

A firm market in oats, and prices up 1c. per bushel is reported. The barley season is over, and trade is of a nominal character. Rye remains in good demand at 1 to 2c. per bushel advance. Merchants want supplies of buckwheat and but little is offering. Corn is in good active demand. Large quantities have been brought into the province from the United States during the season.

GREEN FRUIT.—The demand for oranges is falling off, and other fruits, such as strawberries, coming forward more freely are taking their place. The prices realized at the Wednesday sales were not as high as has been realized the past several weeks. Seedlings brought \$1.90 to \$2.40 and navel \$2.40 to \$3.25 per box. The supply of lemons is rather limited, but the Montreal sales coming next week will relieve the market. The steamship "R. F. Matthews" arrived in Montreal on Tuesday with the first cargo of fruit from the Mediterranean ports, including Genoa, Messina, Naples and Sorrento. She moored at the Allan line wharf, where she will discharge. The fruit is reported to be in excellent condition, which is due partly to the excellent ventilation of the holds and the fine weather which prevailed. The cargo is consigned to Messrs. Hart & Tuckwell, and it is expected that the fruit will realize good prices when sold. The New York houses are, however, doing their best to discourage attendance at the sales. The cargo consisting of 26,500 packages of Messina lemons, 1,700 Palermo do., and 600 Sorrento do., and 4,000 pkgs. Messina oranges, 280 Palermo do., and 3,500 Sorrento do., will be put up at public auction next week. The steamer "Fremona" is reported in this week. Pineapples, in spite of advices that no more can be expected from Cuba this season, remain in slack demand; prices are somewhat high, dealers quoting 13 to 15c. each. Strawberries are more abundant, and latest arrivals coming forward from North Carolina showing excellent quality are quoted 20c. per quart.

GROCERIES.—There is a moderate trade doing in general supplies. The sugar market again advanced this week, with a rise of 1-16c. placed on granulated. In teas there is little new to report. Shipments are reported here which would have gone direct to the United States had there not been a fear on the part of forwarders that a war tax would be levied by the government on that commodity. A shipment of coffee, from Batavia ex S.S. "Clara," is reported arrived, and of good quality. The movement in canned vegetables has been affected somewhat by the early green vegetables coming forward from Southern markets. Advices from the country indicate a fairly satisfactory trade.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The local market is getting in better shape and traders show a better disposition to work together. Cured hides are quoted 8 to 8½c., and should bring the latter figure. At the time of writing (Thursday), it seems almost certain that green calfskins will go down to 9c. on Friday of this week. Sheepskins and lambskins are without change. From Chicago, April 25th.—Market was firm. A fairly large volume of business was reported transacted last week, and packers were decidedly firm in their views, tanners finding that to obtain supplies it was necessary to pay full prices. The close was firm at 10¼ to 11c. for native steers, 10 to 10¼c. for Texas, 9½ to 9¾c. for butt brands, 9½c. for branded cows, 8½ to 8¾c. for Colorados, 10½c. for heavy native cows, 11c. for light do.

PROVISIONS.—There is good demand for general supplies and prices remain firm and unchanged. The deliveries of dressed hogs have now declined to merely sufficient for butchers' purposes. Prices in the United States remain somewhat low in spite of the bull appearance of the situation. Packers are evidently operating with a view to secure the bulk of the summer run at a low basis of values.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, April 27th, 1898.

ASHES.—The expected improvement in demand, which usually attends the opening of navigation to the sea, is not yet in evidence to any very appreciable extent, and the market is barely as strong as a week ago. As yet there have been no receipts of moment by canal. We quote first quality pots at \$3.70 to 3.90 per cental, as to tare, seconds \$3.25 to 3.30, pearls about \$4.75 per cental.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Many of the manufacturing houses, in fact most of them, are busy. Some houses are still behind in delivery of their orders for spring footwear. For this and other reasons some of the larger concerns have as yet hardly turned their attention to fall samples of boots and shoes. However, the preparation for fall goods can hardly be delayed much longer.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The steamship "Westmeath" from Hamburg, and another steamer, are now reported in the River St. Lawrence with fresh supplies of Belgian cement, which will somewhat relieve the present scarcity of that article. A very fair demand exists for moderate lots. We quote British \$2.25 to 2.35, Belgian \$1.95 to \$2.10. Firebricks continue to be quoted at \$17 to 22 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—The cheese market is this week again a shade stronger, with English cable quotations at 41s. for white, and 43s. for colored; spot prices for fine makes range from 8 to 8½c. Some few small lots of fodder cheese have come to hand, but the make thus far is infinitesimal, and the product of this article is expected to be very small during the present spring. Butter values continue pretty much on the low basis reported last week, namely, 16 to 17c. per lb. for fine creamery and dairy, with the probability of lower figures with the advancing season.

DRY GOODS.—For the season of the year there is a good sorting demand. Some travelers are out with samples of dress goods and other fall lines, but it will be some weeks before the main body of travelers get out with full lines of fall samples. There is a big run on black silks and satins, of which goods wholesale stocks are quite depleted, and repeats are being cabled for prompt shipment. Buyers just returned from the other side of the Atlantic have no very special news to report. All woolen goods are firm in Europe and would doubtless have been subject to advance but for the Hispano-American war. Belfast linen manufacturers are reported very busy in light damasks, weighing 4½ ounces to the yard, which now go into the United States at a reduced duty.

FURS.—Moderate receipts of mixed lots of raw furs are reported, but the catch of spring muskrats is smaller than usual. Dealers are buying carefully, and disposed to sort closer in all directions. We quote: Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1 to \$1.25; marten, \$1.75 to \$2.25; fisher, \$4.50 to \$7; lynx, \$1 to \$2; otter, \$1 to \$12 for dark; pale, \$5 to \$7; red fox, large, \$1.30 to \$1.50; small, \$1; cross fox, \$3 to \$10; bear, cubs, \$3 to \$7; medium, \$7 to \$10; large, \$12 to \$15; skunk, 15 to 70c. as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c; rats, fall, 7c. to 10c.; kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

HIDES.—There was some expectation of a change in quotations of hides this week, and the usual Monday meeting of the Dealers' Association was postponed till to-day, but it has been decided to make no present change in beef hides, which are being bought on the basis of 8c. per lb. for No. 1. Lambskins will be advanced next Monday to 15c. each; calfskins are 10 and 8c. per lb. for Nos. 1 and 2, respectively; sheepskins \$1 to 1.10 each.

GROCERIES.—Refiners to-day decided on a slight advance in sugars, and the factory price for standard granulated is now 47-16c., Austrian refined 43-16c., yellows range from 39-16 to 4c. In European

centers there has been increasing firmness in raw beet sugars, owing to the probabilities that quite a considerable proportion of the supply of raw cane sugars will not be available for some time owing to the Spanish-American war, as expectations from the Philippine Islands and Cuba cannot be expected for some time to come. A few small lots of German refined, aggregating 700 or 800 bags, are reported in first incoming Hamburg steamers. Molasses is firmer by a cent, owing to the closing of the Porto Rico market, and cost of Barbadoes is now figured at 18c. per wine gallon, in bond. The demand for teas from local jobbers is light, but some further considerable shipments are reported to the United States, not only of Japans, but also blacks and Pingsueys, and local agents of large tea houses doing business in leading American cities, report advices from their principals that an active business is being done at prices above the level here. The China and London tea markets are without special feature; in the latter city Ceylons and Indians are reported easy. Local agents for California dried fruits report a good seasonable demand for raisins, with decided firmness in first-class goods, which are scarce. Prunes are distinctly firm. The crop of apricots, owing to frost damage, it is estimated will be only equal to that of 1896, which was an off year.

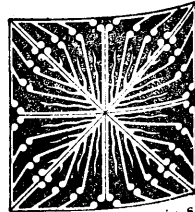
LEATHER.—In the local market the situation is without special feature, though in American centres a firmer feeling is reported, and in Chicago hides have shown material advance, with some considerable scarcity reported. Some moderate demand for stock for fall goods is shortly looked for from shoe manufacturers of moderate calibre, who cater altogether to the jobbing trade. We quote: Spanish sole B.A., No. 1, 24 to 25c. do. No. 2, 22½ to 23½c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 23 to 24c.; No. 2, 20 to 21c.; No. 1 slaughter, 27 to 28c.; No. 2, do., 24 to 25c; common, 20 to 21c; waxed upper, light and medium, 30 to 35c.; do. heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 32 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec do., 20 to 21c.; juniors, 18 to 20c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calfskins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 24c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebble cow, 13 to 13½c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove-grain, 12 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

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