Alberta.

CLARESHOLM.—Messrs. Arnott & Reid, who visited the foothill country to explore suitable sources of water supply for the town, have decided on a site, and suggest the installation of a 65 horse-power turbine pump. The cost of the proposed water system is estimated at $54,000.

TELEPHONY

Alberta.

LETHBRIDGE.—A two-storey building, to be used as a telephone exchange, will shortly be erected here.

FINANCING PUBLIC WORKS.

Ontario.

BRANTFORD.—Debentures for local improvements amounting to $65,477, bearing 4½ per cent., are offered by the City of Brantford.

THOROLD.—Tenders are invited by the town of Thorold for $15,000 5 per cent. waterworks extension debentures.

Manitoba.

HARTNEY.—The town of Hartney is offering, until May 3rd, $5,000 5 per cent. sidewalk improvement debentures.

MISCELLANEOUS

Quebec.

MONTREAL.—The Harbor Commissioners will commence in a short time to erect conveyors and conveyor galleries at the Jacques Cartier pier. A wharf will also be built at Longue Pointe.

CURRENT NEWS

Ontario.

OTTAWA.—The new Quebec Bridge will be 150 feet above the river at high tide, with 600 feet of centre span, according to a statement made recently by the Hon. G. P. Graham.

PERSONAL.

CAPT. A. G. MIDFORD, of Toronto, Ont., has been called to Regina, Sask., to act as arbitrator.

MR. W. G. ROBB, general foreman of motive power for the G.T.R., at Ottawa, has been appointed assistant master mechanic of the G.T.P., with headquarters at Rivers, Sask.

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Toronto, March 18th, 1909.

The metals trade has been looking anxiously for something to happen as a result of the declaration of $4 a ton reduction by the United States Steel Company in price of steel. But nothing startling has happened, and people are wondering why. Efforts to hasten spring, or at least to spur up spring trade, in the States, by artificial methods have not succeeded. Manufacturers cannot force business because buyers are disposed to hang back until they see what is to be effected by President's Taft's call of a special session of the American Congress, to discuss the tariff in particular.

On this side the Lakes, there appears to be no brisk demand for anything in metals. The weather has been boisterous, and the reverse of spring-like. In some directions building materials, such as roofing felts and building papers, have experienced occasional request, but this has been for patching-up work, until the weather became more settled. The market for bar-iron is well supplied, with no change in quotations in consequence of United States changes, Canadian makers of iron pipe are strongly of opinion that prices must go up, therefore, they decline to book orders ahead.

More steadiness is perceptible in tin, some American holders of which predict an advance in price before 1st April, as a result of the large consumption of tin plates which must come because of short supplies for vegetable and fruit canners. The copper market exhibits weakness, and but little activity exists here Zinc holds its own. Not much doing in pig-iron.

The following are wholesale prices for Toronto, where not otherwise explained, although for broken quantities higher prices are quoted:—

Antimony.—Price lower, at 9½c. Movement quite limited.

Axes.—Standard makes, double bitted, $8 to $10; single bitted, per dozen, $7 to $9.

Boiler Plates.—1-4-inch and heavier, $2.20. Boiler heads 25c. per 100 pounds advance on plate.

Boiler Tubes.—Orders continue active. Lap-welded, steel, 1¼-inch, 10c.; 1½-inch, 9c. per foot; 2-inch, $8.75; 2¼-inch, $10; 2½-inch, $10.60; 3-inch, $12.10; 3½-inch, $15; 4-inch, $18.50 to $19 per 100 feet.

Building Paper.—Plain, 30c. per roll; tarred, 40c. per roll. A moderate demand can be now reported, for shipment about 1st April.

Bricks.—Common structural, $9 per thousand, wholesale, and the demand moderately active. Red and buff pressed are worth, delivered, $18; at works, $17.

Cement.—Price in 1,000-barrel lots $1.70 per barrel, including bags, or $1.30 without bags. Smaller quantities, $1.55 to $1.60 per barrel, in load lots delivered in town, and bags extra. No marked activity.

Coal Tar.—Nothing doing, price maintained at $3.50 per barrel.

Copper Ingot.—Market weak, with but little doing, price declined to 13½ and 14c.

Detonator Caps,—75c. to $1 per 100; case lots, 75c. per 100; broken quantities, $1.

Dynamite, per pound, 21 to 25c., as to quantity.

Roofing Felt.—Some little requests of late, principally for repairing. Price maintained at $1.80 per 100 lbs.

Fire Bricks.—English and Scotch, $30 to $35; American, $27.50 to $35 per 1,000. The demand has become quite active.

Fuses.—Electric Blasting.—Double strength, per 200, 4 feet, $4.50; 6 feet, $5; 8 feet, $5.50; 10 feet, $6. Single strength, 4 feet, $3.50; 6 feet, $4; 8 feet, $4.50; 10 feet, $5. Bennett's double tape fuse, $6 per 1,000 feet.

Galvanized Sheets.—Apollo Brand.—Sheets 6 or 8 feet long, 30 or 36 inches wide; 10-gauge, $3.05; 12-14-gauge, $3.15; 16, 18, 20, $3.35; 22-24, $3.50; 26, $3.75; 28, $4.20; 29, $4.50; 10¾, $4.50 per 100 lbs. Fleur de Lis—28-gauge, $4.30; 26-gauge, $4.05; 22-24-gauge, $3.50. Queen's Head—28-gauge, $4.50; 26-gauge, $4.25. Sheets are in very active request.

Iron Chain.—¼-inch, $5.75; 5-16-inch, $5.15; ¾-inch, $4.15; 7-16-inch, $3.95; ½-inch, $3.75; 9-16-inch, $3.70; ⅝-inch, $3.55; ¾-inch, $3.45; ⅞-inch, $3.40; 1-inch, $3.40.

Bar Iron.—$1.95 to $2, base, from stock to wholesale dealer. Market well supplied.

Iron Pipe.—Black, ¼-inch, $2.03; ⅜-inch, $2.26; ½-inch, $2.63; ¾-inch, $3.16; 1-inch, $4.54; 1¼-inch, $6.19; 1½-inch, $7.43; 2-inch, $9.90; 2½-inch, $15.81; 3-inch, $20.76; 3½-inch, $26.13; 4-inch, $29.70; 4½-inch, $38; 5-inch, $43.50; 6-inch, $56. Galvanized, ¼-inch, $2.86; ⅜-inch, $3.08; ½-inch, $3.48; ¾-inch, $4.31; 1-inch, $6.19; 1¼-inch, $8.44; 1½-inch, $10.13; 2-inch, $13.50. Makers are holding prices stiff, and talk of an advance.

Lead.—Prices steady outside. Price here lower at $3.80 to $3.90.

Lime.—Retail price in city 35c. per 100 lbs. f.o.b., car; in large lots at kilns outside city 22c. per 100 lbs. f.o.b., car. Small but steady consumptive demand.

Lumber.—We quote dressing pine $32 to $35 per thousand; common stock boards higher at $26 to $30.00; cull stocks, $20; sidings, $17.50. Norway pine is neglected in favor of Southern, which is much stronger in fibre and the price well maintained. Hemlock continues to sell pretty freely, and in car lots brings $16.50 to $17.00. Spruce flooring is worth $22.00 in car lots with stiffer feeling. Shingles firmer, price for British Columbia, $3.20. Lath higher at $4.25 for No. 1 and $3.75 for No. 2 white pine 48-inch; the 32-inch are now in market and bring $1.30 per thousand. Spruce laths are scarcer in this market and prices keep up. More spruce and hemlock have moved than pine. Prices are maintained all over the list.

Nails.—Wire, $2.25 base; cut, $2.70; spikes, $3. The usual demand.

Pitch.—A little demand is perceptible; price continues at 70c. per 100 lbs.

Pig Iron.—Business continues quiet; prices are fairly well maintained. Clarence quotes at $20.50 for No. 3; Cleveland, $20.50 to $21.00; in Canadian pig, Hamilton quotes $19.50 to $20.

Plaster of Paris.—Calcined, wholesale, $2; retail, $2.15. Trade quiet.

Putty.—In bladders, strictly pure, per 100 lbs., $2.25; in barrel lots, $2.05.

Rope.—Sisal, 9½c. per lb.; pure Manila, 12½c., Base.

Sewer Pipe.—

	4-in.	6-in.	9-in.	10-in.	12-in.	24-in.
Straight pipe per foot	$0.20	$0.30	$0.60	$0.75	$1.00	$3.25
Single junction, 1 or 2 feet long.	.90	1.35	2.70	3.40	4.50	14.63
Double junctions	1.50	2.50	5.00	....	8.50	.....
Increasers and reducers	....	1.50	2.50	....	4.00	.....
P. traps	2.00	3.50	7.50	....	15.00	.....
H. H. traps	2.50	4.00	8.00	....	15.00	.....

In steady demand; price 73 per cent. off list at factory for car-load lots; 65 per cent. off list retail.

Steel Beams and Channels.—Quiet. We quote:—$2.50 to $2.75, according to size and quantity; if cut, $2.75 to $3; angles, 1 1-4 by 3-16 and larger, $2.50; tees, $2.80 to $3 per 100 pounds. Extra for smaller sizes of angles and tees.

Steel Rails.—80-lb., $35 to $38 per ton. The following are prices per gross ton, for 500 tons or over: Montreal, 12-lb. $45, 16-lb. $44, 25 and 30-lb. $43.

Sheet Steel.—Market steady, with fairly good demand; 10-gauge, $2.50; 12-gauge, $2.55; American Bessemer, 14-gauge, $2.35; 17, 18, and 20-gauge, $2.45; 22 and 244-gauge, $2.50; 26-gauge, $2.65; 28-gauge, $2.85.

Tank Plate.—3-16, $2.40 100 lbs.

Tool Steel.—Jowett's special pink label, 10½c. Cyclops, 16c.

Tin.—A little more steadiness characterizes the market. The price is maintained at 30½ and 31c.

Wheelbarrows.—Navvy, steel wheel, Jewel pattern, knocked down, $21.35 per dozen; set up, $22.35. Pan Canadian, navvy, steel tray, steel wheel, per dozen, $3.30 each; Pan American, steel tray, steel wheel, $4.25 each.

Zinc Spelter.—Business fairly active, market firm at $5.25 to $5.50, outside market weaker.

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Montreal, March 17th, 1909.

Advices from Pittsburg are to the effect that foundry, malleable and and basic iron would sell at considerably lower prices if any attractive inquiries developed. Quotations now being given out at Valley furnaces are $15.50 for bessemer, $15 for basic and malleable, $14.75 for foundry, and $14 for forge, with a 90c. rate to Pittsburg. As for steel, leading makers are quoting $23, Pittsburg, $25 to $25.50 for steel bars. The feeling prevails throughout the market that it would not be difficult to make purchases of large lots at a considerable reduction on prices generally quoted. Buyers are not coming forward freely, thus indicating a belief on their part that the end of the declines has not yet been seen. It is only natural to look for reductions in wages at a time such as the present, and the probability is that these must take place and prices be placed on a yet lower level in order to bring about confidence in the situation. In fact, announcements of reduction are already being made, some of the reductions—such as at Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey blast furnaces—amounting to 10 per cent. Mining wages have not yet been touched, but the general expectation is that there will be a reduction all round. There has been a somewhat better trade, however, during the past week, and this is being put down to the credit of the lower prices. Railway companies are still buying in very limited quantities, but they are buying some and enquiring for more. Transactions of in pig-iron, for early delivery, show the market to be weak. Accumulations of stock are heaviest in the central west.