

## Commercial.

## MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Feb. 17th, 1885.

**ASHES.**—The market is exceedingly dull and sales are in small loss. The quotations are: No. 1 pots \$3.55 to \$3.60 according to tares, seconds \$3.000. There have not been any sales of pearls for a considerable time, and they are consequently purely nominal.

**DRY GOODS.**—Orders from travellers have been coming in more freely during the past week, but the caution prevailing among buyers for some time past still continues. Some of the leading houses report business fully up to the corresponding season of last year. Payments have been from 50 to 60 per cent. There has been a stiffening in prices of cotton goods owing to manufacturers having secured the adoption of their plans which restrict the production to the requirements of the trade, the apportionment of each mill's production and the regulation of prices to a paying basis.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—Stocks are light, and there is a better enquiry. Bleaching powder is scarce and in demand, but transactions in heavy chemicals are small. We quote:—Sal Soda, \$1.10 per 100 lbs.; Bi-Carb Soda, \$2.50 to 2.60; Soda Ash, \$1.65 to 1.75; Bichromate of Potash, per 100 lbs.; \$8.50 to 10.00; Borax, refined, 11 to 12½; Cream Tartar crystals, 32 to 34c; do., ground, 36 to 38c; Tartaric Acid crystals, 52½ to 55c; do. powders 55 to 58c per lb.; Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to 2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11c; Bleaching Powder, \$2.50 to 3.00 according to lot; Alum, \$1.85 to 2.00; Copperas, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; Ground Sulphur, \$2.75 to 3.00; Flowers Sulphur, sublim. per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to 3.25; Roll Sulphur, \$2.40 to 2.60; Sulphate of Copper, \$5.75 to 5.50; Epsom Salts, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre, \$9.00 to 9.50; German Quinine, about \$1.20 to 1.30; American do., \$1.30 to 1.35; Howard, \$1.30 to 1.40; Opium, \$4.35 to 4.50; Morphia, \$2.20 to 2.30; Gum Arabic, sort, 28 to 33; White, 40 to 55c; Carbolic acid, 45 to 50c; Iodide Potassium, \$4.25 to 4.50 per lb.; Iodine, \$5.00 to 5.50; Iodoform, \$7.50 to 8.00.

**FISH.**—The near approach of Lent has had the effect of stimulating buyers and some good round lots have changed hands at quotations, although there is no quotable advance. The market is firm. Newfoundland salmon are held at \$18 to \$18.50 for No. 1, \$16.50 to \$17 for No. 2, and \$15 to \$15.50 for No. 3 in tierces, and \$13 for No. 1, \$12 for No. 2, and \$10 for No. 3 in barrels. Green cod are offered at \$4.75 for large, \$4 to \$4.25 per barrel for No. 1, and \$2.75 for No. 2. Gaspe dry cod sells at \$4.50, and American do. at \$3 to \$3.50. Labrador herrings, of which the supply is small, are selling at \$5.50 to \$6.00. Cape Breton No. 1 at \$4.50 to \$5.00 per barrel and \$2.75 per half do., and Anticosti at \$4.25 to \$4.50. Sea trout brings \$8.00 to \$8.25 per barrel, and speckled or lake trout \$4.50 per barrel. Boneless codfish sells at 4c. to 4½c. per lb. in 40 lb. boxes.

**GROCERIES.**—The week has resulted in a more than ordinary business, notwithstanding the heavy snow storm. Among the best features is the scarcity of renewals and the disposition to buy for cash. The volume of business may not be quite so large as at the corresponding time last year, but this is easily accounted for in the great shrinkage in prices. Sugars are only about two-thirds of the price they were a year ago; all kinds of teas except very low Young Hysons, are at least ten to fifteen per cent. lower, and the same may be said of nearly all the heavy staples outside of tobacco, which is about the same price.

**LEATHER.**—There is a good demand for almost every grade and a very firm trade is being done. Splits are reported scarce and in demand. Values are unchanged.

**METALS & HARDWARE.**—The market has been moderately active for pig iron during the week and some large contracts have resulted for delivery west, and several round lots of Summerlee at about \$18.25. No advance in prices is looked for as freights will be equally as low, if not lower than they were last season. In manufactured iron, ingot tin, ingot copper, tin and iron plates, antimony, lead, steel, zinc, spelter and wire there is no change. We quote:—Gartsherrie and Summerlee \$19 to 19.50. Langloan, \$19.50; Coltness, \$19.50 to 20, and very scarce; Eglinton, \$17 to 17.50; Dalmellington, \$17.25 to 17.50; Calder, \$19.00 to 19.50; Hematite, \$20 to 22.50 according to

brand; Siemens, \$19 to 19.50; Bar Iron still \$1.70 to \$1.75, Siemens bar, \$2.10; Canada Plates about \$2.90. Tin Plates, Bradley Charcoal, \$5.75 to \$6.00; Charcoal I. C. \$4.60 to 4.75 as to brand; do. I. X. \$6.00 to 0.00; Coke I. C., \$4 to 4.25; Galvanized sheets, No. 28, 6 to 7c. according to brand; Tinned Sheets, coke, No. 24. 6½c., No. 26, 7c., the usual extra for large sizes. Hoops and Bands per 100 lbs., 2.10 \$2.20; Sheets, Boiler Plate, per 100 lbs. Staffordshire, \$2.50 to 2.75; Steel Boiler Plate \$2.75 to 0.00; heads, \$4.50; Russian Sheet Iron, 10 to 11c. Lead per 100 lbs.:—Pig, \$3.75 to \$4.00; Sheet, \$4.00 to \$4.25; Shot, \$6 to 6.50; best cast Steel, 11½ to 12c.; firm; Spring, \$3.25 to 3.50, firm; Tire, \$3.25 to \$3.50, firm; Sleigh Shoe, \$2.25 to 2.50; Round Machinery Steel, 3½c. per lb. Ingot tin, 19 to 21c. Bar Tin, 24c.; Ingot Copper, 14 to 15½c.; Sheet Zinc, \$4.50 to 4.75; Spelter, \$4.00 to 4.50; Bright Iron Wire, Nos. 0 to 6, \$2.75 per 100 lbs.

**OILS AND PAINTS.**—A further advance in linseed in the English markets has led to a corresponding advance here, and the selling price in first hands is 57½ to 60c. for raw, and 62½ to 65c. for boiled, as to lots. Stocks are reported to be light. Fish oils are quiet, refined seal being 62 to 64c., pale 58 to 60c., and straw 55 to 57c.; cod oil is steady at 58 to 60c. for Newfoundland, and 55 to 56c. for Halifax.

**PROVISIONS.**—Butter is almost a drug in this market and holders will make considerable concessions rather than lose a sale. We quote:—Finest fall made creamery, 20 to 22c., other grades 12 to 18c. according to quality; Eastern Townships dairy choice fall makes 17 to 18c., summer makes 12 to 15c.; Morrisburg and Brockville 16 to 17c. for fall makes, and 10 to 13c. for summer makes; Western in straight lots 10 to 13c. according to quality, and selected 13 to 14c.; medium 9 to 10c. Smaller lots are higher in proportion to quantity. Rolls in basket lots are selling slowly at 16 to 18c. according to quality. Cheese is unchanged. Pork is quiet but firm at prices slightly advanced. S. C. being quoted \$16 to \$16.50. Dressed hogs are quiet at \$6.10 to \$6.25 for heavy average and \$6.25 to \$6.45 for light. Eggs are exceedingly dull at 18 to 19c. for fresh, and 15 to 17c. for limed.

**SALT.**—Is unchanged.

**WOOL.**—The week has been a quiet one, although there are continued enquiries for both foreign and domestic, and the market is firm. The ruling prices may be quoted as follows:—Cape, greasy, to arrive, 16½ to 18c.; Port Phillip 22 to 33c.; Adelaide, 21½ to 22½c.; Southdown, 17½c.; Domestic A super 26 to 27½c.; B do., 22 to 24c., and unassorted 19 to 21½c.

## TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Feb. 12th, 1885.

**FLOUR AND MEAL.**—Dullness is still the prevailing feature of this market. Values are without change and we still quote: Superior extra, \$3.80; extra \$3.60; strong baker's \$5; spring wheat extra \$3.50; superfine \$3.20; oatmeal 3.75 to \$4; cornmeal \$3.75; bran \$12.50 to \$13.

**GRAIN.**—Wheat; the market is perceptibly weaker, although our last week's quotations continue to rule. There are very few transactions to record. Barley is 1 to 2c. lower, say No. 1 74c.; No. 2 68c.; No. 3 extra 68c.; No. 3 59c. Oats are wanted but are scarce, 34 to 35c. as to quality. Corn and rye nominal. The stocks in store are as follows:—

## STOCKS IN STORE.

	Feb. 16	Feb. 9,	Feb. 18
	1885.	1885.	1884.
Flour, bbls .....	2,800	2,750	625
Fall wheat, bush....	149,421	139,814	68,777
Spring wheat, bush..	139,396	139,501	79,203
Oats ..	2,200	2,346	....
Barley ..	161,352	146,311	196,707
Peas ..	19,831	21,543	32,988
Rye ..	2,265	2,142	32,988
Corn ..	1,650	1,650	....
Total Grain....	476,114	453,307	377,635

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—Our remarks of last week will hold good for this week also. A fair trade is being done at unchanged prices. We quote steers, 60 to 90 lbs. 8½c.; cows 7½c.; cured and inspected, 8½ to 8½c.; calskins, green, 10 to 12c.; cured, ditto, 12 to 14c.; sheepskins \$1.00; lambskins \$1.00. Tallow, rough, 3½c., ditto, rendered, 6½ to 6½c.

**OILS.**—Canadian refined petroleum still quotes at 16½c. for lots and 17c. for single barrels. Carbon safety, as before, viz. 19c.; American prime white and water ditto, 23½ and 26½c. respectively.

**GROCERIES.**—Some houses report that business has shown improvement during the last few days. Sugars maintain a firm tone. In N.Y. the prices of all Young Hyson teas has advanced one cent. per pound. Local values have not been materially increased although the feeling is consequently stronger. All other articles on our list are as previously quoted. J. Lewenz & Co. in their tea letter of 60 Jan. write as follows: The market has continued firm with a fair amount of business passing privately, China Congous show no further change in values, but green teas have again gone somewhat dearer at auction, as also Indian teas which show an advance of ¼d. per lb. for the lower and 1d. for the better grades. We learn that the Indian tea association in Calcutta have now reduced their former estimate of this season's crop by about 4 million lbs. So that shipments of Indian teas to this market in the coming 2 or 3 months may show a falling off as compared with last year.

**PROVISIONS.**—Trade in this department is still very slack. A good demand exists for choice butter, buyers being very particular regarding quality. Inferior grades continue dull, there is no export demand whatever. Cheese is weaker, the cable now quotes 59c. The supply of dressed hogs is sufficient, \$5.90 to \$6. Light hogs bring \$6.25. There is no change in quotations of hog products. Small sales are being made, though holders seem to be confident as to the future. Eggs rather slow at 20 to 21c. for fresh and 17c. for limed.

**WOOL.**—No change to note in the state of this branch of trade. Values are well maintained and a fair amount is changing hands. Prices continue to rule as under: Fleeces combing 16 to 19c.; Southdown 20 to 23c.; pulled combing 17 to 18c.; ditto super 20 to 21½c.; extra 25 to 27c.

## NORTHWEST FIRE INSURANCE CO'Y.

The adjourned annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Northwest Fire Insurance Company was held in Winnipeg last week. Those present being Messrs. D. McArthur, president in the chair, G. W. Girdlestone (who acted as secretary), T. Gilroy, E. Fitz Bucke, Brandon, Colin Inkster, G. Griffith, A. H. Whitther, Hon. C. P. Brown, and others.

The president read the annual statement and report, which on motion of Mr. Whitther seconded by Mr. Bathgate, was received and adopted.

The gross premiums and income from other sources—"interest on deposits"—for 1884 amounted to \$22,000 which is considerably in excess of the previous year. The losses were also in excess of the previous year. A dividend of ten per cent. was declared on the paid-up capital stock payable forthwith. An amount equal to the unearned premiums was set aside and the surplus carried forward.

The election of directors was then proceeded with. The following gentlemen were declared elected for 1885:—Messrs. D. McArthur, G. W. Girdlestone, A. C. Killam, A. H. Whitther, Colin Inkster, T. Gilroy, Jos. Mulholland, Hon. C. P. Brown, Alex. Logan, Col. W. N. Kennedy, W. W. Banning, K. N. L. McDonald, Hon. Senator J. Sutherland, H. S. Westbrook, and J. A. Smart, Brandon.

Votes of thanks were given to the president and vice-president, also to Mr. Girdlestone for his management. Mr. MacArthur was re-elected President, and Col. W. N. Kennedy re-elected Vice-President.

## RAILWAYS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

In more than one respect the year 1885 will mark the inception of a new era of railway enterprise in the province of New Brunswick. The province in the past has enjoyed the reputation of possessing a greater mileage of railway in proportion to population than any province in Canada, or any state in the Union. Indeed it would be very safe to extend the comparison to the entire world, for America leads all other countries in the magnitude of its railway development. From present appearances there is every reason to believe that our province will long continue to retain its reputation in this line, for never perhaps in its history has more enterprise in the building and projection of new lines to open up the interior of the province been shown. Glancing at a map of the province, we