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Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 20th Feb., 1889.

ASHES.—The market shows no gain in activity or strength, receipts are light, and the business doing is of small volume. First quality pots are quoted at \$4.00 to 4.05; seconds, \$3.50 to 3.55; pearls, if anything, a shade weaker at \$5.10 to 5.25; stocks in store about 500 pots and 150 pearls.

BOOTS, SHOES, AND LEATHER—Orders for boots and shoes continue to come in fairly, and the factories are all pretty well employed after the temporary lull during Carnival time, but shipping is not very active as yet. For leather the demand shows improvement, and some very fair sales of sole are reported; stocks in all lines are full, and we hear of concessions from quotations for fair lots. We quote:—Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 21 to 22c.; ditto, No. 2, B.A., 18 to 19c.; No. 1, ordinary Spanish, 20 to 21c.; No. 2 ditto, 17 to 18c.; No. 1, China, 18 to 19c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 24c.; No. 2 do. 21 to 22c.; Am. oak sole, 39 to 43c.; British oak sole, 40 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 30 to 34c.; ditto, heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 30 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 33 to 37c.; splits, large, 16 to 23c.; do., small, 12 to 18c.; calf-splits, 32 to 33c.; calfskins (35 to 46 lbs.), 55 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins, 70 to 80c.; russet sheep-skin linings, 30 to 40c.; harness, 21 to 28c.; buffed cow, 11 to 13c.; pebbled cow, 11 to 14c.; rough, 21 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 45 to 55.

CEMENTS, FIREBRICKS, ETC.—Demand in these lines is of a very limited character, but cements hold their values firmly, Portland selling at \$3.00 to 3.25 in fair lots; Roman and Canadian unchanged; fireclay, \$1.50 a bag; firebrick, \$24.00 to 30.00 per 1,000.

DRY GOODS.—Reports from travellers are on the whole fairly favorable, and some houses report business rather ahead of last year at this date. After contact with several travellers covering Eastern Ontario, we find that they report fall and winter stocks in the country to have been worked off very fairly, their customers having bought carefully as a rule in the fall. Payments are still reported "off color," but failures in this district are not as numerous as a fortnight ago. Prices of cottons and woollens maintain firmly the recent advance, and a further rise in silks of all kinds equal to ten per cent. is cabled from Europe.

FISH.—There has not as yet been any active demand for salt fish, though Lent is now not far off. Ash Wednesday coming on the 6th prox. Possibly the large offerings of fresh fish may have something to do with the rather lax enquiry. Price, however, show general steadiness. We quote:—Labrador herrings, \$5.50 to 5.75 for No. 1; Cape Breton, \$6.00 to 6.25; green cod, No. 1, \$4.75 to 5.00; No. 1 large, \$5.25; large drafts, \$5.50 to 5.75; dry cod, \$4.75 to 5.00; N.S. salmon, \$14 for No. 1; B. C. ditto, \$13 to 13.50; mackerel, No. 3, \$3 per kitt; red sea trout, \$10.50 to 11.00.

FURS.—A rather better movement is going on at the advanced prices consequent upon the results of the London sales, indeed beaver is even stronger than noted a fortnight ago. We quote:—Beaver, \$4.00 to 4.50; bear, large, \$12 to 18.00; bear, medium, \$10 to 14.00; bear, small, cub, \$5.00 to 8.00; fisher, \$4.00 to

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60 CHURCH STREET, TORONTO.

5.00; red fox, \$1 to 1.35; cross fox, \$2.50 to 4.00; lynx, \$2.50 to 3.50; marten, \$1.00; mink, \$1.00; winter muskrats, 15c.; raccoon, 75c.; skunk, black, \$1.00, 75c., 40c., 20c.; otter, \$10.00 to 12.00. These prices are for prime skins.

GROCERIES.—The distribution of groceries in the country is not more than moderate, but is of a healthy character, and on the whole there is no serious ground of complaint. Sugars are if anything a shade easier, the refinery price of granulated, nominally 74c., having been, it is said, shaded for large lots; yellows range from 5½ to 6c.; the refineries have begun working to some extent, and new sugar is reported dull and slightly weaker in outside markets. Molasses rather easier, and 40c. would buy ordinary lots of Barbadoes; syrups still in short supply and firm at prices last noted. Teas are in better demand and a stronger feeling prevails among holders, owing to the activity reported in N. Y., where the market has made a gain in firmness. Some considerable wholesale transactions in Japan are reported here, while the country demand is also of a livelier character. In coffees we have nothing of a novel character to note; tobaccos and spices also unaltered. In dried fruits business is quiet, but values rule firm, owing to the reports of a strong European market. We quote:—Valencias 5½ to 6½c., as to quality; currants, 5½ to 6c.; sultanas, 7½ to 8½c.; French prunes, 5½ to 6c.; Turkish ditto, 7 to 8c.; evaporated apples, 7½ to 8c.; dried ditto, 5 to 5½c.; Tarragona almonds, 14 to 15c.; walnuts, Grenoble, 13 to 14c.; filberts, 9 to 10c. Canned goods have not yet begun to move at all freely, despite the near approach of Lent. We quote tomatoes, standard brands, \$1 to 1.10; salmon, \$1.75 to 1.80; lobster \$6.50 a case; mackerel, little if any here.

HIDES.—The market rules dull and slow; receipts of green hides are very free, and tanners are seemingly not disposed to be anything like liberal buyers. Dealers are paying on a basis of 5c. for No. 1 green butchers'; Toronto and Hamilton No. 1 are easy at 6½c.; dry hides 10 to 11c., with very small stocks in Boston and New York; calfskins, 5c.; lambskins, 80 to 90c. as to quality.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—Travellers for the hardware houses are all out, and on the whole report fair business. Nails rather dull and easier at \$2.60 for 10d., to 6d., hot-cut; horse shoes selling well at steady prices. The trade in iron and heavy metals does not show any gain in activity, but iron prices are rather firmer in sympathy with a stronger market on the other side; warrants have been cabled since last writing as high as 42/6d., a considerable gain within ten days, and are now at about 42/-; Canada plates very steady; tin, copper, and lead unchanged. We quote:—Coltness, \$23.00 to 23.50; Calder, \$22.00 to 22.50; Langloan, \$22; Summerlee, \$22 to 22.50; Eglinton and Dalmellington, \$20; Gartsherrie, \$21 to 21.50; Siemens makers are not selling or making any fresh contracts; Carnbroe, \$20.00; Shotts, \$22; Glangarnock, none here; Middlesboro, No. 3, \$20.00; cast scrap, railway chairs, &c., \$19.50; machinery