

—A thirsty rhinoceros having to his great joy encountered a dromedary in the Desert of Sahara, besought the latter animal of his mercy to give him a drink, but the dromedary refused, stating that he was holding the fluid for an advance. "Why," said he to the rhinoceros, "did you not imitate my forethought and prudence, and take some heed to the morrow?" The rhinoceros acknowledged the justice of the rebuke. Some time afterwards he met in an oasis the dromedary, who had realized at the turn of the market and was now trying to cover his shorts. "For heaven's sake," he gasped to the rhinoceros, who was wallowing in the midst of a refreshing pool, "trust me for a nip." "When I was thirsty," replied the rhinoceros, "you declined to stand the drinks, but I will give you a horn." So saying, he let the grateful sunlight into the dromedary's inwards. *Moral*—Virtue is its own reward.—*N. Y. World*.

—Among the bequests of A. T. Stewart to his employees one of \$10,000 fell to a Halifax man named Higgins, who, for some years, had been in the retail house as chief Cashier.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

Montreal, April 25th, 1876.

When the Lake ice passed down on Sunday evening a jam took place at the foot of the current causing the water in the River to rise to within a few inches of the level of the streets, and at our time great fears of a serious flood were entertained, fortunately the water got vent, and the ice soon passed away, tomorrow we expect the fleet of schooners from winter quarters at Boucherville to arrive in Port.

The near approach of the opening of navigation is causing a little extra stir in business circles, a number of orders both from buyers who have come to the city and also by mail have been received for shipment by first steamers, these orders however as a rule are for small quantities for the supply of immediate wants, nor are many heavy orders looked for this season, for which wholesale dealers have prepared themselves by ordering comparatively small quantities, so that at the end of the season stocks of all kinds will be brought into very small compass, and help to bring about a more healthy state of trade. Dry Goods people are now sending out there travellers again, and a good sorting up business is expected. Sugars are in demand at advancing rates, but Teas are still dull and very difficult to move unless at figures ruinous to the Importers.

ASHES.—Pots.—Since the date of our last report the market for firsts has been quite active and prices have kept very steady at \$4.42½ to \$4.47½ at which the market closes; seconds very few offering a few barrels sold at \$3.50; thirds are nominal. Receipts during the past week of pots have been very light. *Pearls* in the absence of receipts and sales, are quite nominal. The stocks at present in store are Pots 3841 barrels; Pearls 1202 barrels.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Business continues about up to the previous week, stocks are getting light and prices are firm but unchanged since our last. We quote Men's kip boots \$2.50 to 3.00; do. French calf \$3.00 to 3.75; Buff Congress \$1.75 to 2.50; do. split Brogans \$1.00 to 1.25; do. kip Brogans \$1.30 to 1.65; Boy's split Brogans 00 to \$1.00; do. Buff and Pebbled Congress \$1.40 to 1.50; Womens Buff and pebbled Balmorals \$1.15 to 1.80; do. prunella Bals. 75c to \$2.00; do. do. Congress 75c to \$2.00; Misses Buff and Pebble Balmorals 90c to \$1.15; do. prunella Balmorals and Congress 85c to \$1.25; Childrens do. do.

75c to \$1.00; do. Pebble and Buff Balmorals 75c to \$1.00.

CATTLE.—The market yesterday was quiet overstocked with cattle, for which there was little demand and sales were very limited. Sales reported ranged from \$4.25 to \$5.00 per 100 lbs. live weight. The Sherbrooke meat Company bought a car load at \$3.87 per 100 lbs. *Hogs* were not in large supply sales reported from \$8.00 to \$8.25 per 100 lbs; *Sheep* were placed at 5c per lb.

DRY GOODS.—There has been a very steady business done during the week, a good number of buyers have been in the City selecting their goods for shipment when the navigation opens, their orders however have been very light in comparison to former years. Fancy Dry goods have been in fair demand and stocks are getting well reduced a number of houses are again sending out their travellers, and before the season is over stocks will be well run down. Remittances are still the subject of complaint.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Transactions are very small, people seem all waiting for the arrival of new importations with the first of the spring fleet, and although many articles on our list are offering "to arrive" below our quotations, we have not been able to hear of any sales. Any changes we make this week are unimportant: We quote. *Bi carb* \$3.50 to 3.75; *Sal soda* sales at \$1.50; *Caustic soda* \$3.25 to 3.50; *Bleaching powder* 2½c; *Alum* 2 to 2½c; *Cream Tartar crystals* 26 to 28c; ditto ground 29 to 31c; *Blue Vitrol* 6½ to 7c; *Saltpetre* \$8.00 to 8½; *Sulphur* \$3.25 to 0.00; *Borax* 15 to 17c; *Soda Ash* \$2.00 to 0.00; *Epsom salts* \$2.00 to 2.25.

FURS.—The arrivals this year so far as it has gone are far below what is usually looked for and business is very dull, skins offering which consist only of a few muskrats are taken within our range of quotations. Beaver \$1.75 to 2.00; Black Bear \$6.00 to 10.00; do. cubs \$3.00 to \$6.00 Fisher \$6.00 to 9.00; Silver Fox \$25.00 to 60; Cross Fox \$2.00 to 5.00; Red Fox \$1.40 to 1.75; Lynx \$1.50 to 1.75; Labrador Dark Martin \$7 to 8. Pale Martin \$1.25 to 1.50; Prime Dark Mink \$2.00 to 0.00; Dark 2nd Mink, \$1.00 to 0.00; Fine Dark Otter \$8 to 10; Fall Muskrat 12 to 15c; Winter do. 18 to 20c; Spring do 27 to 30c; Raccoon 25 to 60c; Skunk 20 to 50c.

FISH.—Trade is very quiet and supplies are about exhausted except Dry Cod and Salmon. *Dry Cod* is in small supply and price is firm at \$5.50; *Green Cod*.—There is none in market and no enquiry for it exists; *Labrador Herrings* are now out of stock and price is nominal; *Salmon* \$14.50 to 13.50 and \$12.50 for Nos. 1, 2, and 3 *Mackerel* none in the market.

FREIGHTS.—Business can hardly be said to have opened as yet. We have heard of 6/6 being offered for heavy grain "for orders," but we have heard of no actual transactions either for direct ports or for orders, possibly by next week there will be more enquiry for tonnage.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the past week 9,699 brls.; total receipts from 1st January to date, 125,823 brls., being a decrease of 21,233 brls. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1875. The market during the past week has exhibited no signs of life, buyers and sellers are still apart in their views, the amount of flour changing hands has been small, and only for the supply of the local trade. With the prospect of navigation being open this week some shipping demand is looked for, at the close of the market to-day, in sympathy with English and Western market there was a downward tendency but transactions were small. We quote *Superior Extra* \$5.15 to 5.20; *Extra Superfine* \$4.95 to 5; *Fancy* \$4.75 to 4.80; *Spring Extra* \$4.65 to 4.70; *Superfine* \$4.35 to 4.45; *Strong Baker's flour* \$4.80 to 5.00; *Fine* \$4.05 to 4.15; *Middlings* \$3.40 to 3.50; *Collards*

nominal; *City Bags* \$2.25; *Oatmeal* \$4.65 to 4.70; *Cornmeal* \$3.00.

GRAIN.—*Wheat*—Receipts during the bygone week were 5,600 bush., total receipts from 1st January to date were 363,372 bush., being an increase of 222,971 bush. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1875. At the close of our last report holders were offering No. 1 Canada spring at \$1.15; but as yet no transactions are reported to have taken place, buyers are offering \$1.11 to 1.12, which holders do not seem disposed to accept in the meantime, prices are nominal. *Maize*—Nothing doing, price nominal. *Peas* are still held for 92½ per 66 lbs; *Oats* 35½ is asked for May delivery. *Barley*—There have been some small sales of Quebec grown at 50 to 55c; *Timothy Seed* \$2.65 to 2.75; *Clover Seed* 14c, not much offering except by seedsmen.

GROCERIES.—*Teas*—Except the best grades of Japan are still a perfect drug in the market, and even the fine grades can only be placed in very limited quantities at 52½ to 57½c. Nothing doing in Greens or Blacks. The season in Japan for old Crop Teas is now over and as yet comparatively few orders have gone out for the new Crop Teas, importers waiting to see how prices rule at the opening of the season. *Coffees*—There has been a moderate demand from country dealers but no speculative demand, prices rule firm on account of the lightness of stocks, which, however, are ample for present requirements. Java 26½ to 30c; Maracaibo 23 to 25c; Jamaica 23c; Laguayra 21 to 23c, scarce. *Sugar*—Yellow sugar, owing to limited supply, has an advancing tendency, and is quoted 7½ to 8c; Granulated has been in good demand at 8½ to 9c, with sales at 8½c. In Raw Sugars there has been very little doing, any small sales which have taken place were from 6½ to 6¾c. *Molasses* has been in very limited request, but as stocks are small, prices are firm; Cuba 34 to 36c; Sugar House 26c; Muscovado 34 to 36c.; *Syrups*—Golden 44c; Amber 63 to 67c.; *Rice*—The stock is now pretty well reduced, lots on the spot are selling at \$3.70 to 3.80. *Spices*—Market is quiet, little demand existing, and prices are weaker. Black Pepper 11 to 11½c Cloves 45 to 47c; Cassia 16 to 18c; Nutmegs 80c to \$1.00 accordidg to sample; Ginger 22 to 24½c; Mace \$1.15 to 1.25; Pimento 9 to 10c; *Fruit*—It is difficult now to place large parcels, and as holders in prospect of arrivals by the Spring fleet, are rather disposed to press sales, prices are not very firm and tend downward. Layer Raisins are selling in job lots at \$2.20 to 2.25; Valencias 7½ to 7¾c; Sultanas, small sales at 13 to 14c; Currants dull of sale at 6½c; Figs 12 to 13c; Walnuts of good quality are scarce, present quotation 5 to 7c; Almonds 12 to 13½c; Filberts 7c.

HIDES AND PELTS.—There is very little doing just now. Market remains much the same as last week. An advance on Lambskins will take place in the first week in May. We quote No. 1 *Hides* \$6.00; No. 2 ditto \$5.00; No 3 ditto \$4.00; *Sheepskins* \$1.10 to 1.50; *Lambskins* are taken at 15 to 20c each; *Calfskins* 8c per lb.

HARDWARE.—The improvement noticed in our last report has been well maintained, and prospects are good for a continuation of it. There is very little change of any consequence on our list of prices. For pressed spikes and iron wire we reduce our quotations, but there is very little prospect of further reductions. We quote:—*Pig Iron*—Eglinton and Clyde \$21.00 to 21.50; Carnbroe 21.50 to \$22.00; American \$22. to 24.; Summerlie and Calder \$22.00 to 23.00; Langloan & Gartsherrie \$22.00 to 23.00; Coltness \$22.50 to 23.50; Hematite \$30.00 to 31.00. *Bar*, per 100 lbs., Scotch and Staffordshire, \$2.20 to 2.25; best do., \$2.50 to 2.60, Swedes and Norway \$5.00 to 5.50; Lowmoor and Bowling, \$6.50 to 7.00. *Canada Plates* per box, Glamorgan and