

ginning to talk fall samples. The spring rubber trade is beginning to show some life, and the manufacturers have advised the trade of an advance equal to about six per cent. over previous prices.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There is an abundance of dairy butter in the market, and but small prices are being realized. There is plenty of poor butter on hand, but even the best descriptions sell for very little. Cheese is firm at about 11c. per lb., and stocks are very low. Holders are not selling readily. The chances are that a large quantity of fodder cheese will be made this year, as a consequence of the high prices. Eggs are in good demand with prices fairly high. Warm weather is, however, certain to bring prices down.

DRY GOODS.—The wholesale houses have just finished their orders for autumn flannelettes, denims, domets, Saxons, shirtings, tickings, dress goods, cottonades, eiderdowns, and similar fabrics, and samples will soon be out among the trade. Values in cotton goods are steady and firm. The recent advance in bleached cottons is said to be about 7½ per cent. Woolens are firm, but no change of importance has taken place in the trade.

GRAIN.—The wheat market has been rather weak, although fluctuations have been made up and down since our last review. Preparations are being made for the opening of navigation. Every grain vessel on the Upper Lakes is said to have been chartered for opening of navigation, though prospectively a month distant, and they are already loaded, and now shippers must wait for the fleet in Lake Erie to come through the straits. These vessels hold about 9,000,000 bush. grain taken at 2¼c. up to 3c. on corn. In the barley market there is little doing, and at 45 to 46c. per bushel the market is very quiet. Buckwheat is steady at 48 to 50c. per bushel. Rye remains unchanged. Peas continue firm at 65c. per bushel.

GREEN FRUITS.—Business has not been very active as a result of unfavorable weather conditions. Supplies of oranges are reduced. We quote: Valencia oranges, ordinary, 420's, \$6 to \$6.50; California Navels, 96's, 126's, 216's, \$3.75; California Navels, 150's, 176's, 200's, \$4; California Navels, 250's, \$3.75; California Mediterranean sweets, 126's, 150's, 176's, 200's, 216's, 250's, \$3.50. Grape fruit finds only a limited demand, dealers quoting \$4.50 per box. Lemons are unchanged, dealers quoting \$2.50 to \$3 per box, with some inferior stock on the market worth \$2.25 per box.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—There has been a brisk movement in general hardware supplies for the spring trade for some time, but special activity has ruled with the opening of the present month. Orders that have been booked for April shipment are now going forward very freely. Prices of staples are generally very firm. In metals values are somewhat steadier. London cables on tin at the beginning of the week came somewhat higher, quoting on the basis of £108 15s. for prompt delivery, and correspondingly for futures. This rise of nearly £1 since Friday, served to offset the natural influence of heavy arrivals on this side of the Atlantic. Copper is unsettled, with speculators steadily at work attempting to influence prices.

LEATHER.—Trade is steady with a fair amount of business doing at quotations that have ruled for some time past. There is a fair export enquiry. From Leicester we have the following: "There is a good demand for Canadian sides, while American glove and satin hides sell freely at higher rates, and a heavy business is doing in French and German calf. All Australian leathers are a shade dearer, and home-tanned leathers command full rates, raw hides being very firm."

PROVISIONS.—A very unsatisfactory state of affairs exists in the trade in hog products. There has evidently been an over-production of meats, and prices are very low. Products bring about 25 per cent. less than a year ago, while the pack was made of hogs that cost about the same money.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, April 5th, 1899.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The considerable quantity of snow still remaining, with frosty nights, prevents much outside work as yet, and there has not been the usual spring revival of demand in these materials so far. Definite information as to cost of spring importations of cements is yet wanting, but the impression prevails that enhanced values will be the rule, and there is apparently no disposition to concede on quotations that have existed all winter. We quote: Belgian cement, \$2 to \$2.10; British, \$2.45 to \$2.50; German, \$2.50 to \$2.60; firebricks, \$18 to \$22 per thousand.

DRY GOODS.—Chilly weather still prevails and our city retailers are not doing the spring business they expected to do. Still our wholesale warehouses are fairly busy. A prominent buyer, just returned from Europe, reports much firmness in all textile markets. In dress goods, plain goods, such as venetians, box cloths, etc., it is said, will be all the vogue, and French makers of these lines will not make engagements ahead, and will only book orders subject to advance. In silks, plain goods are to be the fashion, and the Lyons market is reported a strong one. The advance in velveteens, cabled several weeks ago, has taken full effect, ranging from 5 per cent. in the higher grade goods to 20 per cent. in the cheap lines. In linens a scarcity of cream damasks is reported. The Merchants' Cotton Company has followed up its circular, noted last week, with a revised price list, showing an advance of about 7½ per cent. on sheetings, and all their makes of plain cottons.

FURS.—It is reported that country traders dealing in raw pelts have been lately paying very high prices, evidently calculating an advance equal to the recently reported advances in London, upon the figures which have recently been paid by shippers, entirely forgetting that said ad-

vances had been largely discounted before the London sales took place, and it is to be feared that many of them will be disappointed in their returns. We quote latest revised quotations, as follows: Mink, dark, \$2 to \$2.50; pale, \$1 to \$1.25; marten, large, \$3 to \$3.50; dark, from \$4 to \$6; fisher, \$4 to \$6.50; lynx, large, \$2.50; small, \$1.50 to \$2; otter, \$8 to \$13; large red fox, \$2; small, \$1.80; cross fox, \$3 to \$7; silver fox, \$20 to \$75; choice bear, \$12 to \$18; medium, \$10 to \$14; small, \$5 to \$9; skunk, 20c., 40c., 60c., and 90c.; coon, 20c., 40c., 60c., and 90c.; fall rats, 8c. to 12c.; kitts, 2c. to 6c.; winter, 12c. to 14c.; choice spring, 15 to 18c.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Bushels.	Bushels.
	Mar. 27.	Apr. 3.
Wheat	18,931	18,967
Corn	17,590	17,056
Oats	450,086	474,519
Rye	2,595	2,595
Peas	38,232	41,158
Barley	5,506	6,394
Total grain	531,940	560,689
Oatmeal	358	310
Flour	20,917	22,120
Buckwheat	33,167	33,785

GROCERIES.—Travellers report bad roads in the interior, and distributing trade is not very brisk at the moment. Both the local sugar refineries are again operating, and the market is steady at late quotations. The demand is still reported a somewhat slow one, but fewer American sugars are being brought in just now as their cost is above that of domestics. Molasses is cabled easier at the island, first cost being now 11c., but no purchases are reported as yet for this market, lower figures being evidently looked for. Canned goods are firmly held, jobbing figure for tomatoes being 90c., corn 85 to 90c. Dried apples are very scarce indeed. Rice shows no recent change. The market for teas is a quiet one; London advices, however, show no easing off in blacks. Local holders of good medium Japans seem inclined to shade figures a little, but hold common grades very firmly, declining, in most cases, any offers below 13½c.

HIDES.—No further revision of prices is reported in this line. Receipts of beef hides are comparatively light, and the demand is about equal to the supply. Dealers continue to buy on the

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