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Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Oct. 31st, 1900.

ASHES.—The demand continues of very limited character, but stocks in store are very light, and nothing of any consequence is coming in. We quote first pots, \$5.15 to \$5.25; seconds, \$4.85 to \$4.95; pearls, about \$6.50.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—A 25,000-barrel transaction is reported in German cement, for Government works, at a price said to be equal to about \$2.40 a barrel. General business is reported better this week, sales of moderate lots reaching a very fair aggregate. Receipts for week ending to-day are 1,820 barrels of English cement, no Belgian or German; 121,700 firebricks. We quote: Belgian, \$1.90 to \$2.10; English, \$2.30 to \$2.40; German, \$2.45 to \$2.55; firebricks, \$18 to \$24 per thousand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Receipts of butter are light, and there is a real scarcity of finest qualities for which firm prices are exacted for the local jobbing trade; export demand is not very brisk. Cheese is barely steady at last week's figures, with an indifferent export enquiry, though a little recent improvement is reported in some quarters; finest Ontario makes range from 10¾ to 11¼c.; Easterns from 10 to 10½c. Last week's shipments of cheese aggregated 70,958 boxes, being some 40,000 boxes in excess of the corresponding week of 1899. Exports of butter were 5,660 packages, 1,300 more than at same date last year.

DRY GOODS.—The cooler weather is calculated to benefit the retailers, whose fall stocks have not been greatly broken into so far. Payments, however, are reported as being still fairly met. The Montreal Cotton Co. announces a still further advance of about 5 per cent. on a number of lines, including foulards, Turkey reds, ducks, buntings, organdies, etc.

GROCERIES.—Business is barely as brisk as it has been, as country dealers say that the late fine weather has kept farmers at home doing fall work, and there has therefore not been much trading going on, still a very fair aggregate of orders is reported. The sugar market presents no new features, and refinery prices are still quoted at \$5 for standard granulated, and from \$4.20 to \$4.80 for yellows. The dried fruit market is as strong as ever. Some houses are already quite sold out of off-stalk Valencias; layers are quoted at 9½c., in a jobbing way. Some new California prunes are now to hand, but only small sizes, 100's to 120's, which are being jobbed at 6c. Nuts are all high; for old soft-shell almonds, 14½c. is asked in a wholesale way, and for shelled, 37½c.; filberts are quoted at 10¼c., in round lots, and 25c. for shelled walnuts of last year's crop. New supplies of nuts, Malaga raisins, etc., are on the "Bellona," which left Halifax on Monday night. New evaporated apples are selling in a jobbing way at 5c.; and, singular to say, dried apples of good quality bring a better price, from 5 to 5½c. being quoted.

HIDES.—A much firmer tone is visible this week, and No. 1 beef hides are now being bought by dealers at 9c., being an advance of a full cent. The demand from tanners is reported as more active, but renewed competition among buyers has doubtless also something to do with the rise in prices. Lambskins are put up from 70 to 80c., being the usual monthly rise. Calfskins remain as before.

LEATHER.—No more is being done now than a week ago, and though boot and shoe men report very fair orders for spring goods, they are not apparently disposed to do any cutting at present. English demand for sole leather is reported

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