

SHIPPING IN 1864.

MONTREAL has rarely seen a duller season in the Shipping business than was experienced last year. The most cursory glance at the wharves would have convinced the merest ranger that things were not as they were wont to be. For a considerable portion of the season, our best wharf accommodation was occupied by wood and coal barges, and for some time previous to the closing of the navigation, the harbor was fringed with Anthracite Coal, which had been hurried into our port on the repeal of the order prohibiting its export by the United States government. Thus, instead of having the usual forest of masts in front of our city, there was but a poor display of Canadian and American barges. But to observation we can add the testimony of figures, and on turning to these, find the arrivals of all classes of vessels are 378, with a tonnage of 161,901 tons, against 594 vessels, showing a tonnage of 269,224 for 1863, and 571 vessels of 255,243 tons for 1862.

The causes of this diminution in the arrivals are various; and foremost among these is the fact of a number of vessels having had to leave Montreal on account of the scarcity of grain-freight in the Fall of '63, to seek cargoes at Quebec, where they could only be obtained with much difficulty at that time. Another reason is found in the small quantity of grain, &c., shipped, consequent on the relatively low prices ruling at home for Canadian and other produce shipped from this port, which almost entirely prevented speculation. In this connection, too, we may also mention that the orders received from the other side were at prices so limited that it was impossible to fill them. We find another reason still in the high rates of freight which were offered for Timber and Deals at Quebec, which in almost every case secured vessels coming out in ballast, and in some instances ships having cargoes which could be lightered to Montreal, preferred sending them up in this way.

The navigation opened last year earlier than it had done for some years previously, but notwithstanding, the bulk of the Spring fleet was late in arriving, and rates opened lower than they have done since '53. Towards the middle of June, there being large arrivals of grain, and small arrivals of tonnage, they rallied somewhat, and grain freights touched the highest point attained during the year, viz.:

To London, .. 6s. 6d. p. qr. of 480 lbs.	
" Liverpool, .. 5s. 3d. do. do.	
" Glasgow, .. 4s. 3d. do. do.	
" Cork & market, 7s. do. do.	

The lowest point was reached shortly before the close of the navigation, when Grain was shipped to London at 6s. 3d., to Liverpool and Glasgow at 4s. 6d., and to Cork and market at 7s. all sig. and pr. qr. of 480 lbs. During the whole season, Cereals for shipment were scarce, owing to short crops and low prices in Britain. In the end of September, Grain was very scarce, and vessels chartered were only promised a small proportion of cargo to stiffen with balance of Flour. For the part of the mail steamers, Grain was put on board on ship's account.

Flour freights asured at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. to London, 2s. 6d. to 3s. to Liverpool, and 3s. 3d. to Glasgow, and closed at 3s., and 2s. 9d. sig. per bbl. to Liverpool and Glasgow. The extreme rates reached were:

	Highest.	Lowest.
To London, .. 3s. 6d. sig. p. bbl.	2s. 6d. p. bbl.	
" Liverpool, .. 3s. do.	2s. 6d. do.	
" Glasgow, .. 3s. 3d. do.	2s. 6d. do.	

About the close of July, barrel freight was very scarce, and several vessels having the lower hold filled with Grain, had to fill up the 'tween decks with deals at Quebec.

Small first-class vessels have been in demand the whole season, as there was more inclination to ship "for orders" than otherwise, thus giving the shipper the benefit of the best market on arrival at home. Steamers, as a general rule, have not secured rates for Grain or Flour much above those paid "by sail," as the hurry in loading and unloading was considered quite equivalent to the difference of insurance, &c.

Shipowners were rather startled in the beginning of July, by an attempt being made to discharge goods from vessels without returning to the Captain the Bill of Lading he had signed for the same; but this attempt was so irregular, and so utterly at variance with maritime law, that it entirely failed.

Some inconvenience was experienced at the wharf, on account of the Carters' strike in October, but fortunately, it was brought to a speedy termination. The failure of two of our largest shippers also materially affected the rates during the season.

THE PRODUCE MARKET.

THE markets for almost every description of Produce are unusually quiet even for this dull season of the year. Shippers find but little encouragement to export to Britain, and owing to the stringency of the money market, the city dealers will only buy to supply immediate wants.

Flour.—The deficiency in receipts, noted in our last, continued for some days, and prices of most grades kept gradually advancing, but latterly arrivals have improved, and although prices have undergone no actual change, there is a perceptible slackening in the demand, dealers apparently holding off temporarily, awaiting the effect of receipts on prices. Supers range from \$4.25 to \$4.30 for ordinary, and \$4.20 to \$4.35 for choice strong samples. The better brands of Fancy and Extra continue in demand for Britain, where these grades are scarce, and improving in value. We quote Fancy \$4.40 to \$4.50, and Extra \$4.50 to \$4.70. Superior Extras are only taken by retail for city use, at from \$4.75 to \$5, according to brand. A continued deficiency in the lower grades maintains a high relative value, Middlings bringing \$3.35 to \$3.50; Fine \$3.70 to \$3.80, and No. 2 \$3.85 to \$4.05. Bag Flour has fully participated in the general improvement, good samples now command ready sale at \$2.32½ to \$2.37½, and even ordinary are more readily taken at from 5 to 10c. advance on former rates. As Bag Flour is only saleable for local consumption, and every effort made to place it on arrival, that the expenses of storing and damage by vermin may be avoided, it is liable to greater fluctuations in value from the causes of supply and demand than other descriptions, not unfrequently falling below, or advancing beyond, the relative value of barrels. As Bag Flour supplies an almost distinct branch of trade, barrels can only be substituted to a limited extent, and while in seasons of scarcity almost any description will command sale, in general only the stronger and better samples find a ready market at satisfactory prices. A moderate brightness is necessary, but strength is the main requisite, and to secure this, none but clean Spring Wheat should be used. Any admixture of Fall Wheat, or Fall Wheat Middlings, though improving the color, impairs the strength and proportionately diminishes its value. The Bags should contain 112 lbs. net, and not 100 lbs. or half a barrel, as is sometimes the case, which necessitates weighing and repacking.

Wheat.—Arrivals are small, and restricted to U. C. Spring, and as hitherto mostly direct to millers. Some disposition is shown by operators along the lines of Railroad to consign, but the difficulty of obtaining cars is generally complained of. Prices are nominal at 95 to 97 cts. for 60 lbs.

Barley.—We quote 62½ cts. to 67½ for 48 lbs., but transactions are limited, and mostly of a retail character.

Oats.—Restricted to farmers' deliveries, the range is 50 to 53 cts. for 32 lbs.

Pease are limited, both in supply and demand. Prices are nominally 65 to 70 cts. for 60 lbs.

Pork.—As the season advances, reports of short supplies are confirmed, and Mess is firm at about \$19.50. Prime Mess and Prime, in limited demand, at \$14 to \$15.

Dressed Hogs continue in very active demand, and in some instances a slight advance has been established. For averages of 175 to 200 lbs., \$7 to \$7.12½ is the current rate, while for very heavy and strictly choice carcasses higher rates have been paid—receipts are light, and all that arrive are readily taken within the range of our quotations.

Butter.—We have to report another week of inactivity. The great fluctuation in gold has depressed the American markets, and prevented any demand from thence; and the Lower Ports, which formerly drew their supplies from here during the latter part of the winter and early spring, now purchase elsewhere. Stocks are heavy and accumulating, and the quantity in the west is considerable; but although willing to meet buyers whenever they offer fair terms, holders are not disposed to sacrifice their property.

AsheS, both Pots and Pearls, continue in fair demand, with but little fluctuation in price.

—Trade is as universal as the race, as ancient as the first barter, when two men got what both wanted by giving what neither needed, and each gained, while neither lost.

—Guarantees should only be taken in writing, and a consideration always expressed therein.

KIRKWOOD, LIVINGSTONE & CO.'S PRODUCE AND LEATHER PRICES CURRENT.

No. 23 St. NICHOLAS STREET, MONTREAL,
27th January, 1865.

Flour.—In the early part of the week the market showed more buoyancy and firmness, but with increased receipts it relapsed into its former dull state, the chief demand being for choice Extras and Superfine, with a fair demand for Bag Flour at \$2.35 to \$2.40 per 112 lbs.

Superior extra.....	\$4.80 to \$5.00 per bbl.
Extra	4.60 to 4.70 "
Fancy	4.40 to 4.45 "
Superfine No. 1	4.25 to 4.30 "
Superfine No. 2	4.00 to 4.10 "
Fine	3.75 to 3.85 "
Middlings	3.30 to 3.50 "
Pollards	2.90 to 3.10 "

OATMEAL.—Offered in small lots at \$4.80 to \$5. per bbl.

Wheat.—Without change. Receipts continue light, and nearly all coming forward goes direct to the millers.

Barley.—Without change, say 60 to 65c. per 50 lbs.

Pease.—Nothing doing of any consequence. No sales in quantity reported.

Oats.—Remains as last quoted, say 31 to 34 cents per 32 lbs.

Pork.—The market is inactive, and we hear of no change in prices. Mess \$19 to \$19.50; Prime Mess \$15 to \$16; Prime \$11 to \$15.

Beef.—Nothing doing; prices nominal.

Hams.—Dull, and without change. Plain Uncanned 8 to 10c., Canned and Sugar-cured 11 to 12 cents per lb.

Lard.—In good request at 11 to 12 cents.

Tallow.—Dull, and selling slowly at 8 to 8½ cents per lb.

Ashes.—Less active, but with no quotable change in price; Pots, 1st Sort, having sold at from \$5.35 to \$5.40, the latter price having been paid for a mixed lot. Inferiors 5 to 10 cents more. Pearls \$5.45 to \$5.50 per 112 lbs.

Petroleum.—The market still remains dull, and sales are purely of a retail character, Canada Refined bringing 20 to 23 cents per gallon.

Flax Seed.—In good demand at last week's prices.

Leather.—Our remarks of the past week apply equally to this. The receipts are considerable, but we cannot advise a corresponding increase in the demand. So long as the market remains in this state, any quotations that might be given cannot be depended on, being purely nominal.

AKIN & KIRKPATRICK'S MONTREAL PRICE CURRENT.

Thursday Evening, Jan. 26, 1865.

Flour—Superior Extra.....	\$4.75 to \$5.00
Extra	4.60 to 4.70
Fancy	4.40 to 4.50
Superfine	4.25 to 4.35
Superfine No. 2	3.95 to 4.05
Fine	3.60 to 3.70
Bag Flour—per 112 lbs. Spring	
Wheat	2.25 to 2.30
Scotch & Black Sea Wheat	2.30 to 2.37½
Oatmeal—per bbl. of 200 lbs.	4.75 to 5.00
Wheat—per 60 lbs. U. C. Spring.	0.95 to 0.97
White Winter	0.00 to 0.00
Pease—per 60 lbs.	0.65 to 0.70
Barley—per 50 lbs.	0.65 to 0.70
Corn—per 56 lbs.	0.00 to 0.00
Pork—Mess	19.00 to 19.50
Prime Mess	15.00 to 15.50
Prime	14.00 to 14.50
Butter—Inferior	0.15 to 0.16
Medium	0.16 to 0.17½
Choice	0.18 to 0.19
Lard	0.10 to 0.11
Ashes—per 100 lbs. Pots	5.30 to 5.35
Pearls	5.40 to 5.45

Flour.—The demand for Superfine has for the last few days been limited to the actual requirements of the Trade. Arrivals having been somewhat more liberal, the tone of the market is weaker though without any actual decline in prices. Extras, especially the choice brands, are in demand for Britain, where they are scarce, and wanted. The lower grades sell freely at our quotations.

Bag Flour has been in improved demand since the formation of the winter roads, and prices have ad-