

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Following the quotations of the various articles listed in the markets will be found in brackets numbers, thus (10). These numbers refer to the list number of advertisers on page 3 of this issue and will assist the reader to quickly find the name and address of a firm handling any particular article. Buyers not able to secure articles from these firms at the prices mentioned will confer a favor by letting us know.

Montreal, May 4th.

Prices are as follows:—

Antimony.—The market is steady at 8¼ to 8½c. (111).

Bar Iron and Steel.—The market promises to advance shortly. Bar iron, \$1.00 per 100 pounds; best refined horseshoe, \$2.15; forged iron, \$2.05; mild steel, \$1.90; sleigh shoe steel, \$1.90 for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$2.00 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$2.40; machine steel, iron finish, \$1.95; imported, \$2.20 (111, 119).

Building Paper.—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounces, \$1.80 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; dry sheathing, No. 1, 30 to 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; tarred year will be the largest in the history of the country. Prices on foreign fibre, 55c. per roll; dry fibre, 45c. (See Roofing; also Tar and Pitch). (164).

Cement.—Canadian cement is quotable, as follows, in car lots, f.o.b., Montreal:—\$1.30 to \$1.40 per 350-lb. bbl., in 4 cotton bags, adding 10c. for each bag. Good bags re-purchased at 10c. each. Paper bags cost 2½ cents extra, or 10c. per bbl. weight. (26, 164).

Chain.—Prices have advanced considerably of late, being now as follows per 100 lbs.:—¼-inch, \$5.10; 5-16-inch, \$4.50; ¾-inch, \$3.70; 7-10-inch \$3.45; ½-inch, \$3.35; 9-16-inch, \$3.25; ¾-inch, \$3.20; ¾, ¾, and 1-inch, \$3.15.

Coal and Coke.—Anthracite, egg, stove or chestnut coal, \$0.75 per ton, net; furnace coal, \$6.50, net. Bituminous or soft coal: Run of mine, Nova Scotia coal, carload lots, basis, Montreal, \$3.85 to \$4 per ton; canal coal, \$9 per ton; coke, single ton, \$5; large lots, special rates, approximately \$4 f.o.b., cars, Montreal.

Copper.—Prices are strong at 14¼ to 14½c.

Explosives and Accessories.—Dynamite, 50-lb. cases, 40 per cent. profit, 15c. in single case lots, Montreal. Blasting powder, 25-lb. kegs, \$2.25 per keg. Special quotations on large lots of dynamite and powder. Detonator caps, case lots, containing 10,000, 75c. per 100; broken lots, \$1; electric blasting apparatus:—Batteries, 1 to 10 holes, \$15; 1 to 20 holes, \$25; 1 to 30 holes, \$35; 1 to 40 holes, \$50. Wire, leading, 1c. per foot; connecting, 50c. per lb. Fuses, platinum, single strength, per 100 fuses:—4-ft. wires, \$3; 6-ft. wires, \$3.54; 8-ft. wires, \$4.08; 10-ft. wires, \$5.

Galvanized Iron.—The market is steady. Prices, basis, 28-gauge, are:—Queen's Head, \$4.10; Colborne Crown, \$3.85; Apollo, 10½ oz., \$4.05. Add 25c. to above figures for less than case lots; 26-gauge iron is 25c. less than 28-gauge, American 28-gauge and English 26 are equivalents, as are American 10½ oz., and English 28-gauge. (111).

Galvanized Pipe.—(See Pipe, Wrought and Galvanized).

Iron.—First boats are now arriving at Montreal, and importers are quoting prices, ex-wharf, about \$1 per ton under prices ex-store. Following are the prices, on cars, ex-wharf, Montreal:—No. 1 Summerlee, \$20.50 to \$20.75 per ton; selected Summerlee, \$20 to \$20.25; soft Summerlee, \$19.50 to \$19.75; Carron, special, \$20 to \$20.50; soft, \$19.50 to \$20; Clarence, \$17.25 to \$17.50; Cleveland, \$17.25 to \$17.50 per ton.

Laths.—See Lumber, etc.

Lead.—Prices are about steady at \$3.55 to \$3.65.

Lead Wool.—\$10.50 per hundred, \$200 per ton, f.o.b., factory.

Lumber, Etc.—Prices on lumber are for car lots, to contractors, at mill points, carrying a freight of \$1.50. Red pine, mill culls out, \$18 to \$22 per 1,000 feet; white pine, mill culls, \$16 to \$17. Spruce, 1-in. by 4-in. and up, \$15 to \$17 per 1,000 ft.; mill culls, \$12 to \$14. Hemlock, log run, culls out, \$13 to \$15. Railway Ties: Standard Railway Ties, hemlock or cedar, 33 to 45c. each, on a c. rate to Montreal. Telegraph Poles: Seven-inch top, cedar poles, 25-ft. poles, \$1.35 to \$1.50 each; 30-ft., \$1.75 to \$2; 35-ft., \$2.75 to \$3.25 each, at manufacturers' points, with freight rate to Montreal. Laths: Quotations per 1,000 laths, at points carrying \$1.50 freight rate to Montreal, \$2 to \$3. Shingles: Cedar shingles, same conditions as laths, X, \$1.50; XX, 2.50; XXX, \$3. (112)

Nails.—Demand for nails is better and prices are firmer, \$2.40 per keg for cut, and \$2.35 for wire, base prices. Wire roofing nails, 5c. lb.

Paints.—Roof, barn and fence paint, 90c. per gallon; girder, bridge, and structural paint for steel or iron—shop or field—\$1.20 per gallon, in barrels; liquid red lead in gallon cans, \$1.75 per gallon.

Pipe, Cast Iron.—The market shows a steady tone although demand is on the dull side. Prices are firm, and approximately as follows:—\$34 for 6 and 8-inch pipe and larger; \$33 for 3-inch and 4-inch at the foundry. Pipe, specials, \$3 per 100 pounds. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above. (74, 188).

Pipe, Wrought and Galvanized.—Demand is about the same, and the tone is firm, though prices are steady, moderate-sized lots being: ¼-inch, \$5.50 with 63 per cent. off for black, and 48 per cent. off for galvanized; ½-inch, \$5.50, with 59 per cent. off for black and 44 per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$8.50, with 60 per cent. off for black, and 59 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 71½ per cent. off for black, and 61½ per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$11.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1¼-inch, \$22.50; 1½-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; 2½-inch, \$57.50; 3-inch, \$75.50; 3½-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

Plates and Sheets.—Steel.—The market is steady. Quotations are: \$2.20 for 3-16; \$2.30 for ¼, and \$2.10 for ½ and thicker; 12-gauge being \$2.30; 14-gauge, \$2.15; and 16-gauge, \$2.10. (111).

Rails.—Quotations on steel rails are necessarily only approximate and depend upon specification, quantity and delivery required. A range of \$30.50 to \$31 is given for 60-lb. and 70-lb.; 80-lb. and heavier, being \$30; rails, per gross ton of 2,240 lbs., f.o.b. mill. Re-laying rails are quoted at \$27 to \$29 per ton, according to condition of rail and location. (73).

Railway Ties.—See Lumber, etc.

Roofing.—Ready roofing, two-ply, 70c. per roll; three-ply, 95c. per roll of 100 square feet. Roofing tin caps, 6c. lb.; wire roofing nails, 5c. lb. (See Building Paper; Tar and Pitch; Nails, Roofing). (164).

Rope.—Prices are steady, at 9c. per lb. for sisal, and 10½c. for Manila. Wire rope, crucible steel, six-strands, nineteen wires; ¼-in., \$2.75; 5-16, \$3.75; ¾, \$4.75; 1, \$5.25; 1½, \$6.25; 2, \$8; 2½, \$10; 3-in., \$12 per 100 feet. (132).

Spikes.—Railway spikes are firmer at \$2.45 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at \$2.85 per 100 pounds, base of ¾ x 10-inch, and ¾ x 12-inch. (132).

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

Telegraph Poles.—See Lumber, etc.

Tar and Pitch.—Coal tar, \$3.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing about 500 pounds; roofing pitch, No. 1, 70c. per 100 pounds; and No. 2, 55c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$8.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, and \$4.75 per half-barrel; refined coal tar, \$4.50 per barrel; pine pitch, \$4 per barrel of 180 to 200 pounds. (See building paper; also roofing).

Tin.—Prices are firm, at \$34.50 to \$35.

Zinc.—The tone is easy, at 5¼ to 6c.

CAMP SUPPLIES.

Beans.—Prime pea beans, \$2 to \$2.25 per bushel. (74).

Butter.—September and October creamery, 28 to 32c.; dairy, 23 to 24c.

Canned Goods.—Per Dozen.—Corn, 80 to 85; peas, \$1.05 to \$1.15; beans, 85c.; tomatoes, 85 to 90c.; peaches, 25, \$1.65, and 35, \$2.65; pears, 25, \$1.60, and 35, \$2.30; salmon, best brands, 1-lb. tins, \$1.87½, and flats, \$2.02½; cheaper grades, 95c. to \$1.65. (74).

Cheese.—Finest, colored, 12½c.; white, 13 to 13½c. (74).

Coffee.—Mocha, 20 to 25c.; Santos, 15 to 18c.; Rio, 10 to 12c. (74).

Dried Fruits.—Currants, Filiatras, 5¼ to 6¼c.; choice, 8 to 9c.; dates, 4 to 5c.; raisins, Valentias, 5 to 6¼c.; California, seeded, 7½ to 9c.; Evaporated apples, prime, 8 to 8½c. (74).

Eggs.—New laid, 21 to 23c. (74).

Flour.—Manitoba, 1st patents, \$5.80 per barrel; 2nd patents, \$5.30; strong bakers, \$5.10. (74).

Molasses and Syrup.—Molasses, New Orleans, 27 to 28c.; Barbadoes, 40 to 45c.; Porto Rico, 40 to 43c.; syrup, barrels, 3½c.; 2-lb. tins, 2 dozen to case, \$2.50 per case. (74).

Potatoes.—Per 90 lbs., good quality, 45 to 60c. (74).

Rice and Tapioca.—Rice, grade B, in 100-lb. bags, \$2.75 to \$2.80; C.C., \$2.65. Tapioca, medium pearl, 5½ to 6c. (74).

Rolls Oats.—Oatmeal, \$2.20 per bag; rolled oats, \$2, bags. (74).

Sugar.—Granulated, bags, \$5.05; yellow, \$4.65 to \$5. Barrels 5c. above bag prices.

Tea.—Japans, 20 to 38c.; Ceylons, 20 to 40c.; Ceylon, greens, 19 to 25c.; China, green, 20 to 50c.; low-grades, down to 15c. (74).

Fish.—Salted.—Medium cod, \$7 per bbl.; herring, \$5.25 per bbl.; salmon, \$15.50 per bbl., for red, and \$14 for pink. Smoked fish.—Bloaters, \$1.10 per large box; haddies, 7½c. per lb.; kippered herring, per box, \$1.20 to \$1.25. (74).

13½c. per lb. for compound. (74).

Provisions.—Salt Pork.—\$30 to \$34 per bbl.; beef, \$18 per bbl.; smoked hams, 16 to 20c. per lb.; lard, 17 to 18c. for pure, and 11¼ to 13½c. per lb. for compound. (74).

TORONTO HORSE MARKET.

Horses are decidedly scarce in the country. Shippers who formerly brought in eighteen or twenty in a lot from the country, now have difficulty in picking up seven to ten. With this scarcity prices are very high, choice drafters are going up to \$230 and \$235. Serviceably sound horses, if in pretty good shape, are going at \$140 to \$160, while really good farm workers are bringing \$260.

AMERICAN HORSE MARKET.

Competition among buyers for horses weighing 1,500 and better is more active in Chicago than at any previous time this season. Good pairs of chunks weighing 1,400 and over have sold from \$500 to \$580 for the pair, some very good express horses going at \$550. A large city teaming concern has disposed of a number of aged horses fairly well worn out, at \$175, to go to the country. Farm workers are going at \$140 to \$185.

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Toronto, May 5th.

According to Old Country advices the feeling in iron and steel is firm, especially among the Scotch mills, which have plenty of orders. The United States market is somewhat less firm, although the output of structural material continues large, the building activity being great.

Business here in these goods is active, and such heavy goods as boiler plates and tubes are moving fairly well; steel sheets are higher. More pig-iron will presently be available, lake boats having begun to move. Ingot metals are all weak.

Slaters are busy, brick and stone masons, too, though there is uneasiness and strikes in other directions, a clear case of putting "pressure" on house-builders. Brick makers are very well employed, and cement mills feeling better. Lumber is steady, and in fair demand.

The following are the wholesale prices for Toronto, where not otherwise explained, although for broken quantities higher prices are quoted:—

Antimony.—Market almost lifeless; price 9c. per 100 lbs. (332).

Axes.—Standard makes, double bitted, \$8 to \$10; single bitted, per dozen, \$7 to \$9. (217, 377).

Bar Iron.—\$2.00 to \$2.10, base, per 100 lbs., from stock to wholesale dealer. Market supply limited (332).

Bar Mild Steel.—Per 100 lbs., \$2.10 to \$2.20. (372).

Boiler Plates.—¼-inch and heavier, \$2.20. Boiler heads 25c. per 100 pounds advance on plate. Tank plate, 3-16-inch, \$2.40 per 100 pounds. (241, 362, 456).

Boiler Tubes.—Orders continue active. Lap-welded, steel, 1¼-inch, 10c.; 1½-inch, 9c. per 10 foot; 2-inch, \$8.50; 2½-inch, \$10; 3-inch, \$11 to \$11.50; 3½-inch, \$18 to \$18.50; 4-inch, \$19 to \$20 per 100 feet. (514).

Building Paper.—Plain, 27c. per roll; tarred, 35c. per roll. Demand is moderate. (518).