STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, March 9th, 1898.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Closing Prices. Sellers.	Buyers.	Average price same date 1897.
Montreal	241	240	17	....	240½	227⅛
Ontario	....	....	....	110	100	83
Molsons	....	....	....	210	202¾	190
Toronto	....	....	....	235	228½	230
Jac. Cartier	....	....	....	100	98½	89½
Merchants	182	181½	51	185	180¾	171
Commerce	141¾	140	149	140	139	127¾
Union	....	....	....	115	108	100
M. Teleg	180	178	41	182	177½	166½
Rich.&Ont.Nav.	105½	104¾	375	106	103	85
Mont. St. Ry	263	261½	1518	261¾	261½	223¾
new do	260	258½	507	259	258	....
Mont. Gas Co.	198	197	1251	197	196	193½
Can. Pac. R.R.	86	84½	10,100	....	....	....
Can. Pac. Ry xd	81⅞	80	7762	81⅜	81½	52½
Land Grant bds	....	....	....	....	....	....
N.W. Land	....	....	....	53	50	41
Bell Tele	....	....	....	177½	175	159
Mont. 4% stock	....	....	....	....	....	....

—The big tank which has been in course of erection all winter by the Manitoba Gas Co. at their works, Point Douglas, has been completed so far that it is now ready for testing. It will be tested with water as soon as the weather permits, and if the test is satisfactory it will be taken off the hands of the contractors. The tank will hold 400,000 cubic feet of gas, and is one of the few big ones in Canada. Its capacity is sufficient for the gas wants of the city for many years to come.—*Winnipeg Free Press.*

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, March 10th, 1898.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—There has been little or no increase in the receipts of dairy butter. Scarcely enough is in the market to supply the demand. From the number of enquiries that are coming to hand this week asking for offers on stocks held in country points, it is more than probable that demand and supply will be better regulated soon. We quote: Dairy rolls, 17 to 18c., prints, 18 to 19c., and bakers', 15 to 16c. per lb. The creameries are now devoting themselves more to the home trade, and the withdrawing of supplies from the foreign market has had the effect of easing off the local situation. Last export shipments did not net more than 19c. per lb., and dealers are of the opinion shippers who are now forwarding supplies can scarcely expect so much as this. At the lower prices quoted for cheese there is fairly active movement. Deliveries of eggs for the season of the year have been very heavy. Some of the receivers have been very timid about holding stocks, and sales are reported as low as 13c. It must be remembered, however, that the supply of held stocks is entirely exhausted, and all the consumption is centred on the fresh eggs coming forward. Prophecy as to the future of the market would be idle, but some of the trade authorities expect eggs to linger around a 15c. quotation until after Easter.

GRAIN.—A dull market, in which wheat has declined 1 to 2c. per bushel, and at the lower price remains slow of movement, is, we believe, an accurate description of the condition of affairs. In the foreign centres everyone is waiting developments. The interesting question is, of course, that of supply and demand, which had been regarded as settled in favor of the holders of products, until the increased arrivals on the other side of the last two weeks and the larger world's shipments of the same period. These have excited doubts that the world's supplies are really as short as had been declared by all statistical authorities, based upon crop reports and accepted by the trade on both sides of the water. Added to these have been the heavy shipments of Leiter wheat out of Chicago, for which Europe is also waiting, as she had done in December, to find that his holdings were not coming forward as expected. Now that they are, and other exporting countries also contributing more liberally to her future wants, namely, Argentina and the Black Sea, owing to an open winter and open navigation, together with better crop prospects in India than for years, both the United Kingdom and Continent have become easy in their minds about the remoter as well as the nearer future, and have been holding off to see if a reaction in prices would not follow the longest period of export inactivity on this crop. From a local point of view trading has been inactive. The snow has gone in many districts, and the roads breaking up, offerings are curtailed within narrow limits. Barley is dull and without change. Oats are steady and in fair demand, both for local and export requirements. Peas at 55 to 56c., are in good demand. For rye there is active enquiry at 50 to 51c. per bushel. Corn is in good demand for feeding purposes. Buckwheat is wanted for export, and is quoted at 35 to 36c. per bushel outside.

GREEN FRUITS.—A shipment of Valencia oranges came to hand this week, and went off very quickly. The flavor on the whole was excellent, but some of the fruit was "wasty." Trade in Californias continues active. Prices are about unchanged, and may be quoted as follows: Washington Navels, 96s, 112s, \$3.25; 150s, \$3.50; 176s, \$3.50 per box; Washington Navels, 126s, \$3.40; 200s, 216s, \$3.25 per box; California Seedlings, 126s, 150s, 176s, 200s, 216s, 226s, 250s, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per box; Valencia oranges, 420s, \$5.75 to \$6 per box; do., large, 420s, \$6.25 to \$6.50 per box; do., extra large, 420s, \$6.75 to \$7 per box. The weather has been favorable to the consumption of lemons, and values are higher and the feeling is firm. We quote: New Messina, fancy, 300s, 360s, \$3 to \$3.25 per box; do., choice, 300s, 360s, \$2.75 to \$3 per box. This fruit is guaranteed free from frost. Supplies of bananas are rather scarce, and as there is improved demand, the feeling may be described as distinctly better. Apples are in small compass, and only now and then small lots are coming forward. At the sales of the Toronto Fruit Auction Company on Wednesday, six cars of oranges and two of lemons were sold at prices satisfactory to the trade.

GROCERIES.—Trade is in seasonable proportion. Values remain very steady. Sugars are unchanged from last week's quotations. Japan rice is firmer at 5½c. The London market in currants is reported as dull but firmly held, and last cables from Greece note that market also as being firm. Mail advices from London dated Feb. 25th, state that sales of dates at the low prices prevailing there of late have been enormous, and the writer looks for an immediate advance. Canned goods remain in good request, values holding unchanged. Lenten supplies continue to move, although in a wholesale way the trade is falling off, as was to be expected.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—The market from the standpoint of values remains very steady, although there is a firm undertone which might reasonably result in some advances. The spring movement is now in full swing, and forward orders are now in hand for execution. Of garden tools, can trimmings, fence wire and similar commodities, there is a brisk, active movement.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The cured hide market remains without change, merchants quoting supplies at 9c. per lb. For green hides the merchants have lowered prices ½c. per lb., now quoting them at 8½c. per lb., or \$1 per cwt. less than the quotation two weeks ago. The offerings show the usual March deterioration, and it is the opinion of some in the trade that another decline in the price of green may be expected soon. Advices from Chicago dated March 8th, give a rumor that a moderate line of native steers had been sold at 11c. The general demand for hides was limited and prices were only barely maintained, closing at 11c. for native steers; 9¾c. for light Texas; 9¾ to 10c. for heavy do.; 9¾ to 10c. for butt brands; 9¼ to 9½c. for branded cows; 9c. for Colorados, and 10½c. for heavy native cows and 11c. for light do.

PROVISIONS.—Few Western hogs have been received this week, but local offerings as well as those from northern points have been large. Packers are paying \$6.15 for weights ranging from 90 to 150 lbs., and all under and over these weights are quoted at \$6 per cwt. For provisions there is active request and a brisk movement at last week's quotations.

WOOL.—The demand from the mills is active, and supplies, especially for heavy knit goods, are going forward freely. We are advised from London, Eng., March 7, to the following effect: "The list for the next series of wool sales closed on March 5, with the following receipts: From New South Wales, 84,936 bales; from Queensland, 29,943; from Victoria, 71,617; from South Australia, 8,159; from West Australia, 2,906; from Tasmania, 274; from New Zealand, 54,773, and from the Cape of Good Hope and Natal, 49,536. Adding to this quantity 19,000 bales which were held over from the last series of sales, and deducting from the aggregate 99,000 bales, which were forwarded direct, there are available 222,144 bales. According to the present arrangement the sales will close on April 4th.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 9th March, 1898.

ASHES.—Business continues quiet and receipts light, at the rate of about 25 brls. a week. Some few lots of No. 1 pots are said to have realized \$3.55 for good tares, seconds \$3.20. Pearls continue nominal at about \$4.75 per cental.

CEMENTS, FIREBRICKS, ETC.—The fine spring-like weather has led to some moderate trading in cements in small lots, but the booking of import orders is yet limited. For delivery from store values are firm at \$2.10 to 2.20 for British, Belgian \$1.95 to 2.05. Bricks \$17 to \$22 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There was an advance in the cable quotation of cheese on Monday to 40s., which has given the local market a little firmer tinge, but trading is yet very limited in extent, and the ideas of dealers vary a good deal. From 7½ to 8c. is quoted for finest makes. There is good demand for first-class grades of butter, and new made creamery quotes at 20 to 21c., held stock at 18 to 19c., rolls 17 to 17½c. Receipts of eggs are increasing, and prices are consequently much easier. New laid eggs are now quoted at 15 to 16c. per doz., and limed and pickled are hard to move.