

Commercial.

Montreal Correspondence.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Montreal, March 1, 1869.

The weather has been bright and cold, with so far no appearance of spring. You may fancy the state of our streets when I mention that several of our leading photographers were busy taking views of the miniature snow mountains in them, to commemorate the remarkable winter we have had.—Business continues very dull, but rather improved, and hopes are already entertained of a fair and safe business in the spring. It is to be hoped that the insane competition in all branches of trade will this year be modified; our merchants have been so severely bitten for the last three or four years that I expect a more cautious policy will prevail. The large grocers have suffered, especially; but all branches have sustained severe losses as will be seen by the long lists of insolvents weekly published. Our present bankrupt law does not give satisfaction, and, I have no doubt, some very considerable alterations in it will be proposed next session. The present system of official assignees is strongly commented on. The agitation is, either do away with them altogether, or appoint more and of a higher and more efficient class. At present such is the pressure of business that all new cases are pigeon-holed, and, like Chancery suits, in England, a glorious uncertainty rules as to whether the estates will ever be wound-up.

THE PRODUCE MARKET is exceedingly dull, the state of the roads having seriously interfered with all business. In Flour, prices are nominally unchanged. Total receipts from 1st January to 3rd March, 1869, 69,058 bbls. against 52,569 bbls. last year. Total shipments for same period, 1869, 34,961 bbls. against, 1868, 26,612 bbls. Stocks in hands of Millers, 1st inst., 83,478 bbls. against 64,400 in 1868. No sales of grain on the spot, and only very small ones of U. C. spring wheat to arrive. Receipts of wheat 1st January to 3rd March, 1869, 22,750 bus. against 13,329 bus. in 1868.

PROVISIONS.—Pork is rather firmer for barrelled, but dressed hogs have declined fully \$1 per 100 lb. Butter firm, and there is a good American demand for good to choice, as high as 25c. having been paid; stocks are light; little doing in other articles.

GROCERIES.—There has been but little animation generally. Sugars have followed the New York market; no animation and prices unchanged. Teas more active, and several sales have been made at good rates. Dried fruits have rather advanced, but little doing. Molasses, the recent high prices have checked sales. Very little doing in other articles. I give the imports of the leading articles from 1st January to 1st March:—

	1858.	1867.
Coffee.....lbs	3,436	\$ 661
Fruit.....	9,376	14,141
Brandy.....gals	182	165
Gin.....	2,400	67
Rum.....	103	1,615
Molasses.....	390,370	5,377
Sugars.....lbs	824,656	42,589
Teas, green.....	167,026	40,087
black.....	49,850	13,794

DRY GOODS.—It is expected that this business will open earlier than usual, large quantities of goods are arriving by each steamer. I give you the imports, 1st January to 1st March, of leading articles:—

	1868.	1869.
Woolens.....	\$338,687	305,256
Cottons.....	508,125	525,090
Silks, &c.....	54,450	33,762

\$901,262 \$864,108

I give you a statement, furnished by Messrs. Robertson, Steven & Co., shewing the imports from 1850 to 1867 into Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, and also the total into all Canada:—

	Montreal.	Toronto.	Hamilton.	Quebec.	All other Ports.	Total Imports.
1850	\$299,468	\$141,208	\$80,812	\$588,240	\$76,000	\$671,2748
1	397,5076	122,788	101,532	849,572	115,710	822,5980
2	415,4000	134,298	115,604	825,012	76,202	824,0640
3	609,9704	270,618	173,952	1388,940	119,222	1326,0676
4	569,9792	287,840	262,576	2035,950	142,824	1466,0684
5	316,1730	225,785	215,453	657,963	130,9730	950,9773
6	538,5612	202,287	338,978	813,058	755,780	1317,8288
7	599,1174	221,209	154,406	906,064	130,250	1212,3511
8	400,8643	107,308	62,604	875,730	815,400	739,8904
9	600,7578	171,624	96,806	985,785	107,9471	1082,5564
1860	698,4086	184,968	121,445	1130,429	127,1570	1245,1125
1	696,4484	220,302	128,075	1237,704	140,1120	1305,0397
2	586,6124	179,076	116,077	1280,700	106,4841	1116,3232
3	636,4068	192,019	90,574	1251,410	90,9675	1149,1107
4	469,7145	113,582	56,988	881,340	64,7805	1298,7919
5	802,1806	224,747	89,847	1381,823	109,6473	1354,6997
6	1170,2517	351,345	109,838	1541,510	146,932	1987,4852
7	1231,7860	300,5091	177,3650	1410,750	206,9304	2148,6761

Toronto Market.

Trade has been much interrupted by snow during the past fortnight; complaints of this are heard from all quarters. Mail communication has been so uncertain that no dependence whatever could be placed in it. This applies more particularly to the district east of Toronto. The Quebec mails have only reached us in a spasmodic kind of way, several days accumulations usually coming together.

GROCERIES.—Sugars—Are steady; a decline of 1c. in New York has been counter-balanced by a fall in the gold premium so that prices here are not altered from last week's quotations. Teas—There is a little better demand for teas, but the market is pretty bare of some grades owing to shipments ex the S. S. St. Andrew, Moravian, North American, Prussian and St. George being delayed on the eastern section of the Grand Trunk by snow. So soon as these goods arrive the assortment will be complete. These steamers brought out a large quantity of dry goods, hardware, &c., as well as groceries.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Orders are coming in steadily, but owing to the state of blockade the country is now in, there is less doing this week; prices are unchanged.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—Receipts 6,800 bush., and 14,640 bush. last week; the market for spring is dull, with only a moderate supply offering; there are buyers of good samples at 95c. Sales of car loads were made some days since, at 96c to 98c free on cars. Fall is dull and nominal at quotations; there is a good deal offering. The stock in store on the 8th inst., was 127,715 fall; and 98,450 bush. spring, against 85,200 fall and 111,500 spring on 16th March, 1868. Barley.—Receipts, 1,750 bush., and 640 bush., last week. The market is very dull and the demand slack, with a good deal offering; lots are held at about \$1 30. Stock in store on the 8th, 57,000 bush.; against 70,800 on the 30th Jan., and 1,400 on 16th March, 1868. Oats.—Receipts, 2,533 bush., and 2,600 bush., last week; car loads are offering at 50c. on the track and there is very little demand. Stock in store on the 8th, 25,200 bush., on the 30th Jan., 1869, 11,400 bush., and on the 16th March, 1868, 32,100 bush. Peas.—Receipts about 1,000 bush., and 560 bush., last week. Peas are offering at 78c. but are unsaleable; prices are nominally lower, as quoted. Stock in store on the 8th, 30,600 bush., on the 30th January, 1869, 39,600 bush., and on 16th March, '68, 21,660 bush. Rye.—No lots moving, on the street 70c to 75c is paid for sleigh loads. Seeds.—There is a good demand for Timothy, at \$2 to \$2 75 for lots; the supply is moderate. Clover, is wanted at \$7 to \$7 10; for lots of No. 1 seed. Flax—\$2 to \$2 50.

FLOUR.—Receipts 6,800 bbls., and 2,400 bbls. last week. There is very little demand, and we quote No. 1 superfine at \$4 to \$4 05; two or three lots of 100 bbls. sold at \$4 05 in store. A lot of 500 bbls. fancy sold at \$4 25 at Malton, there is not much demand, extra is worth our quotations. 100 bbls. extra sold at \$4 55 on cars, and 100 bbls.

at \$4 50. No Superior in market. Bag flour is held at \$3 90, but could not be sold over \$3 80. Oatmeal—is offered freely at \$5 75 with no buyers over \$5 50, no sales to report. Cornmeal—unchanged. Stock of flour in store on the 8th inst., 22,560 bbls., on the 30th Jan., 1869, 9,700 bbls. and on 16th March, 1868, 12,900 bbls.

PROVISIONS.—Butter.—Stocks are small, nearly all available lots being placed for the New York market; we note sales of 400 packages, selected, 24c.; ordinary is neglected; the market closed quiet for all qualities. Pork.—There are buyers of Mess at \$25 50 to \$26, holders asking \$26; stock reduced by retail sales at some advance on our quotations. Bacon.—The stock is ample and is held in few hands at 11c with 11c offered. Cheese.—there is a good local demand, but the supplies are light and there is no wholesale movement. Eggs—very dull, fresh packed 19 to 20c; lined are a slow sale at 15 to 16c.

PETROLEUM.—Trade is quiet, and prices of refined are very steady at our quotations; the demand is limited to requirements for immediate consumption.

LEATHER.—A number of job lots of sole were placed with the city trade at prices within the range of quotations; other articles quiet.

FREIGHTS.—Rates by Grand Trunk Railway:—Flour to all stations from Belleville to Lynn, inclusive, 35c., grain per 100 lbs. 18c.; flour to Brockville and Cornwall, inclusive, 43c. grain 22c. flour to Montreal 50c. grain 25c.; flour to all stations between Island Pond and Portland, inclusive, 85c. grain 43c.; flour to Boston 90c.; gold, grain 45c.; flour to Halifax \$1.10, grain 55c.; flour to St. John \$1 02. Boxed Meats to Liverpool per gross ton 80s.; lard or butter in tins 85s.; Pork 11s. per tierce; flour 5s. 6d. per barrel; grain 12s. per 480 pounds. Rates by Great Western Railway—Flour, Toronto to Suspension Bridge 25c. gold; thence to New York, 92c. U. S. currency per bbl.; to Boston \$1.02. Grain to Bridge 13c., gold; thence to New York 47c. U. S. currency; to Boston 51c. Grain, Toronto to Detroit, 18c. per 100 lbs; flour 35c. per bbl.

Halifax Market.

BREADSTUFFS.—Feb. 23.—Our market for the week shew a considerable decline, and still tends downwards. The absence of speculative demand continues, and receipts largely in excess. White wheat extra (fall) \$6.75 to \$7.00; fancy \$6.25 to \$6.35; bakers' strong \$6.10 to \$6.25; supers. \$5.75 to \$5.90; No. 2 \$5.00; middlings \$4.25 to \$4.50; Pollard's \$4.00 to \$4.25; rye \$4.75 to \$5.00; cornmeal K. D. \$4.15 to \$4.25; F. G. \$4.00 to \$4.10; oatmeal \$7.00 (dull).

PROVISIONS.—The demand for Pork is still small, and receipts light. Beef continues dull and unchanged. Butter more active at 24c. to 25c. for good dairy, 22c. to 23c. for shipping in tubs. Lard active, sales have been effected at 19c. for American. Cheese is firmer without enquiry. Pork, Prince Edward Island mess, \$23.50 to \$24; prime mess \$18.50; prime \$13 to \$16; beef (mess) \$10 to \$12; prime \$7.50 to \$8.00; butter 23c. to 26c.; lard 19c. to 20c.; cheese 14c. to 14c.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.—Considerable excitement prevails in Sugars and Molasses. Several cargoes of the latter have changed hands here, and to arrive, at 35c. to 36c. (in bond) being an advance of 5c. to 6c. per gallon on last week's sales. Higher prices are anticipated, and some holders refuse to sell at present. Sugars at Auction on Saturday last realized 8c. to 9c. for V. P. and Barbadoes, respectively. Rum is still inactive and unchanged. Coffee dull. We quote:—Sugar V. P. 9c.; Porto Rico, 9c. to 9c.; Cuba 9c. to 9c.; Barbadoes 9c.; molasses, Cienfuegos 40c. to 42c.; Trinidad 38c. to 40c.; rum (in bond) Demerara, 55c. to 58c.; coffee, (Jamaica) 13c. to 15c.; St. Domingo, 10c. to 13c.