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THE chairman of the Montreal Road Committee, Ald. Vallieres, has made the statement in his recent report that 60,000 square yards of permanent sidewalk has been laid, mostly in the central part of the city. The sidewalks laid are almost equal in area, it appears, to the streets improved by paving, and the total length is some eleven miles. Hardly any recent improvements will conduce more than this to the comfort and safety of the citizens.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Toronto, Nov. 25th, 1903.

Ashes.—The direct shipping season of 1903 has now closed, and has been a dull

one. There is usually some little stir in shipments of potash by last outgoing boats, but even this has been lacking this year. Stocks, however, are so extremely small, that values are well sustained, desirable tares of first pots still realizing about \$5.90, and it is thought that the high price may induce some of the old makers, who have not been heard of in the market for some time, to re-enter the field.

Dairy Products.—Last week was an active one for cheese shipments, exports reaching 96,668 boxes, or 17,707 boxes more than for the corresponding week of last year. By the "Ontarian" this week, being the last boat, there were shipped 2,526 boxes, making the total for the season 2,390,702 boxes, as against 2,100,048 for the season of 1902. Last week's shipments of butter were small, being only 5,223 packages, or say 15,687 packages less than the same week of last year. The total butter exports for the season just closed are figured at 338,277 packages, as compared with 534,951 packages for last season. The market for cheese is a very quiet one at the moment, with late makes of fine Ontarios held locally at about 10½¢; Townships, 10½¢, and fine Quebecs at 10½ to 10¾¢. For butter there is some moderate jobbing enquiry for local requirements, with from 21¼ to 21½¢. quoted for fine fall makes.

Dry Goods.—Quite a good lot of orders are coming to hand, most of which are being sold on spring dating, but wholesale dealers generally are making preparations for stocktaking, which will be in full swing next week. City retailers report excellent business and are paying their bills remarkably well, while country remittances show improvement since last writing. Failures are singularly few, and there do not seem to be any anticipations held of many insolven-

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cies after the Christmas holidays, when weaknesses of this kind generally develop.

Furs.—Local prices of prime raw furs for the season just opening are quoted, as follows: Beaver, \$5 to \$6.50 for large; medium ditto, \$4 to \$4.75; No. 1 choice bear, \$15 for large, \$10 for medium, and \$6 for small; badger, 30 to 50¢; fisher, No. 1, dark, \$5 to \$6; ditto, brown, \$4 to \$5; pale ditto, \$3 to \$4; red fox, \$2.25 to \$4; cross fox, \$5 to \$10 for No. 1, as to color; wolverine, \$2.50 to \$5; lynx, \$4 to \$8 for No. 1; marten, \$2 to \$3 for Ontario and Quebec skins; fine B.C. and Northwest pelts bring higher prices; mink, \$2 to \$4 for No. 1; fall rats, 8 to

—It is reported that the Ontario Government's drilling gang has struck a rich deposit of silver ore near Mansfield, Ont.

—E. P. Charlton & Co.'s departmental store at St. John, N.B., was on Wednesday last badly damaged by a fire which started from the furnace. In the same building were situated Thorne Bros., furs; Dowling Bros., dry goods, and other merchants, and their premises also suffered severely. The total loss is estimated at between \$40,000 and \$50,000; covered by insurance.



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