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—In the opinion of the shareholders of the Permanent Mortgage Company of Manitoba, which held its annual meeting in Winnipeg the other day, the manager and directors deserved, as they received, a vote of thanks for "the remarkable success which has attended the company." The statement shows \$68,000 under mortgage and the reserve fund to be \$4,600.

—An old farmer, who had given a note for a new patent "reaper and binder," came into the house to pay up. "How does she go?" asked the cashier, as he handled the bill. "Well, ye see, this time last year I sot on the fence with cigar in my mouth and an umbrella over me, and watched thirty men reapin' my field. This year I reaped it myself, and thirty men sot on the fence and watched me."

Commercial.**MONTREAL MARKETS.**

MONTREAL, May 23rd, 1888.

ASHES.—The market has made a slight gain in strength, the lowest figure in first quality pots now being \$3.85, seconds \$3.50 to 3.55, with little doing in the latter. Pearls it is not easy to quote, the few sales made having been on private terms; probably the figure would be something over \$7.00. Shipments are of fair volume; stocks in store end of last week, 475 bbls.

BOOTS, SHOES, AND LEATHER.—Boot and shoe travellers have been heard from with fair results from the Lower Provinces, and the more westerly sections of the Dominion will now be engaging their attention, but as yet there is little cutting being done for fall goods, and the demand for leather continues of a quiet uneventful character. Stocks still show fullness, except in best grades of upper leather, and though the production of leather is undoubtedly being restricted, the effects are not yet sufficiently marked to give any firmness to prices. We quote:—Spanish sole, B. A., No. 1, 24 to 25c.; do. No. 2, B. A., 19 to 20c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 18 to 19c.; No. 1 China, 20 to 21c.; No. 2, 17 to 18c.; hemlock slaughter, No. 1, 23 to 26c.; oak sole, 40 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 30 to 35c.; ditto, heavy, 28 to 33c.; grained, 32 to 36c.; Scotch grained, 33 to 37c.; splits, large, 16 to 24c.; do., small, 12 to 18c.; calf-splits, 32 to 33c.; calfskins (35 to 46 lbs.), 55 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins,

70 to 80c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; harness, 24 to 33c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; pebbled cow, 19 to 14c.; rough, 22 to 25c.; russet and bridle, 54 to 55c.

CEMENTS, &c.—Sales of large lots of Portland cement have been made at \$2.25 ex ship, but these could not be duplicated, and from \$2.40 to 2.60 would probably be a fair range for moderate lots. Firebricks easier at \$20 to 22.50; a large sale at \$18 ex ship was reported a few days ago.

DRY GOODS.—City retail trade has improved with the finer weather of this week, and is now pretty good, but warmer seasonable weather would make a still further improvement. Sorting orders from districts near the city and from Eastern Ontario are fair, but general complaint is made as regards Western business. In spite of this however, some houses tell us their trade is up to that of last year, and wholesale stocks are not likely to be over full at the close of the season, as imports have been made on close and careful lines. Payments took a turn for the better at the end of last week, and are coming in fairly.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There are indications of a very general firming up in most lines in which dulness and weakness have been so long apparent. Even quinine, which for a long time past has been abnormally dull and lethargic, shows some signs of growing activity and strength; the London bark sales show an advance of 20 per cent, and it is thought prices, so long low, must take an upward turn. Opium remains very dull and crop reports conflicting. Methylated spirits much dearer owing to new excise regulations. We quote:—Sal soda, 85c. to \$1; bi-carb soda, \$1.80 to 2.00; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.70; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 10 to 11c.; cream tartar crystals, 34 to 36c.; do. ground, 36 to 38c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 54 to 55c.; do. powder, 55 to 60c.; citric acid, 65 to 70c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.40 to 2.60; sugar of lead, 10 to 11c.; bleaching powder, \$2.50 to 2.60; alum, \$1.65 to 1.70; coppers, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.10 to 2.40; roll sulphur, \$2.00 to 2.25; sulphate of copper, \$6.00 to 6.50; epsom salts, \$1.25 to 1.40; saltpetre \$8.25 to 8.75; American quinine, 55 to 60c.; German quinine, 55 to 60c.; Howard's quinine, 60 to 70c.; opium, \$4.50 to 5.00; morphia, \$2.25 to 2.50; gum arabic, sorts, 80 to 90c.; white, \$1.00 to \$1.25; carbolic acid, 55 to 65c.; iodide potassium, \$4.00 to 4.25 per lb.; iodine, \$5.25 to 5.75; iodoform, \$5.75 to 6.25. Prices for essential oils are:—oil lemon, \$2.00 to 2.50; oil bergamot, \$3.00 to 3.50; orange, \$2.75 to 3.00; oil peppermint, \$3.50 to 4.50; glycerine, 25 to 35c.; senna, 15 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 40 to 45c.; American do., 36 to 40c.; insect powder, 70 to 90c.

FURS.—Receipts of raw furs are getting smaller as the season advances, and in the course of a few weeks the entire spring collection will be in. There is nothing new in the situation to create any firmness, and the outlook is not any more promising than it has been for last few months. We quote prime skins:—Beaver, \$3.50 to 4.00; bear, \$10 to 12; cub ditto, \$4.00 to 5.00; fisher, \$5.00; red fox, \$1.00 to 1.25; cross ditto, \$2.00 to 3.00; lynx, \$2.00 to \$2.50; marten, 60 to 65c.; mink, 50 to 60c.; fall muskrat, 8c.; winter muskrat, 12c.; spring, 17c.; raccoon, 25, 50 and 75c.; skunk, 25, 50 and 75c.; otter, \$8.00 to 10.00.

GROCERIES.—Orders being received are still marked, as a rule, by moderation on the part of buyers, and the market does not show any special activity, though there is a fair aggregate of business of a healthy character. Sugars are steady on the basis prevailing for the last few weeks; there is no great variety of yellows to be had, and in some grades scarcity prevails; the range is 5½ to 5½ cents; granulated still 6½c to guild buyers. Molasses about 35 to 37c. for Barbadoes, which is not in plentiful supply, and first direct cargoes will probably not be here much before the middle of June. Teas show a rather better enquiry, though the bulk of the movement is in moderate lots; there is a general steadiness in values. The conditions under which the tea trade is being done seem to be undergoing change; whereas in former years the bulk of import orders were generally placed in March, we are now told that at this date hardly an order for new season Japan teas has yet been booked. While this may be partly due to the