

GROCERIES.—Business is fairly good and orders from the country show a healthy condition of trade for the season of the year. Fair quantities of staple goods are going into consumption. Sugars remain very steady and with the exception of No. 2 granulated, now quoted 4½c. no change in local prices has been made.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—Business has been fairly good, and most of the jobbing houses have been actively employed. The demand for harvest tools has fallen off, and are now of an assorting character. Snathes cradles, and scythes are moving freely. Trade this year in screen doors, green wire cloth, and poultry netting is much better than last year. In wire nails a satisfactory business has been done. Barb wire, as a result of lack of raw material, is scarce locally, and American manufacturers also find it difficult to fill orders as made up on them. There has been a number of changes in prices. Shot is now only subject to 7½ per cent. discount instead of 10 per cent. as formerly. Both sisal and manilla rope has advanced as we elsewhere note. In metals trade is fairly good and prices are firm. We quote an advance of 2c. per lb. in brass tubing. Ingot copper is quoted at 13c., pig lead at 4¼c. and antimony at 11c. per lb.

HIDES AND SKIN.—Stocks of hides in Toronto are reported scarce. Dealers maintain that orders are in excess of supplies, and allege sales at 9½c. The market is, however, by no means secure on this basis, and may best be described as in a nervous condition. Chicago is the key to the situation, and any decline there would be followed here by a falling off in demand. Calfskins are unchanged. There are only moderate deliveries of pelts and lambskins. From Chicago, May 31.—For packer hides there was a firm market. There was a fairly good enquiry for supplies, and as offerings were limited, particularly of branded stock, to obtain supplies, it was necessary to pay full quoted values, closing firm at 12¼ to 12½c. for native steers, 12 to 12¼c. for Texas, 10¾ to 11¼c. for butt brands, 10 to 10¼c. for side brands, 10½ to 10¾c. for branded cows, 11½c. for heavy native cows, and 12c. for light do.

LEATHER.—Orders are only picked up here and there of small quantities. Straight lots are not asked for, and business is of a hand to mouth character. With raw material on its present basis, tanners should insist upon obtaining full rates before parting with stock.

PROVISIONS.—All lines of hog products are firm, and merchants are reported to have disposed of stocks only upon an inducement of full rates. Quotations remain as last reported with a general feeling that a decline in values is not likely to occur for some time. Chicago says provision and live stock traffic continues large, particularly the former, which is the heaviest at this season in many years. This refers to traffic west of Chicago rather than to the seaboard, which has fallen off since the war blockade scare subsided in Europe and the heavy shipments of a month ago have been cleaned.

WOOL.—As yet only small shipments of fleece wool have come forward, but offerings are not likely to be long delayed in view of the present hot weather. For washed fleece 16c. per lb. is quoted. The result of the last series of London sales was a small decline in the volume of Australian wool. The reduction, about 5 per cent., was in greasy wools, strongest in chalky descriptions of doubtful yield. Scoured ruled about ½d. lower all round. Crossbreds showed a similar falling off in value, and showing most in fine descriptions. Cape grease are 5 per cent. lower but on snow whites there is no reduction. The total available for sale in London, in the next two series (deducting the transit wools, but adding the old stock), may be estimated at about 470,000 bales, say about 270,000 bales for

July, and (should it all be sold), about 200,000 bales for September. Of these 470,000 bales about 200,000 bales will probably be New Zealand wool. The next series is to begin on the 28th, the arrivals being limited to 300,000 bales. The date of the next Low wool sale has not yet been definitely fixed, but it will most probably be held on the 21st and 22nd June.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 1st June, 1898.

ASHES.—The market presents no novel feature; the demand continues very slack, and values more or less nominal. We quote \$3.60 to \$3.65 for first quality of pots, seconds \$3.25 to \$3.30, pearls \$4.75. None of the large lots usually received from Perth, Picton, etc., about this time, have yet come to hand.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The condition of trade at this "between seasons" time is not very active. Most houses have their travelers out on the road, and for some of them orders have begun to come in. These orders are fair, and the tone hopeful. By way of making ready for future business, the shoe manufacturers are looking round for leather, which promises to be dearer.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The demand for cements continues of a steady character, with quotations firm at \$2.20 to \$2.30 for British makes, and from \$1.80 to \$1.90 for Belgian. Receipts for the week ending to-day are larger, one steamer alone bringing nearly 20,000 brls. In all, 22,500 of Belgian have been received, but only 300 brls. of English. Receipts of firebricks 48,000, and prices steady at \$15 to \$22 as to brand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Cheese exports showed up very fairly last week, totalling 31,380 boxes, as against 26,300 boxes for the corresponding week last year. Receipts from the country are showing considerable increase, some 12,900 boxes being reported this morning. The market continues in somewhat unsatisfactory shape, the cable showing a weak feeling in England, and the local prices range from 7 to 7¼c. for Western, and 6½ to 6¾c. for Eastern makes. Butter shipments continue to be much larger than last year, 3,105 pkgs. having been exported last week, as against 355 pkgs. for the same period of '97, prices, however, rule easier, 16 to 16¼c. being about the limit for choice creamery.

DRY GOODS.—The semi-annual stock-taking is at present the all-absorbing occupation of most wholesale houses, but, notwithstanding, a very fair output of goods is going on, considering the season. A good proportion of fall orders is being booked, and the warm summery weather, of the last few days, has had a stimulating effect on the sorting demand for all lines of cottons and light seasonable fabrics. The reports, as regards payments from country merchants, are of a most gratifying character, some of the larger houses reporting them fully 50 per cent. ahead of this time last year.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	May 23. Bushels.	May 28. Bushels.
Wheat.	196,977	297,327
Corn.	221,221	202,161
Oats.	1,144,987	999,523
Rye.	75,184	15,611
Peas.	239,421	238,837
Barley.	33,083	33,083
Total grain. . . .	1,910,973	1,786,539
Oatmeal.	243	250
Flour.	18,935	18,276
Buckwheat.	89,991	78,687

FURS.—Interest in raw furs droops somewhat with the advancing summer, and receipts from this onward will be small. We shall continue to quote till after the London sales, which are reported to take place on the 12th

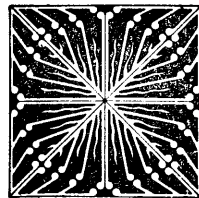
inst. We quote: Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1 to \$1.25; marten, \$1.75 to \$2.25; fisher, \$4.50 to \$7; lynx, \$1 to \$2; otter, \$1 to \$12 for dark; pale, \$5 to \$7; red fox, large, \$1.30 to \$1.50; small, \$1; cross fox, \$3 to \$6; bear, cubs, \$3 to \$7; medium, \$7 to \$10; large, \$12 to \$15; skunk, 15 to 70c., as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c.; rats, fall, 7 to 10c.; kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

GROCERIES.—This week has developed few features of marked interest. The jobbing demand is reported of a steady and very fair character; collections are very satisfactory. The sugar market inclines to firmness. The St. Lawrence refinery advanced their prices a sixteenth after last writing, but as the Redpath company did not follow suit, they were obliged to return to the old prices, which are 4½c. for standard granulated, Austrian granulated, 4 3-16c.; Dutch do., 4¼c.; yellows range from 3 11-16c. to 4¾c. Refiners report a very quiet demand at the moment, but anticipate an active enquiry as the month advances. Molasses continues to rule very firm at 30 to 31c. per gal. for Barbadoes in a jobbing way; agents report the booking of orders for two cargoes at 20½c. and 21c. respectively, landed gauge in bond, equal to 28½ to 29c. net cost. Teas have ruled very quiet the past fortnight or so. Advices are to hand that some moderate lots of new pickings from Japan are afloat for this market, calculated to cost 22 to 25c., and they will be due here about the 15th to 20th inst. California dried fruits rule very firm, and prunes have scored an advance of half a cent. No new pack of lobsters have been offered in this market as yet, and it is said Europe is absorbing the bulk of the year's supply.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—At the usual weekly meeting of the Hide Association, held on Monday, the price of beef hides was advanced a full cent, owing to the strength of outside markets, and the comparatively small receipts here. Dealers are now buying on the basis of 9c. per lb. for No. 1., and quoting 10c. to tanners. Lambskins are also advanced to 20c. each. Calfskins remain at 10 and 8c. per lb. for Nos. 1 and 2 respectively; receipts of these are rather smaller. Tallow sells very slowly, and prices are easy at 1 to 1½c. per lb. for rough, 3 to 3½c. for rendered.

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