MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Dec. 30, 1902. Ash:s.—The market is of a thoroughly holiday character, and the demand is practically nil at the moment. We quote first quality of pots at \$4.30 to \$4.35; seconds at \$3.65 to \$3.70, and pearls at \$6 to \$6.10.

Cements and Firebricks.—Aside from some little demand for firebricks for the usual seasonable repairs in foundries, etc., there is little doing. We quote: Belgian, \$1.95 to \$2.10 for standard brands; English, \$2.25 to \$2.30; German, \$2.30 to \$2.45; firebricks, \$22 to \$25.

Dairy Products.—The opinion advanced last week, that the cheese market would likely show further advance, has been borne out, the cable this week being sixpence stronger, while holders are very firm in their views as to 12% to 125%c. for choice goods. Butter is ruling duller; export demand is slow, and except for choice creamery for local consumption there is not much enquiry. From 22 to 22½c. is now the limit for finest goods.

Dry Goods.—Wholesale trade is still quiet, and travellers are at home getting samples fully revised. Holiday trade with city retailers has been extra good, and money is coming in well. Values all rule very firm; some of the largest domestic manufacturers of underwear have notified the trade they cannot accept further orders at the old prices.

Furs.-Good snow roads seem now general in the interior, with the result that receipts are rather freer. Some fairsized lots of pelts have been seized on their way to market from the Gatineau district, as caught out of season, and a few examples of this kind will likely have a beneficial effect. We quote for prime skins as follows: Beaver, large, \$5.50 to \$6.50; medium ditto, \$4 to \$4.75: choice black bear, large, \$17.50: medium, \$13; sma'l, \$6.50; fisher, \$5 to \$6 for fine dark skins; red tox, \$2.25 to \$4, as to quality and size; silver fox. \$100 to \$200; cross fox, \$5 to \$7; wolverine, \$2.50 to \$5; lynx, \$5 to \$9; marten, \$3 to \$7; mink, \$2 to \$4.50; winter rats, 10 to 15c.; fall ditto, 8 to IIC.; otter, \$18 for dark pelts, ranging down to \$8; coon, black No. 1, \$1.50 to \$2.50 as to size; ordinary dark, \$1 to \$1.75; skunk, \$1.50 for all black, other kinds, 20c. to \$1.10.

Groceries—The French-Canadian houses are all fairly busy, but the week has been a quiet one with the English houses, who are engaged stock-taking and balancing, As regards values there is no noteworthy change to report. Granulated sugar is still quoted at \$3.80 at factory, yellows from \$3.15 to \$3.65. Teas rule firm, the London market being reported very strong. It is reported as a remarkable fact that some Ping Suey gunpowders have actually been sold by local holders, to go to London.

Hides.—The market is dull at the weaker quotations noted last week, and quality showing some deterioration. We quote 7^{1/2}c. for No. 1 beef hides; lambskins, 65c. each. Leather.—Some of the shoe factories are shut down for the holiday season, and some are stocktaking, so that business in leather is not very brisk, though some fair sales of dongolas are reported at firm prices, raw goat skins being still high-priced. Scarcity of jobbing sole is still reported, and for No. 2 jobbing, 26c. is quoted, and for No. 3, 24½c.

Metals and Hardware .- Business just

now is of a very quiet character, but brisk demand is looked for as soon as the New Year gets fairly turned. Nothing specially new can be noted with regard to values, consumers of black sheets, Canada plates and similar lines, do not appear to be very anxious buyers just now, apparently anticipating an easier market. American galvanized sheets, which have been out of the market for

