

more distant. So far as United States markets are concerned, conditions have not materially changed since last week. Indications, however, are that a stronger market will develop, and prices are at present being held very firmly. Although quotations are generally considered unchanged, when special lots are required for particular delivery, 50c. to \$1 per ton over regular prices is easily obtained. Production is larger than ever. Consumption continues at an unprecedented rate without any apparent likelihood of cessation. So far as Canadian markets are concerned, very little change is noticeable. This applies more especially to iron for immediate delivery, that for later delivery being about 50c. higher than a week ago. This advance has to some extent been influenced by the strength of the English markets. Most consumers in the local market are protected for several months to come, so that business for the second half, only, is affected. It is expected that a very heavy tonnage of pig-iron will arrive in Montreal shortly after the opening of navigation, several cargo lots being already en route. This tonnage should relieve the local situation, considerably, as the market is just now depending upon the very limited stocks, and the small supplies arriving from winter ports. Occasionally some one runs out of iron and has to go scouring all over the country for it, and is, of course, compelled to pay very high prices.

Antimony.—There is practically no change in the situation, and the tone is firm, notwithstanding the high level of the market. Quotations are 26½ to 27c.

Bar Iron and Steel.—Bar iron and steel are both in splendid demand, and merchants are kept busy attending to the filling of orders. Quotations are:—Bar iron, \$2.20 per 100 lbs., best refined and horseshoe iron, \$2.60, and forged iron, \$2.45; mild steel, \$2.25 per 100 lbs.; sleigh shoe steel, \$2.25 for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$2.40 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$3.05; machine steel, iron finish, \$2.40, base and reeled, \$2.85.

Boiler Tubes.—The market continues very firm. As reported last week, American mills withdrew quotations for a time. New price-lists have been issued, and these quote the market from ½ to ¾c. higher than a week ago. Deliveries from the United States are still light. In the local market, prices are a shade higher in some lines. Demand continues active. Quotations are:—2-inch, 8 to 8½c.; 2½-inch, 10¼ to 10¾c.; 3-inch, 12c.; 3½-inch, 14¾ to 15c.; 4-inch, 19¼ to 19¾c. Demand continues good.

Cast Iron Pipe.—One of the largest importations of cast iron pipe and columns ever landed in Montreal will arrive on the Marina. It is consigned from Robert MacLaren & Co., of Glasgow—to their Canadian sales agents, L. H. Gaudry & Co.

There is an enormous demand for all sorts of hydrants and cast-iron gas and water pipes, not only from the larger cities but also from the smaller towns and the villages, all of which appear to be growing rapidly. Water pipe is quoted as selling at \$36 per net ton at the foundry, and at about \$37 to \$38, Montreal, gas pipe being about \$1 more.

Copper.—The tone of the copper market is about steady, and prices are quoted at 26 to 26½c., Montreal.

Canadian and American Cement.—The market shows a slight advance, the demand being in excess of the supply. Canadian prices are \$1.85 to \$1.90 per barrel, in cotton bags, and \$2.15 to \$2.25 in wood, weights in both cases 350 lbs. There are four bags of 87½ pounds each, net, to a barrel, and 10 cents must be added to the above prices for each bag, the bags being, however, accepted back at the same figure. Where paper bags are wanted instead of cotton, the charge is 2½ cents for each, or 10 cents per barrel weight.

American cement is steady at \$1.10 per 350 pounds, basis Lehigh mills, conditions being the same as in the case of Canadian mills, save that when the cotton bags are returned only 7½ cents is allowed for them.

English and European Cement.—English cement is unchanged at \$1.80 to \$1.90 per barrel in jute sacks of 82½ pounds each (including price of sacks), and \$2.10 to \$2.20 in wood, per 350 pounds, gross. Belgian cement is quoted at \$1.75 to \$1.90 per barrel, in wood.

Iron.—Prices are slightly higher for delivery during second half of the year, and steady for immediate delivery.

Londonderry iron is unobtainable for immediate shipment, while prices for second half are on a basis of about \$23.50 to \$24, f.o.b., Montreal. Toronto prices are about \$1.25 more. Summerlee is practically the same as Londonderry, and is quoted \$25.50 to \$26 for immediate delivery, and at \$23 to \$23.50, f.o.b. cars, Montreal, for delivery after the opening of navigation. No. 1 Cleveland is quoted at \$19 to \$19.50 for delivery at Montreal, by water freights, while for immediate shipment it is \$24.50 to \$26.

Lead.—The market holds quite steady, and the tone is firm. Present quotations are \$5.35 to \$5.45 per 100 lbs.

Nails.—Demand is extremely active, and prices of cut nails have advanced during the week. Rolling mills cannot turn supplies out fast enough. Prices are \$2.50 for cut and \$2.50 for wire, base prices.

Spikes.—There is a good demand for all kinds of spikes. Railways are calling for a large supply for both new construction work and repairs. Railway spikes are quoted at \$2.75 per 100 lbs., base of 5½ by 9-16. Ship spikes are also in good demand, and prices are \$3.15 per 100 lbs. base.

Steel Shafting.—Prices are firm, and demand holds good. Some big contracts are in sight. Prices hold steady at 30 per cent. off the price list.

Steel Plates.—The market for these is very firm. It is doubtful if mills would accept orders for delivery in less than two or three months hence. Prices for small lots are \$2.75 for 3-16 and ⅜, and \$2.50 to \$2.55 for ¼ and thicker.

Structural Steel.—Some merchants are experiencing a very active demand, while others are finding trade just about steady. Prices are unchanged. Beams weighing 55 lbs. per foot are quoted at 3c. per lb. and those upon which work, such as punching holes, has been done at 3½ to 4c., while columns with caps bring 4c. Heavy sections, weighing 35 lbs., and upwards are quoted by some at 2¾ to 3c., and light sections at 3 to 3¼c., plain.

Tin.—The market holds fairly steady. Prices are 45c. to 45½c., in jobbing lots.

Tool Steel.—Demand is excellent, and prices hold steady. Dealers look for increased activity a few weeks hence. Base prices are as follows:—Jessop's best unannealed, 14½c. per pound, annealed being 15½c., second grade 8½c., and high speed, "Ark," 60c., and "Novo," 65.

Wire Rope.—Quite a large quantity of wire rope is being used throughout the country, and demand is consequently very good. However, it is expected that before very long there will be an enormous increase, when the season opens up fully. There is a very considerable divergence of views as to prices, but the following are from a reliable source. For any quantity below 1,000 feet of 6-19 size rope, of fine quality: ¾-in., 3¾c.; ½-in., 4¾c.; ⅜-in., 6¾c.; ¼-in., 8½c.; ⅛-in., 11c.; 1-in., 12¼c. Rope, 6-24 size, is from ½ to 1c. more than quotations. Other qualities of rope may also be had at lower prices.

Wrought Pipe.—Demand appears to be fairly active and prices are holding steady. Quotations for small lots, screwed and coupled, are as follows:—¼-inch to ¾-inch, \$5.50 with 59 per cent. off for black and 44 per cent. off for galvanized; ½-inch, \$8.50, with 68 per cent. off for black, and 58 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 69 per cent. for black and 59 per cent. for galvanized; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1¼-inch, \$22.50; 1½-inch, \$27, and 2-inch, \$36.

Zinc.—There is nothing new in the situation, and prices are quoted firm, at 7¼ to 7½c. here, in a jobbing way.

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Toronto, May 2nd, 1907.

Since the first of the year the total orders for fabricated steel taken by establishments in the United States has been about 375,000 tons. The placing of larger contracts for structural shapes and fabricated steel has been the main feature of interest in steel products during last week, says a New York advice. This assures a larger total volume of business in April than in March, whereas March is usually the heaviest month of the year. From present prospects the April tonnage of all interests will be between 90,000 and 100,000 tons. Three big railroads have taken about 4,400 tons during the month. As usual, during April, interest has been largely centered in light product, says the "Journal of Commerce,"