

118½; Western Ass. Co., 245 at 161-162; Confederation Life Ass., 9 at 197; Can. N. W. Land, 9 at 43; C.P.R. stock, 100 at 55; Commercial Cable, 165 at 158-159½; Toronto Railway, 50 at 74½-75; Can. Permanent Loan Co., 5 at 143.

## STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, March 25th, 1896.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average Price 1896.
Montreal .....	219½	219	6	221	219	219
Ontario .....				8		92
People's .....	2	2	230	6	2	112½
Molson's .....				175		170
Toronto .....				250	239	240½
Jac. Cartier .....						
Merchants' .....	166	164	33	166	165	
Commerce .....	135½	135½	105	135½	135	136
Union .....						
M. Teleg. ....	166	166	10	167½	165	158
Rich. & Ont. ....	88	88	125	92½	87	96½
Mont. St. R'y. ....	218½	217½	125	219½	218½	191½
Gas .....	203	200½	779	203	202	198
C. Pacific Ry. ....	51	50½	300	54½	54	39
do land bonds .....					108	109½
N.W. Land pfid. ....				50		
Bell Tele. ....				158½	156	157½
Mont. 4% stock .....						

## THE PRESENT TIMBER CONDITIONS.

If we were to believe all that at the present time is said about prices, supply and demand, and shippers' intentions, we should probably find ourselves very sanguine about future events. But, although things are firm and selling progresses favorably, there is this to be said on the other side of the question, that the bulk of timber consumed is purchased by English and French buyers, and that both see no reason at present to speculate at fancy prices. The usual yard requirements are being filled now as before, and importers have nowhere thought of purchasing on the possibility of an unexpected rise in prices. The general belief seems to be, both in London and elsewhere, that the market is steady, with a tendency towards a slightly augmented increase in consumption, arising from improved trade conditions and other circumstances, and that buying can go on as at present with safety. Little or no importance has been placed on the rumors of under production. What shippers have to sell will doubtless be sold without difficulty, but there are no signs whatever of an impending rush to secure end of season goods.

Whatever the lower ports of Sweden and Finland and Riga may be short of, it is a fact that the North Swedish districts, and inland Finnish and White Sea districts, are straining every effort to turn out the various orders that keep coming to hand from many places, and it is, on the whole, pretty safe to foresee that the total output will be little short, if any, of previous season's produce. This week there are again no signs of an increase in prices for deals. They remain just as before. The South African market remains inactive, although it is admitted that there is an opening for Baltic timber, as soon as affairs become more settled there, and, in fact, orders have been booked, including a nice one for 1,200 standards by a well-known London house. The feature of the moment is the remarkably early selling of late shipments.—*Timber Trades Journal*, 14th.

—Bobby—"Popper, what makes them call hard times 'a rainy day,' and talk about laying up something for a rainy day?" Mr. Ferry—"It is called that, my son, because on a rainy day there's no dust in sight."—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

## Commercial.

## MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 25th March, 1896.

ASHES.—We hear of a moderate shipment of pots to Australia, but business as a whole is very quiet, with easiness in values prevailing. Receipts do not increase. Quotations are: For first quality of pots, \$3.50 to 3.75; seconds, \$3.25; pearls nominal at \$4.85 to 4.90 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The situation is practically unchanged since a week ago. Moderate orders for cements from store are being filled at \$2.05 to 2.15 for British and \$1.85 to \$2.00 for Belgian. Brick for the usual spring repairs for foundries, furnaces, etc., are moving in small lots at \$16.00 to 22.00 as to quality.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Cheese continues dull. Monday's cable quotation was down to 42 shillings, the figure it was at week before last. Business locally is very slack, so much so that it is not easy to quote reliable figures; about 8½c. is probably the highest figure for finest, and 7½ to 7¾c. for summer makes. Butter moves fairly in a jobbing way, that is for best goods, creamery bringing 20 to 22 cents, and Townships dairy 17 to 20c. per lb. New laid eggs are quoted at 15 to 17c. per doz.

DRY GOODS.—The weather has again been down to the zero point for the last several days, and together with the heavy storm of last week has prevented any access of activity in this line. Travellers will be pretty well out on the sorting trip by next week, and are hoping for fair business. City retail trade is not brisk, but a few warm days would make a great difference. Nothing new is reported in the way of changes in values. Collections continue slow.

FURS.—Cable advices of the London sales, as far as received, report the following declines: red fox 17½ per cent., cross and silver fox 30 per cent., mink 15 per cent., otter 5 to 10 per cent., skunk 35 per cent., bear 40 per cent.; beaver and fisher sold about same as before; marten sold a little better. Rats and coon have yet to be reported on. Raw furs are only coming in in small lots, owing to bad roads. We quote for prime pelts: Beaver \$3 to 3.75 per lb.; bear, \$10 to 20; cub, \$5 to 8; fox, red, \$1 to 1.50; cross, do., \$3 to 5; silver do., \$20 to 75; fisher, \$5 to 6; marten, \$1 to 1.75; mink, \$1 to 1.50; lynx, \$1.50 to 2; coon, 50 to 75c.; fall rats, 5 to 10c.; winter do., 10 to 12c.; otter, \$9 to 12; skunk, 40c. to \$1.

## MONTREAL GRAIN STOCKS IN STORE.

	Mar. 16, '96.	Mar. 23, '96.
Wheat, bushels.....	879,688	892,738
Corn, " .....	56,509	60,239
Oats, " .....	282,654	338,260
Rye, " .....	3,492	3,492
Peas, " .....	7,539	9,305
Barley, " .....	57,558	60,068

Total grain.....	1,287,440	1,364,102
Oatmeal .....	4,657	4,562
Flour .....	31,139	31,397
Buckwheat.....	47,422	52,589

GROCERIES.—In sugar there is no revival of demand, and one of the local refineries continues shut down, with considerable stock on hand. Quotations for granulated continue at from 4½ to 4¾c.; yellows, 3½ to 4¾c. Raws have advanced from 3-16 to ¼c., since last revision of prices of refined here, and an increase of activity would likely be followed by some stiffening in values. An auction sale of some 1,200 to 1,300 packages of teas, damaged by fire in warehouse, was held a few days ago. The sale attracted quite a fair audience, consisting largely of retailers, and the bidding was lively; in some cases, it is said, the prices realized exceeded the quotation for similar goods of sound quality in the open market. The goods were principally Japans, with a few blacks and gunpowders. In a regular way the tea trade has ruled quiet, beyond a moderate demand for Ceylons, which are evidently coming into more general use. There have been some recent arrivals of Valencia raisins, but fair sales are reported to western jobbers, and local stocks of dried fruits generally are on the light side, with prices steady to firm.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—Hides have come in very slowly this week, but killing will be more general next week, with the closing of Lent. There has been no change in prices yet; but it seems to be pretty well accepted that dealers will pay lower prices next week. Calfskins are fairly plentiful now, and realize 7 and 5c. per pound for Nos. 1 and 2 respectively. Very few sheepskins are offering. Tallow still moves very slowly; butchers only getting 2c. for rough, and rendered can be bought in quantity at 4½ to 4¾c. per pound.

LEATHER.—Boot and shoe manufacturers, who are now making up fall samples, do not want to buy much now, and business continues on the dull side. Steady shipments of sole, buff, split and glove continue to go forward.

A representative of the American Sole Leather Trust was in town this week, offering No. 2 Spanish at 15c., equal to 17½ to 17¾c. laid down, but we do not hear that he succeeded in securing any business. We quote: Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 22 to 24c.; do. No. 2, 19 to 21c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 19 to 21c.; No. 2, 18 to 19c.; No. 1 slaughter, 20 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 20c.; common, 17 to 19c.; waxed upper light and medium, 27 to 30c.; do. heavy, 25 to 28c.; grained, 25 to 30c.; Scotch grained, 25 to 30c.; western splits, 18 to 21c.; Quebec do.; 13 to 16c.; juniors, 16 to 17c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf. American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 22c.; colored pebble cow, 14 to 15c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 25 to 32c.; buffed cow, 12 to 13c.; extra heavy buff, 14c.; pebbled cow, 10 to 13c.; polished buff, 10 to 12c.; glove grain, 11 to 12c.; rough, 20 to 22c.; russet and bridle, 40 to 50c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—There is no pig iron moving; foundrymen have found business dull all fall and winter, and some of them say they have stock sufficient to carry them well on into the summer. Imports of Scotch iron this spring will be very light indeed. In other lines the movement is also light. Copper and lead are rather firmer; spelter is notably dearer, and we amend quotations. Tin plates are quiet both here and in Britain. Stocks in Swansea are reported as 190,930 boxes, as against 251,480 boxes this time last year, but the market is described as languid, and the absence of any amount of American orders as causing anxiety among the makers. We quote:—Coltness pig iron, none here; Calder, No. 1, none here; Calder, No. 3, none here; Summerlee, \$20.00 to 21.00; Eglinton, \$18.00 to 18.50; Gartsherrie, none here; Carnbroe, \$18.50 to 19.00; Shotts, \$19.50 ex-yard; Middlesboro, No. 3, \$17.00; Niagara, No. 2, \$21.00; Siemens pig, No. 1, \$16.75 to 17.00; Ferrona, No. 1, \$16.75 to 17.00; machinery scrap, \$14 to 15.00; common do., \$12 to 13.00; bar iron, Canadian, \$1.50 to \$1.60; British, \$2.00 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.40; Low Moor, \$5.00; Canada plates—Blaina, or Garth, \$2.15, 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets \$2.20; 75 sheets \$2.25; all polished Canadas, \$2.30 to 2.75; Terne roofing plate, 20x28, \$5.75 to 6.00; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.50; No. 26, \$2.40; No. 24, \$2.30; Nos. 17 to 20, \$2.25; No. 16 and heavier, \$2.50; tin plates—Bradley char coal, \$5.50; charcoal, I. C., Alloway, \$3.15; do. I.X., \$3.90; P.D. Crown, I.C., \$3.75; do. I.X., \$4.75; Coke I.C., \$2.75 to \$2.90; coke-wasters, \$2.65; galvanized sheets, No. 28, ordinary brands, \$3.75 to 4.15; No. 26, \$3.50 to 3.90; No. 24, \$3.65 in case lots; Morewood, \$5.15 to 5.40; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6c.; No. 26,

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