

ble ever experienced in the Iron and Hardware trade of Canada.

#### PIG IRON.

For the first two months of the year there was a moderate demand and quiet market, best brands selling at about \$30, and second class at \$28 per ton. As the season advanced a more active demand set in, and the Spring importations found a rapid sale, at prices ranging from \$36 to \$45 per ton. In July and August No. 1 Gartsherrie and Coltness had advanced to \$48, and Hametite to \$50. These extreme prices checked consumption, and our market became very languid and drooping. The Fall shipments being much larger than expected, and the Glasgow market becoming rapidly lower, ours followed suit; almost a panic ensued, during which prices receded so rapidly that No. 1 Eglinton was forced off at \$32, and other brands in proportion, by weak holders. This state continued till after close of navigation, leaving a heavy stock unsold, either here or in transitu to the West. Early in December prices advanced again suddenly in Scotland, and a speculative demand commenced here, which soon carried quotations up to their former rates, and the year closed with a very firm market, high prices, and a hopeful future. We regret much being unable to give our readers an official return, either of the quantity of Pig Iron imported, or that remaining in stock. Our Custom House cannot supply the former, and we have no reliable data for the latter.

#### BAR IRON.

Extraordinary fluctuations have characterized the English and Scotch markets, as well as our own, during the past year. In January best brands of Scotch were selling about \$2.50 per 100 lbs., but rapidly advanced to \$3, and subsequently to \$3.50. By the end of May they were held at \$4, and a large portion of the summer and early fall business was done at this rate. In October the home markets suddenly gave way 40s., stg., per ton, and ours also dropped 50 cents per 100 lb. Early in November another fall of 40s. took place, and our market again receded to \$3. The trade became frightened,

anticipating still lower rates, and orders almost entirely ceased, consumers buying only from hand to mouth; and country merchants cancelled their orders whenever and wherever they could. The season of navigation closed with heavy stocks, no demand, drooping prices, and a general mistrust of the future. Early in December, the English markets, in consequence of a general rush to place orders at the current low rates, again advanced some 30s. per ton, and many leading makers declined booking orders except for immediate delivery, and at full prices. Our market also became excited, and some heavy jobbing purchases having cleared out weak holders, quotations advanced to \$3.50, at which rate the year closed, with a very buoyant feeling, and rapidly decreasing supplies.

#### HOOPS, BANDS AND SHEETS.

These articles advanced even more in proportion than Bar Iron—Sheets especially, which were held firmly at £22, stg., per ton during the whole summer for ordinary quality and numbers, and in our market readily brought \$6 per 100 lbs. As the Fall season advanced new supplies came forward, and prices receded to \$5, Hoops and Bands were about 50 cents lower, stocks here ran down considerably, and there was no disposition to force sales, holders feeling certain of higher prices as the season advanced.

#### BOILER PLATES

Were in fair demand during the whole year, and commanded full prices. Best brands, such as Thorneycrofts were scarce, and sold at \$6 per 100 lbs.; while inferiors, of which there is too much imported, sold at \$5 to \$5.50. During October and November prices ruled lower, but before the close of the year they again commanded full rates.

#### TIN PLATES.

In January best Charcoal brands were selling at \$9 per box, but in consequence of several rapid advances in England, and an active consumptive demand here, they advanced by June to \$13.50 for Charcoal, and \$12.50 for Coke. Subsequently they receded about \$1.50 per box, with moderate stocks and limited enquiry, closing at about \$12.