

Montreal Hardware Market.

Pig iron.—Buyers are taking matters very quietly and there is little change to note in this or in other lines of an allied nature. Higher freights, however, are likely to result in somewhat firmer values on pig as on other heavy material and rates are quoted 1s. to 2s. higher by the steamship companies. This has not resulted in any actual change in spot quotations, but it is certain that business could not be done now in low grade pig on the level of a week ago. For instance, \$18 would very likely have been accepted then from Cambro, but \$18.50 is an inside to-day and \$19 is the asking price. Higher grades such as Summerlee, etc., are unchanged. Cable advices do not reflect anything particular but makers there are evidently of the opinion that iron is low enough. Warrants have been somewhat firmer this week at 47s. 8d., as compared with 47s. 3d. a week ago.

Bar iron.—The demand for bar iron remains small and unimportant, so that there are no new features to note. About \$3 is the nominal basis, but if business could be induced a reduction would no doubt be made.

Tin plates.—The demand noted for tinplate last week has subsided to a certain degree and business is quiet. Cokes move steadily at \$3.65 and charcoal at \$4.25. Foreign advices show no change and with the higher freights now ruling it is very unlikely that we will see any much lower prices this fall, if we do at all.

Terne plates.—There is an ordinary sort of business doing in terne plates at steady prices. Lower grades rule at \$7.75 and superior grades \$8.25.

Canada plates.—The easiness that we have noted recently has passed away under a gradually diminishing stock and now we have holders in a somewhat firmer temper. Ordinary jobbing might still be done at \$2.75, but if it came to the question of a round order it might scare holders into asking higher prices. This scarcity, however, is only temporary.

Copper, lead, etc.—Copper rules unchanged with a quiet trade doing at steady prices, \$5.50 to \$6. In tin there is nothing particular to note, values remaining at 22 to 23c. Lead is unchanged at \$3.50 to \$3.75.

Russian iron and zinc.—Both these articles have assumed a firmer tendency since our last. Zinc sheets, which could be had a short time ago at \$6.25, cannot be moved now in an ordinary way under \$6.50. Russian sheets also are firmer, and now 10½c to 11c. is the idea, which is a ½c. higher than the ideas previously ruling.

Scrap iron.—The probability of a firmer market on the spot has already been pointed out, and this is the case at present. For wrought scrap we allow our quotation of \$17 to stand, but it is known there are holders who think it worth more and are acting accordingly, while the supply of it or cast stock is not large.

Nails.—Makers of nails and pipe generally have been busy with the different exhibitions recently, and there is nothing particular to say. Nails rule on the old nominal basis, \$2.15 to \$2.20.

Oils.—The oil market does not assume any activity and business is moving only in a small way. Cod oil remains firm. Linseed is unchanged, while seal has been somewhat more active, but no change is noted. Cod, Newfund-

land, 40 to 45c; seal, steam refined, 47½ to 50c; linseed, raw, 62 to 64c; linseed, boiled, 64 to 66c; castor oil, 9½c to 10c; cod liver oil, Norway, 95 to \$1.15.

Leads.—This market remains as before, with only a quiet business doing. We quote choice 6 to 6½c; No. 1, \$5.50; No. 2, \$5; No. 3, \$4.50; dry white, 6c; red do, 4½c.

Glass.—A small jobbing movement is all there is to be noted in this article on an unchanged basis, \$1.40 to \$1.50.—*Gazette*, September 18.

Remittances by Cheque.

The objectionable practice on the part of country dealers of remitting the amount of their bills to wholesale houses in this city by cheques without paying the bank's charges for collection, has more than once been adverted to in the columns of the *Trade Bulletin*, and the occasion of our reference thereto again, is the annoyance and loss which our merchants are continually being put to through country merchants neglecting to pay the full amount of their indebtedness, for that is what their remitting by cheque amounts to when they leave parties to whom cheques are made payable to defray collection charges. This has become so frequent that our wholesale firms experience considerable loss thereby during the year. For instance, a firm receiving 20 cheques on an average per day, which we are informed is no uncommon occurrence, would lose at least \$1,500 per year. Other houses receive even more than this number, and in such cases the loss is heavier. It seems strange that country merchants who never dream of allowing collection charges when they remit by cheque. A partner in a large wholesale concern in this city stated a few days ago that he was determined he would no longer submit to the payments of collection charges on remittances by cheque which the senders themselves incurred, and he accordingly debitted them with the amounts paid for collection. One of these traders, however, appears to have been highly indignant at the adoption of this course, as he replied stating that he never yet was asked to pay for his bank's collection fees on his cheques and that if the firm here insisted upon his paying them, he should withdraw his custom and transfer it to another house, which he was sure would not exact such paltry charges. It is these paltry charges, however, that make a formidable aggregate at the end of the year, in these times of curtailed profits. Why our merchants should be called upon to pay collections on cheques, any more than the charges on post-office orders or express packages, it is difficult to imagine. If country merchants would take a fair, reasonable, and common sense view of the matter, they would never again ask our merchants to pay an indebtedness which is of their own incurring and for their own convenience. It would cost very little trouble to ascertain what the charges for collection on their cheques are from their respective banks, and then they could always add to the amount of their indebtedness, the cost thereof.—*Montreal Trade Bulletin*.

A cable received recently from Liverpool reported an advance of 5s per ton in bicarb soda and 7s 6d per ton in soda crystals.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RY.

TORONTO EXHIBITION,

Sept. 7th to 19th.

Excursion tickets on sale from August 31st to September 14th, good to return up till September 30th, at

\$51.00,

Including meals and berths on steamers.

Tickets are available by direct steamer to Owen Sound or to Sault Ste. Marie, thence Great Northern Transit Company's steamers, touching at various points on Manitoulin Island and Georgian Bay, returning same route, or by all rail.

The sailings from Fort William are now

THREE TIMES PER WEEK,

The Manitoula, Alberta and Athabasca leaving every

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Connecting trains from Winnipeg every

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The cheapest and best route to all points East.

Very Cheap Excursion Tickets on Sale to Bauff and Pacific Coast.

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