

### Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

**Flour.**—The flour market has been fairly active, with considerable business reported in strong bakers, besides the sale of several round lots for Quebec, St. John, N.B., and Halifax, N.S., the prices for best grades being \$9.00 f.o.b. here. Smaller lots sell at \$1.00. Medium grades are quoted all the way from \$8.50 to \$9.75. In straight rollers there have been sales since our last report at \$9.00 f.o.b. points west of Toronto, although millers now ask \$8.10 to \$9.25 f.o.b., as to quality. Further large sales are reported for shipment east of Montreal on the basis of \$9.85 here, but nothing now it is said can be had under the equivalent of \$8.40 laid down here, and we quote \$8.40 to \$8.50 for car lots on track here, and \$3.55 to \$3.65 for smaller quantities.

**Oatmeal.**—In bags granulated and rolled are quoted at \$1.60 to \$1.65, and standard at \$1.50 to \$1.55. Pot barley \$4.25 in barrels and \$2 in bags, and split peas \$3.50.

**Bran, etc.**—The market is quiet, and we quote \$14.50 to \$15. Shorts \$15.75 up to \$17.50 as to grade.

**Oats.**—The market for oats is steady, with sales reported at 80 to 80½c, with sales of car lots of No. 3 at 29 to 29½c. These sales show an advance of ½c upon last week's business.

**Barley.**—The market is very quiet both here and in the west, and we quote malting grades 50 to 52½c and feed 89 to 40c.

**Cured Meats.**—Canada short cut pork, per bbl., \$15.50 to \$16.50; Canada thin mess, per bbl., \$14 to \$14.50; Hams, per lb., 9 to 11c; Lard, pure, in pails, per lb., 8½ to 9½c; Lard, compound, in pails, per lb., 6½ to 7c; Bacon, per lb., 9 to 11c; Shoulders, per lb., 8 to 8½c.

**Butter.**—Good times in the butter trade is about as fair a way to characterize the market as we know of, and if farmers have not sense enough to sell their butter as fast as it is churned at present profitable prices, then they will deserve no pity should the market decline later and leave them with stocks on hand in a lower market. Since our last report sales have been made of round lots of September and October creamery at 21½c, 22c, 22½c and 23c, the latter price being paid for the whole October make of a well known factory, and yesterday 23c was bid in the country for the October make of another factory. For Eastern Townships dairy 19 to 20c has been paid for choice fall ends, and sales of Western dairy have transpired at 14 to 15c for good to fine and at 16 to 16½c for finest.

**Cheese.**—The cheese market continues to show extraordinary strength, but those who do not accept present good prices are foolish. Of course there will have to be an end to this boom, and then the wise ones will be those who sold at current values. At the moment there is no indication of a collapse in cheese, the market being firm, and any factoryman who is willing to accept current rates without haggling for extreme values can sell his cheese. Sales are reported of 1,000 boxes of white Perth at 9½c, 2,000 boxes of finest Western at 9½c, 500 Eastern Townships finest at 9½c, and 800 boxes do. at 9½c.

**Eggs.**—The market continues firm, round lots of choice candled stock having been placed at 14 to 14½c, with sales of small jobbing lots at 15 to 15½c. Seconds are quoted at 12 to 18c. Strictly new laid from nearby points 20 to 22c.

**Hides.**—The hide market is weak and 1c lower, making a decline of 1½c from top prices. Calfskins had declined 1c since our last, dealers now paying only 6c. We quote prices as follows. Light hides, 7c for No. 1, 6c for No. 2, and 5c for No. 3; to tanners 8c for No. 1. Heavy hides 7 to 7½c; Calfskins 6c; Lambskins 55c.—Trade Bulletin, Oct. 25.

### The Price of Coal.

Referring to the last advance in Pennsylvania coal, which was noted in the Commercial of last week. The coal trade paper Black Diamond says: "The market continues to show an increased firmness. Prices have gone up another notch. The demand continues strong, and there appears not the slightest reason to believe that quotations are being in any way discounted. Figures f.o.b. New York are now quoted: \$3.75 for broken, \$3.90 for egg, \$4.15 for stove and \$3.90 for nut on the companies' circular. Simultaneously, figures at Chicago went up to \$5.25 and \$5.50; these are higher than they have been for the last two or three years, and we might mention that last year the circular records that that coal was held, for broken \$3.60, egg \$3.75, stove \$4, nut \$3.75, so that prevalent prices are even more satisfactory than they were then. All reports both from city and country trade, appear to agree in the conclusion that though some stocks are held, that they are nothing like equal to meet the demands which will be made upon them during the coming season. We are now face to face with winter, and at the same time with less coal in sight than has been the case for many a day. As the general revival in business will undoubtedly cause an excess even in the normal demand, this condition of stocks must have a tendency to put figures still higher later on. It is very true that some of the large shippers in the west are confident that they will be able to take care of their trade, but on the other hand others are short."

The same paper, speaking of the coal trade of Duluth says: "Receipts of soft coal for the season up to October 1st are not by the agent of the Northern Coal Storage Company, which controls the soft coal on all the docks at the head of the lake, at 617,919 tons for Superior and 266,890 for Duluth, a total of 884,809. Last season the total was 550,410. The stocks of hard coal are put by a good authority at 317,889 tons for the two towns. A year ago they were 30,000 tons greater. Unless there is a big increase in the receipts it is believed there will be a shortage in hard coal stocks and there will be none too much of soft coal."

### The Labor Market.

The demand for labor still continues in excess of the supply. Notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the harvest started, a large force of men are still employed at threshing and other farm work. Many of the farm laborers from Eastern Canada are returning home, and there have not been a sufficient number of men released yet from harvest and general farm work to create any surplus of men. In fact, it is said that many of the threshing outfits are short of help on account of scarcity of men. The heaviest demand now is for men to go to the woods for the winter. Probably fully double the number of men will be wanted for the woods this winter, owing to the low stocks and better outlook for the lumber trade next season. Not nearly the number of men required can be supplied at present, though wages offered are higher than a year ago. The wages offered for choppers is \$20, which is \$4 higher than last year. For experienced loggers \$26 to \$28 is offered. A large number of men will be wanted a little later on, to get out cordwood and railway ties, so there is no prospect of a let up in the demand for men, which has now been vastly in excess of the supply for the past two or three months.

A line of goods which has come quickly into general use in this country during the last two or three years, is felt footwear. In

this cold climate there is nothing so comfortable in the line of footwear as a good felt shoe. Moccasins, overshoes and all other inventions to protect the feet from the cold, are not to be compared with the felt shoes for ordinary wear. The sale of these goods has increased very rapidly, and their use will be almost general this winter in Manitoba. The Dolge felt shoe is one make which has been received with favor here and has given general satisfaction. It is handled by Mr. A. Congdon, of Winnipeg, who has the sole agency for these shoes in Western Canada.

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