Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

MONTREAL, Aug. 3.

Although the weather has been very warm since my last, it has, on the whole, been cooler than the previous week ; nights have been more comfortable and less oppressive.

We had another extensive fire in the city last week ; the factory and pattern shop belonging to Messrs. Ives & Allan, and several dwelling houses have been entirely consumed—the loss has been estimated at about $55,000, most of which is covered by insurance.

Business of all kinds has been very unsettled, owing to advices from Europe, and a rise in price in a number of articles is noted. Stocks have not been much dealt in, but prices have been well maintained.

The statement of imports at the Custom House of Montreal for the quarter ending 30th June, has just been published, and compares favorably with the same period of 1869. The grand total for the quarter to 30th June, 1870, being $7,426,-754 against $6,750,878 for same period of 1869, being an increase of $673,876. The total value of imports for the half-year to 30th June, was $12,450,884 against $10,799,095, being an increase of $1,651,789, and this increase is understood not to be in excess of the wants of trade, and speaks well for the healthy state of business in the country.

Freights have been in better demand, and the amount of tonnage at present in harbor is not large. The breadstuffs market closes firm ; provisions steady ; ashes quiet.

ASHES.—*Pots*—The market has not been quite so strong as reported last week ; sales have ranged from $7.50 to $7.75, these being the extreme prices for sales on the spot. Some sales of lots for future delivery took place on private terms ; market closes quiet but steady, at $7.50 ; there are very few in market and consequently almost none offering. Nothing has been done in inferiors, which are nominal. *Pearls*—There is very little change to note in prices and sales have been at $7.50 to $7.75, according to tares, at which price the market closes steady.

The stocks at present in store are—Pots 1,502 bbls ; pearls 250 bbls., being a decrease of 478 bbls. pots, and 813 bbls. pearls on the quantity in store on the same date of 1869.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—City business has been very quiet this week, but orders are coming in freely from the country ; prices are satisfactory and shipping will soon commence. There is no change in prices to note, which are firm, and higher prices are expected in the Fall.

COAL.—The prices of coal are as yet unchanged. English coal is expected to advance on account of military movements in Europe. The French Government is reported to be buying largely of Pictou coal at the mines. American coal has been firm owing to the rise in gold and the difficulties with the miners, but as these difficulties have now been arranged, it is expected that producers will relax somewhat in their demands.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There has been a pretty good demand for most articles, and at increased rates. Bi Carb has been sold to some extent at $3.15 to $3.20, and is now held for 5c. more. Caustic Soda is higher 3¾c. having been paid for choice lots. Soda Ash is unchanged. Sal Soda in fair request at advanced rates, holders are firm, asking $1.30 to $1.35 per cwt. Alum has advanced from 10c. to 15., the quotation being $2.12½ to $2.20 per cwt, but higher prices are now asked. Saltpetre is nominal, the stock is in one or two hands, and is held for exceptional rates. Epsom Salts has been sold at $2.00 to $2.25, according to size of lot. Cream of Tartar 22c. to 23c.

FISH.—Dry Cod has been in better demand this week, and considerable sales have taken place at 5⅝c. to 5¼. Labrador Herrings are rather higher, and are now quoted at $4.50 to $5.00, but the amount of business done in Herrings has been small. Salmon dull and unchanged in price.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the week by canal and railway, were 31,979 brls., being an increase of 5,682 brls. Total receipts from 1st January to date 491,216 brls. against 456,813 brls, in the corresponding period of 1869, being an increase of 34,403 brls. Shipments via River St. Lawrence for the week 12,722 brls. Total shipments by all channels from 1st January to date 338,612 brls. against 375,639 brls. in corresponding period of 1869, being a decrease of 37,027 brls. The stock of Flour in store, and in the hands of Millers on the morning of the 1st. inst., was 100,580 brls. against 87,774 brls. on 15th July, and 58,371 brls. on 1st August, 1869, being an increase of 12,806 brls. for the last fortnight, and 42,209 brls. on the stock in store on the 1st August, 1869. This is probably the largest stock of flour ever held in this city at one time, the shipments have been small, and holders are not offering much waiting for higher prices, which are looked for owing to the war in Europe. In the early part of the week, the market was very unsettled with downward tendency, on Friday afternoon, there was a much firmer feeling, and large sales of Western wheat flour (Welland Canal), took place at $5.75 in bond equal to $6.00 free of duty, no large transactions in other grades were reported. Strong Bakers flour was sold at $6.50 for favorite brands. The market closes to-day quiet, but firm. Extra, $6.75 ; Fancy, $6.25 ; ordinary supers from Canada wheat, $5.90 to $6.00 ; Medium Bakers flour, $6.00 to $6.20 ; Strong Bakers flour, $6.40 to $6.50 ; Supers from Western wheat, (Welland Canal) $5.75 in bond ; Canada Super No. 2, $5.60 to $5.70; Fine, $5.25; Middlings, $4.75; Choice U. C. Bags, $3.00 per 100 lbs.; City Bags, $3.50 per 100 lbs. delivered. *Oatmeal*—has been quiet and lower, no sales has been reported over $4.50 to $5.00 according to quality.

FREIGHTS.—More activity was noticeable this week in the demand for tonnage rates reported by sailing vessel to Glasgow at 4s. 7½d. for wheat and 2s. 3d. for flour. There have also been a number of engagements by steamers and sailing vessels to Liverpool and Glasgow on private terms. The rates by steamers to Liverpool and Glasgow for Ashes, Provisions, Butter and Cheese are unchanged.

GRAIN.—*Wheat*—Receipts by railway and canal for past week, 187,296 bush., being an increase of 48,004 bus. on the preceding week. Total receipts by railway and canal from 1st Jan. to date, 2,925,069 bus., against 2,631,780 bus. in corresponding period of 1869, being an increase of 293,229 bus. Shipments for the past week were 249,506 bus. Total shipmments from 1st Jan. to date, 2,497,530 bus., against 1,979,774 bus. in corresponding period of 1869, being an increase of 517,756 bus. The stock of wheat in store and in hands of millers on the 1st inst. was 370,243 bus., against 438,125 bus. on 15th July, and 95,079 bus. on 1st August, 1869. The market during the week has been variable, and owing to the very limited amount of business done, very difficult to quote, the only sales transpiring being some cargoes of No. 2 Milwaukee at $1.20 in bond ; holders are now firmer, and are asking $1.23½, at which prices the market closes firm. *Corn*—remains nominal, the stock in store on the 1st inst. being 8,000 bus. *Barley*—No recent sales have taken place ; the nominal quotation is 70c. *Oats*—There has been a fair demand for Oats, and shipping lots have realized 44c., small parcels being sold as high as 47c.

GROCERIES.—*Teas*—Have been in good demand. Japans have been sold to some extent from 57c to 70c from good to choice uncolored. Young Hysons have also been sold at pretty high prices. *Sugars*—are in request for local wants, but no wholesale transactions reported, prices are very little changed, Cuba is quoted at 8¼ to 8½ ; Barbadoes and Porto Rico 8¾ to 8⅞c ; refined is active at 9½ to 9¾c for yellow ; 11¼c for crushed, and 12c for dry crushed. *Syrups*—Amber 74c ; golden 44c ; standard 40c. *Spices*—are unchanged and rather scarce. *Coffee*—There has been some sales of Java at 20½ to 24c ; low grades are scarce and wanted, and are quoted at 15½ to 17c. *Fruit*—The market for all kinds is rather bare at present ; layer raisins $2.50 to $2.60 ; Valencias 8¼ to 8⅞c ; currants are held for 5¾ to 6c. *Brandy* There has been a good deal of activity exhibited this week. Martels has been sold in large lots at $8 ; Hennessey's in wood, $2.15 so $2.30 ; other favorite brands bringing $2 to $2.10. *Gin*—has been dealt in to a fair extent ; de Kuypers at $1.40 to $1.42½, according to size of parcel ; Houtmann's at $1.35 to $1.37½. *High Wines*—Market is very firm and has been sold to considerable extent in bond at 60c. *Molasses*—are quiet and unchanged in price.

HARDWARE.—The advance noted in Cut Nails has been maintained, and the price is still $3 to $3.15, according to quantity. By late telegrams from England, heavy iron has advanced there 10s. per ton. Cutlery has also advanced; there is no change in prices here as yet, and iron can be bought here to-day at our quotations, but holders will not sell at that price, even for delivery a few days forward.—Window Glass, on account of the European complications, has advanced considerably, and is now quoted $1.80 to $1.90.

LEATHER.—The stock of Sole is light, with a tendency upward in price. Grain Uppers are in active demand. Splits are in fair request; the receipts of all kinds are light and not equal to the demand; business is improving, and higher prices for most kinds are looked for. French Calfskins has advanced 5 to 10 per cent., owing to the war in Europe.

NAVAL STORES.—Spirits of Turpentine in fair demand at last weeks rates. Rosins are quiet and unchanged in price. Pine Pitch and Tar nominal at $3.50. American Coal Pitch and Tar in limited demand at $3 to $3.25.

OILS.—There has only been a very limited business done in *Cod Oil*; prices are higher, latest sale being at 62½c. *Pale Seal* has been dealt in to some extent at 67c. *Whale Oil* is dull and nominal. *Linseed Oil* is firmer, and sales have been made at 75c. for raw and 80c. for boiled. *Olive Oil* is steady at $1.15 to $1.20; only small sales reported. *Petroleum* continues dull, but holders are firm, asking 27c. to 27½c.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter*—Receipts this week, 2,191 kegs; shipments, 1,747 kegs; the amount of business done has not been very large; the market has been firm, with rather upward tendency, 19c. to 19½c. being latest quotations. *Cheese*.—Receipts for the week, 4,075 boxes; shipments, 5,277 boxes; market has been steady, and 11½ to 12c. has been paid for choice parcels. *Pork*—has been firm and advanced in price, and large sales have been made at $29 to $29.50 for Mess ; Thin Mess, $26 to $26.50; Prime Mess, $23.50 to $24; Prime, $21.50 to $22. *Lard*—is firm, and held at 14c. *Hams*—are steady and unchanged. *Beef*.—Very little doing, at unchanged rates. *Tallow*—unchanged.

RICE.—The market in the early part of the week was easier, but latterly it has been stiffer; latest sales reported at $4.10.

SALT.—There has not been much activity in the market this week; sales of new Coarse at 55c. to 56c.; Fine is scarce, and several sales of round parcels at 82½c. to 85c. are reported. No fine Butter Salt offering.

TOBACCO.—The prices of manufactured Tobacco are steady, and a fair demand is reported; 10's are quoted at 15½c. to 20c.; Navy 6's, 20c. to 28c.; and Solace, 20c. to 38c.

WOOL.—Fleece Wool has been coming in freely from growers, and is now pretty much in the hands of manufacturers; present price is 25c. to 27c.