

Montreal Fur Prices.

The market continues steady on the whole with a fair run of business, raw furs coming in pretty freely. Beaver are in good demand just now at top prices, but some expect a decline in the near future. Bear is neglected and rules lower, while mink appears to be in good demand, but stocks are fairly plentiful, muskrat is firm and meet a fairly ready sale. For otter the enquiry is good and fine dark skins readily commend top figures, while some bring figures on the outside. For racoon there appears to be a fairly good local demand, but prices do not run high. Fisher, fox, lynx, and marten are in good supply, while the demand for them is quiet, and on this fact some dealers base their belief in a decline. Skunk appears to be changing their level, and prices rule lower:

Beaver, per lb.	\$ 4 00 to 4 50
Bear, large, per skin	10 00 15 90
Bear, cub, per skin	4 00 8 00
Fisher	4 00 5 00
Fox, red.	1 25 1 40
Fox, cross	2 00 3 00
Lynx	4 00 5 00
Marten	1 00 1 25
Mink	1 00 1 50
Muskrat	0 12 0 15
Muskrat, spring	0 00 0 00
Otter	10 00 12 00
Raccoon	0 50 0 75
Skunk	0 50 0 60

—Gazette.

Montreal Hide Market.

Since our last there has been a weaker tone to the hide market on Toronto, Hamilton and Western buff hides, and prices have declined all round. Western heavy steers have also ruled weak and dropped ½c on outside figures in sympathy with the Chicago market. The demand has been slow, with only a small jobbing business doing, and dealers do not look for much change in the situation until after the turn of the year. We quote:—No 1 Toronto's at 5½c to 5¾c, No 2 do at 5c to 5¼c, No 1 Hamilton's at 5½c to 5¾c, No 2 do at 4½c to 4¾c, Western buff and upper No 1 at 5¾c to 6c, No 2 do at 4½c to 5c, heavy steer at 9c to 10c, and Northwest dry hides at 9c to 10c. There has also been an easy feeling in local green hides and prices have declined ½c per lb, which is no doubt due to the larger receipts, and the fact that the Quebec banks have decided that no further advances shall be made for buying hides until the stocks of leather are reduced. Green city hides are quoted at 4c, 3c and 2c, for No 1, 2 and 3, tanners paying 1c more. Lambskins are quiet and steady at 6½c to 70c each, and calfskins are unchanged at 5c.—*Trade Bulletin*.

Groceries at Montreal.

Sugar has ruled quiet all the week, granulated being still quoted at 7½c at the refineries, and yellows at 5½c to 6c as to grade. In fruit, very little has been sold from first hands during the week. Several lots of 150 to 500 boxes of Valencia raisins have been placed at 4½c to 6½c for good brands up to 6½c to 7c for fancy marks. Lower prices however are expected in sympathy with the break in the English and New York markets. Valencia figs are quoted at 7½c to 7¾c. Currants are

firm with sale of Provincials at 5½c to 5¾c as to quality and size of lot. Vostizza are firm at 6½ to 7c in cases, with higher prices for small lots. In prunes some very choice Bosnia fruit have arrived and are selling at 6½c to 7c in round quantities, up to 7½c for small lots of fancy brands. French prunes are selling at 5c to 5½c. The tea market is quiet and steady, sales of 700 packages of Japans being reported at 16½c to 17c for good medium, with sales of fine at 19c to 20c. A large quantity of tea is expected in New York on Canadian invoices; which of course will have the benefit of both the New York and Canadian markets. Coffees are quiet, a lot Maracaibo being reported at 18c. The feature of the canned goods market has been the recent strength in tomatoes, and prices have advanced 5c per dozen on inside figures to \$1.15 for Lower Canadas in round lots, with small lots firmly held at \$1.20 per dozen. New packed lobsters are firmly held at \$6.80 to \$7 per case, but we understand that some lots of old stock are offering at lower prices. The movement of corn has been light at \$1.10 to \$1.75 per dozen as to brand. The felling in salmon has been firmer; and some small lots have changed hands at \$1.70 to \$1.75 per dozen. Sardines have ruled quiet and steady at \$3.50 to \$9.50 per case. Mackerel has ruled quiet and steady at \$5.25 to \$5.50 per case. Peas have been little enquired for at \$1.25 per dozen.—*Trade Bulletin*.

A New Variety of Tea.

Most writers of travels in South-western China make mention of a distinct and very highly prized variety of tea which has never become the subject of commercial export from China, and is consequently unknown in European markets. It is called in that country "Puerh" tea from the Chinese frontier town where it is first received from the Shan States; for this tea is not a product of China. From Puerh it is forwarded to Pekin as tribute, and cannot be obtained except from officials. The authorities at Kow Gardens have lately suggested to the Indian Office that attempts should be made to secure, either through Bangkok or the Burmese Shan States, seeds and specimens of the plant from which this famous tea is derived. Similar efforts have been made before, seeds having on two occasions been sent from Shanghai to India; but in neither case was it possible to reproduce the plant, the seed having lost its vitality owing to the necessarily long period required for its transmission from the Shan States to Shanghai and thence to India. There are two specimens of the tea in Kew Museum, in one of which the leaves are in loose order, received from Mr. Lockhart in 1859. The other is compressed into bricks, and was contributed in 1879 by Mr. Fryer. The leaves, which are from one to three inches in length, vary very considerably in appearance from those of ordinary tea, as well as in the character of the decoction, which is of a bright rich color, with a delicate aroma, but possessing a peculiar bitter flavor. People who suffer from dyspepsia will be interested to know that the Chinese find a cup of Puerh tea an excellent digestive after a heavy meal. The *Kew Gardens Bulletin* states that an examination of the leaves renders it quite certain that they are derived from some species of *Camellia*

very closely resembling the Assam tea *Camellia Theifera*. It is to be hoped that the Indian Government will follow up the suggestion offered from Kew, and that this useful delicacy may be ere long acclimatised in some part of the dependency.—*London Journal of Commerce*.

Business in British Columbia.

An interview with some of the leading wholesale and commission merchants and other business men in that city the *Vancouver News* elicited the fact that business on the whole is encouraging, though the season is not the briskest. Everyone reported business fair, some good and others lively, but all expressed satisfaction. There is a carload of butter on the way, and a carload of currants, but last week no eastern or southern shipments were received. Shipments over the C. P. R., owing to China, Portland, San Francisco and eastern trade, have been heavy, but local shipments have been light.

Real estate is jogging along at the same profitable rate to dealers, though comparatively speaking quiet. Transactions and enquiries pertain principally to property in the Hastings townsite. 264 and 196, Mount Pleasant property is also in good demand.

Dairy produce has been firm, though butter has been on the decline, at some points of supply, owing to the plentiful rains in California renewing the grass, with the result that fresh roll butter in California is very cheap, and may be purchased there from 16c to 20c per lb. Local jobbing prices are as follows: Creamery, 20c; dairy, 22c to 24c; fresh roll, 40c. Eastern fresh eggs are selling at 30c, and fresh eggs are worth 50c a dozen and upwards. Pickled stock is about out of the market.

A few trout at 12½c to 15c are coming in; cod is 6c to 8c; halibut, 8c; small fish, 5c to 6c per lb.

Oregon apples are quoted at \$1.75 per box. Japanese Oranges are plentiful and selling at from 90c to \$1 per box. Figs, London layers, are from \$2.75 to \$3 per box. Bananas are scarce.

Spokane Falls flour is jobbing at \$5 per bbl and firm; Manitoba Bakers, \$5.35; Oregon, \$5.15; Ogilvie's Hungarian, \$6. The market is firm, the feeling is upwards in tendency. Other prices in this line are. Oatmeal, rolled, \$7 per bbl; granulated, \$6.25, standard \$6; cornmeal, \$5.75; shorts, \$28 per ton; bran, \$25; chopped, \$30, oats, \$32; wheat \$33; potatoes are still advancing and are quoted at \$30 to \$35 per ton.

In teas there is a good supply of the new crop and there are large stocks of excellent quality in the city, but since the arrival of late shipments prices in Congos have advanced materially. New Japan teas are quoted at from 20c to 25c per lb.

The poultry market is well supplied with stock of good quality, and large consignments are on the way from the east for the Christmas trade. A carload has arrived and is in good condition. Tukeys bring 25c to 35c per lb; chickens are from \$6 to \$7 per doz; geese are from \$1 to \$1.25 apiece.

Silver and lead quotations have been steady at: Silver, 96c per ounce; lead, 5c to 7c per pound.