

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

MONTREAL, April 16, 1872.

Since my last the ice on the river has moved, and in front of the city the river is clear. The barges, which have been locked up in the ice since the close of navigation, are now safe from damage from "shoves," and are preparing for taking in cargo for the lower ports. The lake ice is not yet down, but as the channel here is clear, there is no chance of a flood, which was at one time feared.

Chemicals, iron, and groceries, especially teas, have been largely dealt in. Nails have been again advanced, as will be noticed under that head. Breadstuffs have been moderately active and rather firmer; provisions very quiet; cheese is very firm; ashes are dull and rather lower.

ASHES.—*Pots*.—Prices have declined a good deal since last week. The principal sales of firsts have been at \$7.20, but the general current of the market has been from \$7.30 down to 7.15; second sorts are hardly asked for at \$6.50; thirds are nominal. *Pearls*.—There is nothing doing in this ash at present, no stock being on hand; the quotation of \$8.80 is entirely nominal. The stocks at present in store are—pots, 778 brls.; pearls, none.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There has been an improvement in this business during the past week, as many country merchants are at present in town to replenish their stocks. Altogether the spring trade has been fair, but not equal to former years. Prices are steady, and our quotations show little change. We quote—Men's No. 1 stogias, \$2.50 to 2.52½; ditto, No. 2, \$2.25 to 2.30; men's kid clump, \$5; ditto, D. S., \$2.75; men's calf clump, \$3.75; men's calf double sole, \$3.50; men's calf congress, \$2.50 to \$3; boys' boots, \$2 to 2.25; women's calf boots, D. S., \$1.30; ditto buff boots, D. S., \$1.25; ditto split boots, \$1 to 1.10; ditto buff congress, D. S., \$1.35; balmorals, \$1.40 to \$1.60.

CATTLE.—We have had a full market this week, and fair sales have been made at about the following rates: First quality, \$7 to 8; second ditto, \$7; third ditto, \$6 to 6.50; Milch cows, \$25 to 50. *Sheep*.—Market steady; from \$8 to 10 according to quality. Lambs being placed at from \$3 to 4.

COAL AND FIREWOOD.—The demand for both coal and firewood is at present small, but prices are high. In the immediate prospect of arrivals any quotations which we can give are nominal.

DRESSED HOGS.—This commodity being now almost out of the market, we give what may be looked on as the closing quotation, \$5.40 to 5.75.

DRY GOODS.—Some of our wholesale houses have been kept very busy during the past week, but generally speaking the trade has been quiet, and the general feeling is that no improvement will take place till navigation opens. For Canadian woollens there has been a good demand, and the large manufacturers are fully occupied with orders already on hand, but the general feeling is that owing to the high price for wool, the produce will be less and higher prices will be required to remunerate the manufacturers.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—We have had a strong market this week and prices generally have appreciated. Bleaching powder has been sold to arrive at 4½ to 4¾c. There is at present no stock on hand. Caustic soda has been dealt in to some extent at 5¾c. Bi Carb. has been selling largely at ¾c on last weeks quotations. *Soda Ash*.—The principal business done in this article has been to arrive at prices ranging from

3½ to 4½c; Sal Soda has only been sold for future delivery at 2½ to 2¾c; Refined Borax is worth from 25 to 30c; Ground Cream of Tartar 33c; Alum, \$2.15 to 2.20; Copperas, \$1 to 1.10; Sulphur, \$3.50 to 4; Epsom Salts, \$2 to 2.25; Saltpetre is high and firm at \$11 to 11.50.

FURS.—There are few coming in to the market and pretty large prices are obtained owing to the enhanced value in the London market. We now quote Beaver, per lb, \$1.75 to 2; Black Bear, \$10 to 12; Fisher, \$7 to 8; Silver Fox, \$25 to 50; Cross Fox, \$2 to 5; Red Fox, \$1.50 to 1.75; Lynx, \$1.75 to 2; Dark Martin, \$5 to 10; Pale Martin, \$2 to 2.50; Dark Minks, \$4.50 to 5.50; Pale Minks, \$2 to 3; Otter, \$10 to 12; Fall Muskrat, 14 to 18c; Winter Muskrat, 18 to 20c; Spring Muskrat, 25c; Raccoon, 60 to 80c; Skunks, 25 to 50c.

FISH.—We could only give nominal quotations this week. Trade has been very dull, and until some change takes place in the market we cannot give any quotations based upon sales.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the past week 6,900 brls., total receipts from 1st January to date 117,489 brls. being an increase of 8,097 brls on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1871. Holders of flour are firm, asking full prices and buyers are somewhat inclined to hold off for a little merely buying what is required for actual wants. A good deal of superfine has been sold for May delivery at \$5.90. Extra and Fancy are scarce in this market. To-day the market was active, closing steady at the following rates:—Extra, \$6.40 to 6.50; fancy, \$6.25; ordinary supers. from Canada wheat, \$6 to \$6.10; strong bakers flour, \$6.30 to 6.40; Welland canal flour, \$6.10; Canada super. No. 2, \$5.70 to 5.75; fine, \$5; middling's, \$4.15 to 4.25; pollards, \$3.25 to 3.50; Upper Canada bag flour, \$2.75 to 2.80; oatmeal quiet at \$4.80 to 5.

GRAIN.—*Wheat*.—Receipts for the past week 1,050 bushels. Total receipts from 1st January to date, 58,655 bush. A considerable business has been done in Canada spring. We now give the following quotations based upon transactions: U. C. winter, \$1.45; Canada red winter, \$1.40; U. C. spring, \$1.40; Chicago and Milwaukee, No. 2, \$1.32½. *Maize*.—There has been very little enquiry yet for this grain, the market is dull and nominal at 65 to 70c. *Oats*.—A good deal of business is doing among local consumers at 34 to 36c, but there is nothing like activity in the market. *Barley*.—Dull and nominal at 50 to 55c. *Peas*.—Very light demand and prices are nominal at 82 to 85c. *Timothy Seed*, \$2.30 to 2.40. *Flax*, \$1.50 to 1.60. *Clover* quiet with sales ex cars at 9½c.

GROCERIES.—*Teas*.—The sales this week foot up to some 4,000 pkgs of uncoloured Japans and Young Hysons at from 1 to 2c over the prices paid last week. *Spices*.—The only change we have to notice in this department is for Pimento which is now selling at 5½ to 6c; pepper, 15½ to 16c. *Sugar*.—Market is very quiet but firm some sales of choice raw sugar have been reported at 9½c for small parcels. Scotch refined has been dealt in to some extent at 9½ to 9¾c. There is no change to notice in prices of our refinery sugars. *Rice* is still scarce in this market and brings from \$4.15 to 4.30. *Molasses*.—Business very quiet and no change to notice in prices, which are, however, well maintained. *Fruit* market at present very dull. Layer raisins can be bought for \$1.25 for old, \$1.65 to 1.70 for new. Currants are steady at 6 to 6½c for new. *Coffee*.—There is a good demand from the country at present and sales are made from 18 to 26c according to quality. Other articles are firm but unchanged in value.

HARDWARE.—There has been a brisk trade done in all kinds of hardware, and preparations are making for a more extended business when navigation opens. Cut nails are firm and scarce, and are held at our quotations. Pig iron is strong at quotations. Canada plates are scarce,

and being in few hands bring our outside figures. Tin plates are quoted somewhat higher. We quote—Pig Iron—Calder or Summerlee, \$40, to 42; other brands \$38 to 40; Hematite, \$40 to 42; Bars—Scotch or Staffordshire, \$70 to 75; best refined, \$75 to 80; Swedes, \$100 to 120; Hoop and band, best, \$3.75 to 6; Sheets, \$4 to 5; Plates, \$4 to 4.50; Lowmoor or Bowling, \$7 to 8; Nails, cut, \$5 to 5.75; Pressed, \$5 to 8; Spikes, pressed, \$5. Canada Plates, Hutton, \$6 to 6.50; Swansea, \$7 to 7.50. Tin plates 1C, \$11.25 to 11.50; 1X, \$13.25 to 13.50; Coke, 1C, \$10.50 to 11; Sheet Lead, \$7 to 7.50; pig lead, \$6 to 7; sheet zinc, \$7.50 to 8. Cast steel, 13 to 16c; spring steel, 5 to 6c; sleigh shoe, 5c. Potash kettles, \$1.50 to \$3; camp ovens, \$3.50 to 3.60; window glass in good demand; stocks light, the prices run from \$2.10 to \$2.60 for fourth quality, according to size.

HIDES.—The market is rather weaker, but not quotably lower. The stocks are beginning to increase, and on the opening of navigation a decline is looked for.

LIQUORS.—We have no change to note in prices this week. The market has been very dull for all kinds. We continue to quote: Favorite brands such as Hennessy's and Martell's, sell at \$7.75 to 8 in cases, according to the size of lot, while other brands have been placed at \$6.25 to 7.12½; Du Kuyper's gin in wood, \$13.2½ to 135; green cases, \$3.25 to 3.62½; red cases, \$6 to 6.50. At these prices, market for gin is firm, with a fair amount of business doing. Highwines, Upper Canada brands, \$14.7½ to 150; rye whiskey, 85c to \$1.

NAVAL STORES.—Spirits of turpentine declined a little in price early in the week, but has again advanced to 90 to 92½c. Rosins are dull and unchanged in price, and to effect a sale it is understood that somewhat lower prices would have to be accepted. Tar and Pitch dull and nominal.

OILS.—Cod Oil is very firm, and held at 53 to 55c, but no sales have been reported at the outside rate. *Seal Oil*.—Is firm, and has been dealt in to some extent at the following rates; pale, 67½c; steam refined, 70c. *Linseed*.—Also partakes of the firmness of other oils. Raw is held at 75 to 76c; boiled 80 to 81c. Bleached whale is still nominal at 85 to 90c. Olive oil, \$1 to 1.10. *Petroleum*.—Is rather firmer with only small sales at 28 to 30c.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter*.—Receipts during the week, 475 kegs; shipments, 4 kegs. There is no speculative demand at present; some sales of ordinary kinds have been made from 14c to 17c. We quote store packed western, 13c to 15c; fair dairy butter, 16c to 17c; choice, 20c, 21c. *Cheese*.—Receipts, 295 boxes; shipments, 722 boxes. Market is quiet but firmer than the previous week; some small sales are reported at 14c. We quote—fine factory, 13c; finest new cheese, 14c. *Pork*.—Receipts, 30 brls.; shipments, 27 brls. Nothing of a wholesale business doing at the present time. We quote, mess, \$15.25 to 15.50; thin mess, \$14 to 14.50; prime, \$11. *Lard*.—Quiet, at 9½c to 10c. *Tallow*, 8½c to 8¾c per lb.

SALT.—The trade in new salt to arrive has not commenced yet. Small lots of coarse have been placed at 75c; fine is moved at 70c.

WOOL.—The supply of this article is still far below the demand, indeed, so scarce is it, and so little coming in, that prices may be looked on as somewhat nominal. Fleece wool, 45c to 50c; pulled wool super, 40c to 45c; ditto No. 1, 30c to 35c; ditto black, 30c to 35c; ditto unasorted, 35c to 40c.

—The Ontario Government has placed risks on the public buildings to the amount of \$448,000, with various companies, at the uniform rate of one and-a-quarter per cent. The late government insured none of the public buildings.