Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS

Montreal, August 26th, 1903.

Ashes.—The market is steady at the last advance, and first pots of good tares will readily bring \$5.75 to \$5.85 ; it is said some makers with small offerings were holding out this week for \$6.00, but did not get it. In pearls there is nothing doing.

Cements and Firebricks.—There have been no cement boats in this week, and receipts are restricted to 65,500 firebricks. In quotations there have been no recent changes, and a good steady business is doing.

Dairy Products.—The butter market is a pretty firm one with fair export enquiry, and 19½c. has been realized for finest Townships creamery, with about 18¾c. prevailing for good Quebecs. British cheese buyers seem somewhat disposed to avoid the present prices, but the market rules steady at 10¾c. for fine colored Westerns : Townships, 10 to 10⅛c., and Quebecs at 9¾ to 9⅞c. Eleven steamships last week carried out 96,985 boxes of cheese, and 21,371 packages of butter. The total of cheese exports to date is 1,368,718 boxes as against 1,222,480 boxes a year ago. Of butter the exports to date are 157,513 packages as compared with 245,489 packages a year ago.

Dry Goods.—Travellers in some cases are at home getting samples revised, but there is general activity in the wholesale trade, and city retail business is picking up, now that the holiday makers are getting back to the city from the country and seaside. In some quarters collections are not thought altogether so good as they should be. and in seeking to account for this, some would lead to the opinion that the losses arising from the general spirit of speculation which has prevailed during the past year,—extending in known cases to many country storekeepers,—with its attendant losses owing to the severe shrinkage in values, are now being felt more or less. As far as can be learned there is no serious ground for complaint, but the fact remains that collections are not so good as last August. After writing last week, the Canadian Colored Cotton Co. announced, as we anticipated several weeks ago, a general advance in all lines of from 5 to 10 per cent.

Groceries.—The week has not developed any new features of special interest. Sugars are firm at the late advance, with an advancing market reported in raws, and a good demand, so that the possibility of some further advance is deemed not improbable. Factory prices are \$4.20 for standard granulated in barrels, and \$3.50 the lowest figure for yellows ; in bags the figures are 5c. less. Molasses is now held at 40c. in a jobbing way for puncheons, with the usual advance for barrels and half-barrels. Packers' selling agents have been notified to discontinue any further selling of tomatoes, corn and beans, even at open prices, as owing to the backward season and cold nights, the crop is proving very light.

Hides.—The market has been without variation for the past several weeks. Dealers are still buying beef hides on the base of 8½ to 9c. for No. 1. Very few calfskins are now coming in, but for these 11 and 9c. is the quotation for Nos. 1 and 2 respectively. Lambskins bring 45c. each.

Leather.—Export in sole leather is quite brisk just now, and there is a fair demand from local manufacturers at steady prices ;