

11½c. per dozen. The consumption of eggs has increased, but not to the same extent as the supply.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.—The warmer weather has continued to affect the receipts of dressed hogs. Arrivals by rail were very small during the week, while deliveries direct from farmers' hands have also fallen off. The disparity of the prices paid for light and heavy hogs has exerted an influence in curtailing the offerings of the heavy hogs. Farmers are beginning to realize that weight is not everything in marketing hogs. It has taken a long time to impress this fact upon the farming community. We quote: Choice light hogs, \$6 to 6.25; light fat hogs, \$5.25 to 5.50, and heavy fat hogs, \$4.75 to 5.00 per cwt. The receipts of hogs at the packing centres of the United States have been light; last week the receipts at Chicago amounted to \$164,833 hogs. The market should, if left to its own influences, have advanced, but, in sympathy with dull grain reports, prices were quoted lower. Late advices report a steadier range of values. Provisions are steady, and several merchants report an active demand for stock at present prices.

FLOUR AND FEED.—In sympathy with the grain markets, trade in flour has been quiet. Prices, as compared with last week's quotations, remain unchanged. The Australian market is offering, it is said, a profitable outlet to spring wheat millers. Mill feed is firm and in moderate demand.

GRAIN.—The wheat market has remained dull and prices easy during the week. Foreign markets have shown easy values, in spite of a strong statistical position. The snow is disappearing from the wheat fields, and so far as can be judged the growing plant has passed the winter successfully. Deliveries at the moment are small, as a result of the poor roads and low prices. Wheat prices are unaltered, as compared with last week's quotations. There has been free trading in oats for the export trade this week, limited only by lack of shipping space. Sales have been made at 18½ to 19c. outside. Peas are dull and prices low, as a result of lack of space in outgoing vessels. The barley season is about over and trade is confined within narrow limits. It is too late in the season for the market to be affected by the probability of an increase in the duty upon barley by the United States Government.

GROCERIES.—The demand for general groceries has shown some increase during the week. Orders from country merchants have extended over the several staple lines. Merchants complain of the bad condition of the roads as affecting the demand and payment of accounts alike. Values are steady. Sugars firm, and foreign markets have been strong. The Lenten trade in fish now attracts considerable attention in the trade; the movement is not as brisk as was expected, and values are weak. Canned goods find slightly better movement. The speculative interest in teas is continued.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The situation offers little that is new. Although the leather market shows no very marked improvement, hides continue high in value. Merchants continue to offer pay 7c. to butchers for green hides. The offerings are very inferior, dirty and grubby, many of them being classed as 2's and 3's. Canadian tanners are buying apparently only when driven into the market by pressing needs. Foreign markets are responsible for this inflation of values. *Hides and Leather*, Chicago, March 6th, says: "Hide supplies at all points remain moderate, and as the winter kill is nearly over in the country, prospects for important receipts of raw material are not particularly encouraging. Tanners are replenishing very cautiously. The outlook worries them. Without wishing to ask more than present rates for leather, they declare unless they can buy hides cheaper, leather will probably be dearer during the next few months. Contracts for future delivery of leather are not popular among tanners, unless on a basis at which they can buy and tan hides at present rates, with some profit. The shoe men, therefore, need not think they monopolize the trouble and uncertainty regarding the future. From the hide, to the smallest and most insignificant product of leather, each manufacturer and dealer is confronted by the shadow of probably increased value, and the gambling instinct is somewhat aroused, whether to buy liberally to-day or abide by the judgment of those who will test the strength of the market a little further, even though they suffer for it." Sheepskins are quiet and steady, ranging

in value from \$1 to 1.25. Tallow remains dull and depressed.

WOOL.—Trade continues unchanged, and is, as is usual at this season of the year, strictly nominal. The Canadian woolen industry continues depressed. In the United States little change has taken place in market conditions during the week.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 10th March, 1897.

ASHES.—Practically there is no business doing at present, sales of only a few odd barrels being reported to local consumers, and there is no foreign demand. Receipts are also slim, and quotations to makers are more or less nominal at \$3.35 to 3.40 for first pots; \$3.05 for seconds, and \$4.50 for pearls. These may be regarded as outside figures.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—While manufacturers are not especially busy, some of them have been round the leather market buying black leathers, which are firmer, and are getting up their fall samples.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The local situation is without change, and for the moderate deliveries of cement from store there is no change in the quotations that have prevailed all winter. A large importer just returned from visiting the British and Belgian markets, reports an advance there of from three pence to five pence a barrel, with a large demand, many of the largest producers being full of orders till May, and some declining to quote at the moment. This would seem to argue higher prices this spring. In firebricks there is a pretty steady outgo in moderate lots, at from \$17 to 22.50 per thousand as to brand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—In the absence of any receipts of new cheese, the local market presents no features of any interest. The English quotation, per cable, is easier a sixpence since last report, standing now at 57 shillings per cwt. The trading in butter is altogether of a local jobbing character, there being a fair demand for choice creamery, and the better grades of roll butter. We quote:—Creamery, 18 to 19c.; rolls, 11 to 13c.; Townships dairy, 13 to 16c.; Western, ditto, 9 to 13c. per lb. Eggs are easier at 12½ to 13c. per doz. for new laid.

DRY GOODS.—The distribution is of a moderate character buying being marked by carefulness as a rule. The spring millinery openings drew in a fair attendance from this province and Eastern Ontario, with some few buyers from Nova Scotia, but very few from the west. The volume of business done was fair, about equal to last year. Collection continues very slow, and 4th March payments panned out rather poorly. Several houses, who are generally better paid than the average, report rather less than 50 per cent. of their customers' paper met.

FISH.—With the advancing season there is some decline in certain lines of salt fish, with lessened demand, but for fresh frozen herrings there is brisk enquiry and rather firmer prices. We quote:—Nova Scotia herring, \$3 to 3.75 as to grade; green cod, \$4.50 to 4.75 for No. 1, and \$5 to 5.25 for No. 1 large; No. 2, \$3 to 3.25; dry cod, \$3.75 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; haddock and cod, 3 to 3½c. per lb.; finnan haddies, 5½ to 7c., as to quality; boneless cod, 5½c.; skinless cod, 4½ to 5c.

FURS.—The market continues without special feature; no large lots of raw furs appear to be coming forward, and a waiting policy seems general. We quote for prime skins: Black bear, choice only, \$15 to 20; 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.—The movement continues of a somewhat slow character, and there is little of special interest to be noted in the situation as it is. Refined sugars are reported slightly advanced in New York, where quotations are now from ½ to ¾ of a cent above the Montreal level; raws are also reported firmer, but with local refiners quotations are easy at 4 to 4½c. for

standard granulated, and 3½ to 3¾c. for yellows. The demand remains singularly sluggish, and it is claimed by some that 4c. would buy even small lots of granulated at the factory. Molasses is again easier a cent in Barbadoes, but it is said in some quarters that this is rather due to a lessened demand for Barbadoes goods, owing to a falling off in quality of late years, and that Porto Ricos and New Orleans molasses hold their value fairly. In teas there is no large volume of business passing at the moment, but Japans and Ceylons are quoted very firm. In other lines we hear of nothing specially new.

HIDES.—A stiff upward movement is to be noted in both beef hides and calfskins, dealers now buying the former on the basis of 8c. per lb. for No. 1; and calfskins are also advanced a full cent on both Nos. 1 and 2, making the figures 8 and 6c. respectively. Receipts of hides continue quite light, but calfskins are coming in fairly for the season. Lambskins are unchanged at 75 to 90c. each; no new spring lambs are being marketed as yet.

LEATHER.—Business in this line has not assumed any brisk aspect, but some Quebec shoe men have been around the market looking for stock. The market shows further strength owing to additional gain in hides, and some tanners write instructing their agents to advance quotations for splits, buff and other lines of black leather, from 5 to 10 per cent., but the advance is not yet general, and quotations can hardly be altered as yet. 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, 20 to 25c.; Quebec do., 15 to 17c.; juniors, 13 to 15c.; 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, 11 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 11 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—The general demand is of a moderate character, but there have been some very fair sales from the Crathern stock, the fire loss on which has been adjusted at \$143,000 cash, the firm also getting the salvage valued at \$90,000. Sales of some 4,000 boxes of tinplates, principally P. D. Crown, Bradley and high grade Cokes are reported on the basis of \$2.50 for I. C's. Some very fair transactions are also reported in Canada and Terneplates. In a regular way all kinds of plates are very firmly held. In pig iron we hear of nothing doing beyond some deliveries of Hamilton iron on contract. Scotch warrants are cabled steady at about 45s. 10d. 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, \$2.50 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, \$3.15 to 3.25; sheet, \$4 to 4.25; shot, \$6 to 6.50; best cast-steel, 8 to 10c.; toe calk, \$2.25; spring, \$2.50;