

and steady. Tallow remains very dull and prices are low.

WOOL.—The announcement of the proposed tariff legislation in the United States has had the effect of reviving interest in Canadian fleece wool. As there is little fleece wool left in Canada, only a few lots have exchanged hands during the past few weeks. This wool was purchased, for the most part, by Boston parties who have scoured the country in their search for wool. The proposed duty on wools of the class Canada usually exports to the United States is 12 cents per lb. Whether this will fall entirely upon the Canadian grower or American manufacturer, or what will be the shares borne by these two parties, remains to be seen. The sales made recently were at fairly good rates; good combing fleece wool brought 22½c., while unwashed brought 14c. per lb.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 17th March, 1897.

ASHES.—Business continues dead; there is practically no demand. Quotations continue nominally at \$3.35 to 3.40 for first quality pots, seconds \$3.05, pearls \$4.50, but is believed some small transactions have gone through at smaller figures. Receipts are very limited; both January and February showed a falling off compared with last year, and it is believed that March will also be a light month.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—A seasonable fair jobbing business is doing in cements at the old prices prevailing all winter, but there is a backwardness in placing orders for the usual spring importations, and quotations for new stock are not yet established. There is quite an active demand for bricks, and stocks are moving out well at from \$17 to 22.00 according to brand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The cable shows a gain of sixpence in the Liverpool market for cheese, making the present quotation 57s. 6d., but in the local market there is an absence of all business. Butter is in fair jobbing demand, and choice rolls show some gain, being quoted at 14 to 14½c.; choice creamery, 18 to 19c.; Townships dairy, 16 to 18c.; Western ditto, 9 to 12c. New-laid eggs are plentiful at 11 to 12c., and limed are practically out of the market.

DRY GOODS.—The late crisp wintry weather, with plenty of snow, has not favored the sale of spring fabrics, and retailers find business slow as yet, both in city and country. With wholesale dealers, too, trade is not very active at the moment, the main spring business being well over, and sorting orders not yet begun to come in. No noteworthy changes are reported in values of textiles. With regard to remittances there is pretty general complaint.

FISH.—Further decline is reported in the demand, and values are weaker in some lines, though salmon holds its value pretty steadily. We quote:—Nova Scotia herring, \$3 to 3.75 as to grade; green cod, \$4.25 for No. 1, and \$4.50 to 4.75 for No. 1 large; No. 2, \$2.75 to 3.00; dry cod, \$3.50 to 4.00; North Shore salmon, \$12.50 to 13.00; B.C. ditto, \$12; sea trout, \$7 to 7.50; fresh herring, 90c. to \$1 per hundred for large, 60 to 80c. for small; had-dock and cod, 3 to 3½c. per lb.; finnan haddock, 5 to 7c., as to quality; boneless cod, 5½c.; skinless cod, 4½ to 5c.

FURS.—Receipts continue just moderate, principally fox, rats, skunk and mink. Offerings are expected to be more liberal after the approaching London sales, which begin on the 22nd inst., and last the balance of the month. We quote for prime skins: Black bear, choice only, \$15 to 21.00; cubs and yearlings, \$1 to 5; fisher, \$5 to 7.50 as to color; red fox, \$1.20 to 1.50; cross do., \$4 to 10, depending on size and beauty; silver do., \$20 to 50; lynx, \$1.50 to \$2; marten, \$1.50 to 2.25; mink, \$1 to 1.50; muskrat, winter, 10 to 13c.; fall, 6 to 9c.; coon, 60c. to \$1; black, do., \$1.75 to 2.25; skunk, black, 75 to 90c.; short stripe, 50 to 60c.; long stripe, 20 to 30c.; white, 5 to 15c.

GROCERIES.—No special improvement can be noted in the demand, and business is described as being of a somewhat spasmodic character, some days being marked by fair orders, while others are characterized by dullness. Travelers generally report a disinclination on the part of country merchants to buy beyond actual present wants, and say that stocks, as a rule, are low. Money continues very slow in coming in, and some do not look for much improvement until spring is fully set in, and dairying

operations are again general. In values there are no marked changes. The situation as regards sugars may be called rather a firmer one. Granulated is reported up an eighth in New York to-day, with further strength in raws there, and holders reported paying up the duty on stocks in bond. Local quotations remain at 4c. per lb. for granulated, and 3½c. the lowest in yellows, but refiners are not inclined to sell any lots at these figures, or contract ahead. Barbadoes molasses remains low at the island, the figure of first cost being 8c., equal to about 24½c. here, but at a meeting of the committee appointed to fix prices, held a few days ago, no change was made in the card, which remains at 31c. per gallon for single puncheons, 33½c. for brls., and 34½c. for half brls.; Porto Rico a cent less. Teas continue comparatively quiet as to demand, but values show no falling off in steadiness. There has hardly been the Lenten demand for dried fruits that was expected, but stocks of raisins and currants are low, and quotations show no weakening. Prunes are moving a little more freely; Californias range from 6 to 10c., Bosnian 6c., French 5c. Canned goods are selling in fair quantity, and tomatoes are good property, some dealers asking 80 to 85c. for best brands, and 75 to 80c. for peas; prices of corn seem to vary a good deal, but about 60c. is the general jobbing price; packers generally quote 50c., but one or two large job lots are reported to have been sold at 46c.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—The hide market is firm at the late advance in hides and calfskins, dealers buying at 8c. per lb. for No. 1 green hides and quoting 9c. to tanners, but the latter are light buyers, and the most of the business doing is with the United States. The quality of hides is "off" just now, grubby being plentiful. Calfskins continue to be bought at 8 and 6c. per lb. for Nos. 1 and 2 respectively; lamb-skins 80 to 90c. each; a few new spring lambs are coming in, for which 10c. is the price. No improvement can be noted in tallow, rough being quoted at 1 to 1½c.; rendered, 3 to 3½c. per pound.

LEATHER.—There is a decided tone of firmness to the market, and quite a few black leather tanners are holding back from offering stock, while dealers are asking more for splits, buff and pebble. A large transaction, to a local shoe house, is reported in mfrs.' sole, some 15,000 sides, at about 21c., it is said; there have also been reports of sales of some 30,000 sides to Quebec, but this lacks definite corroboration. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 22 to 23c.; do. No. 2, 21c. to 22c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 25c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; common, 17 to 18c.; waxed upper light and medium, 26 to 29c.; do. heavy, 24 to 27c.; grained, 25 to 30c.; Scotch grained, 25 to 30c.; western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec do.,

17 to 18c.; juniors, 14 to 16c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 22c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 14c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 12 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 12 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Some few moderate sales of Summerlee pig iron are reported at about \$20.50 in car lots, but in other brands there is little doing, and no booking of spring import orders is reported. Continued fair sales of tinned and galvanized sheets, Terne plates, chain, spelter, etc., are reported from the Crathern damaged stock, which is now pretty well reduced. Lead has been subject to an advance, and \$3.25 is now the lowest figure for lots; spelter is also firmer. We quote:—Summerlee pig iron, \$20 to 20.50, ex-store; Carron, \$19.50; Ayrshire, \$18.50; Shotts, \$19.00 to 19.50; Carnbroe, \$18.50 to 19.00, ex-store; Siemens pig No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Ferrona, No. 1, \$16.50 to 16.75; Hamilton No. 1, \$18.25 to 18.50; No. 2, ditto, \$18.00; machinery scrap, \$15.00; common do., \$12.00 to 13.00; bar iron, Canadian, \$1.40 to 1.45; British, \$2.00 to 2.15; best refined, \$2.40; Low Moor, \$5; Canada plates—Pontypool, or equal, \$2.55 to 2.60; 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets, \$2.70; 75 sheets, none here; all polished Canadas, \$2.60; Terne roofing plate, 20x28, \$6.25; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.25 to 2.40; No. 26, \$2.15 to 2.20; No. 24, \$2.05 to 2.10; Nos. 17 to 20, \$2; No. 16 and heavier, \$2.30; tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$5.60 to 5.70; charcoal, I. C., Alloyway, \$3.25 do. I.X., \$3.90 to 4.00; P. D. Crown, I.C., \$3.60 to 3.75; do. I.X., \$4.50; Coke I.C., \$3.00 to 3.10; coke, wasters, \$2.70; galvanized sheets, No. 28, ordinary brands, \$4.25; No. 26, \$4.00; No. 24, \$3.75 in case lots; Morewood, \$5.00 to 5.10; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 5½c.; No. 26, 6c.; the usual extra for large sizes. Canadian bands, per 100 lbs., \$1.75; English ditto, \$2; hoops, \$2.15. Steel boiler plate, ½ inch and upwards, \$1.85 to 1.90 for Dalzell, and equal; ditto three-sixteenths inch, \$2.50; tank iron, ½ inch, \$1.50; three-sixteenths do., \$2.00; tank steel, \$1.75; heads, seven-sixteenths and upwards, \$2.45 to 2.50; Russian sheet iron 9c.; lead, per 100 lbs., pig, \$3.25 to 3.40; sheet, \$4 to 4.25; shot, \$6 to 6.50; best cast-steel, 8 to 10c.; toe calk, \$2.25; spring, \$2.50; sleigh shoe, \$1.85; tire, \$1.90; round machinery steel \$2.25; ingot tin, 16 to 17c. for L. & F.; Straits, 15½ to 16½c.; bar tin, 16½ to 17c.; ingot copper, 12½ to 13c.; sheet zinc, \$5 to \$5.25; Silesian spelter, \$4.65 to 4.75; Veille Montagne spelter, \$4.75 to 5.00; American spelter, \$4.60 to 4.75; antimony, 8½ to 9c.; bright iron wires

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