liquors*—There is very little doing in wines. Whiskey continues to have a steady demand, and prices are firm and tending upward. Brandy has advanced somewhat and is now quoted at $2.40 to $2.60 for Hennessy's and $8.75 to $9 for cases.

HARDWARE.—Has been entirely inactive during the week, and prices are without any alterations. In last week's report, by a typographical error, Calder Pig Iron No. 2 was quoted at $25: it should have been No. 1.