

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Oct. 4th, 1899.

ASHES.—A little more enquiry is reported for both pots and pearls, and prices are slightly better, \$3.90 to \$3.95 being offered for first pots, and \$3.70 to \$3.75 for seconds; pearls in a retail way would bring \$5 to \$5.25. It is expected there will be rather more doing from now till close of navigation. Stocks in store here are about 100 barrels of pots, and 40 pearls, but it is reported there is some fair stock in the country, held back on account of late low prices.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—A fair volume of business is reported in moderate lots. Last week there were no receipts of cements; this week's figures are 3,150 barrels of English, and 4,500 Belgian and German; firebricks, 119,000. Prices are without variation of any kind.

DRY GOODS.—Business conditions in this line are reported of a very gratifying character. Goods continue to move out well, and money comes in well. Some large houses report the proportion of cash received for September as 20 per cent. ahead of last year. To-day's payments, as far as can be judged at moment of writing, have been very well provided for, but the volume of customers' paper due the 4th of this month is moderate, as compared with September 4th. Further advance in prices are to be noted, and the Canadian Colored Goods Co. has this week issued a circular making revised quotations on flannellettes, shirtings, tickings, awnings, shakers, Oxfords, and all other lines of cotton goods, which they produce. A letter from a buyer now in England, speaking of the great advance in woollens, says that the advance in fine Bradford dress goods is equal to 45 per cent. on last year's figures.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Bushels.	Bushels.
	Sept. 25.	Oct. 2.
Wheat	129,985	162,727
Corn	79,370	88,561
Oats	131,429	247,692
Rye	21,047	38,377
Peas	61,237	146,436
Barley	40,763	46,750
Total grain	463,811	730,543
Oatmeal	131	173
Flour	18,370	15,552
Buckwheat	2,812	2,812

GROCERIES.—Good business is reported with the country by jobbers generally, and payments are satisfactory, as a whole. No very marked features are to be noted as regards values. One of the largest sellers of California raisins reports having obtained a concession of about a cent on the high figures quoted last week. Some lots of these goods are reported as expected about the end of the month. California dried apricots are reported very high. In canned goods corn continues to mount upwards, and it is said 95c. is now being asked for round lots. Refiners report a quieter demand for sugars, but values are steady at \$4.60 for standard granulated, and \$3.75 upwards for yellows. No special movement is noticeable in teas. Fresh advices from Japan report that no fine teas are available there now, only medium and low grades being available, and they showing poor liquor; the market is reported firmer there. Both Ceylons and China teas are reported rather firmer.

HIDES AND TALLOW.—The price of lambskins is now advanced to 65c. In beef hides there is still great competition among buyers, and 10c. is still the general price paid for No. 1., but some of the larger dealers seem to be disposed to put the price up to even 11c., in order to try and break some of the smaller dealers, who they say have been spoiling the market, though 10½c. is the extreme figure

being got from tanners. Receipts of calfskins are now quite small; 11c. and 9c. are ruling prices for Nos. 1 and 2. Tallow is reported quite scarce, and prices are stiffer at 4½c. to 4¾c. for rendered.

LEATHER.—A little lull is noticeable after the temporary activity of a fortnight ago, and this is perhaps in some degree due to the firmer ideas of tanners as to values. A half a cent advance is being asked on No. 3 B.A. sole, and a very noticeable shortage is reported of light sole, one of the largest firms reporting that they are unable to fill all their orders received in this line. We quote: Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 25 to 26c.; No. 2, B.A., 23 to 24c.; No. 3, B.A., 22 to 22½c.; No. 1, ordinary, Spanish, 23 to 24c.; No. 2, 21 to 22c.; No. 1 slaughter, 27 to 28c.; No. 2, do., 24 to 26c.; common, 20 to 21c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 30 to 35c.; do., heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 32 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; Western splits, 21 to 23c.; Quebec, do., 16 to 18c.; juniors, 16 to 17c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calfskins, (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 24c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskins linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 25 to 30c.; buffed, cow, 13 to 15c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebble cow, 11½ to 13c.; polished buff, 12 to 13c.; glove-grain, 12½ to 14c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—All the advances noted last week are firmly held. Bar iron is even firmer again, and some lines of steel are further advanced. Wire, wire nails, fence staples, etc., are all very firm at advance. For ingot tin in jobbing lots 36½c. is asked, and for lead, \$4.25. We quote: Summerlee pig iron, \$24.50 to \$25; Carnbroe, \$24; Calder, \$24.50; Hamilton, No. 1, \$00.00 to \$00.00; No. 2 do., \$00.00 to \$00.00; Ferrona, No. 1, \$00; machinery scrap, \$15 to \$16; common ditto, \$00 to \$00; bar iron, Canadian, \$2.20 to \$2.30; Canada plates—Pontypool or equal, \$2.60; 52 sheets to box; 60 sheets, \$2.70; 75 sheets, \$2.80; Galvanized Canada plates, \$4.25 per box of 52 sheets; Terne roofing plate, 20 x 28, \$7.50 to \$7.75; Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.55; No. 26, \$2.50; No. 24, \$2.45; No. 16, and heavier, \$3; tin plates; Charcoal, I.C. Alloway, \$4.80 to \$4.90; ditto, I.X., \$5.25 to \$5.50; P.D. Crown, I.C., \$5.50 to \$5.75; do., I.X., \$4.75; coke, I.C., \$4.40; galvanized sheets, No. 28, Queen's Head, \$4.75; No. 26, \$4.25 to \$4.50; No. 24, \$4 in the case lots; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6c.; No. 26, etc., the usual extra for large sizes. Steel boiler plate, ¼-inch, and upwards, \$2.95 for Dalzell and equal; ditto, three-sixteenths inch, \$3; tank steel, \$2.90, ¼-inch; three-sixteenths, \$3; heads, seven-sixteenths and upwards, \$2.95; Russian sheet iron, 9 to 9½c.; lead per 100 lbs., \$4.10 to \$4.25; sheet, \$4.75 to \$5; shot, \$6 to \$6.50; best cast-steel, 11 to 12c.; toe calk, \$3 to \$3.10; spring, \$2.90 to \$3; sleigh shoe, \$2.60 to \$2.70; tire, \$2.60 to \$2.75; round machinery steel, \$3.50 to \$3.60, as to finish; ingot tin, 36 to 36½c.; for L. & F.; Straits, 35½ to 36c.; bar tin, 37 to 38c.; ingot copper, 18½ to 19c.; sheet-zinc, \$7.50 to \$8; Silesian spelter, \$6.25 to \$6.75; Veille Montagne spelter, \$6.50 to \$7; American spelter, \$6.25 to \$6.50; anti-mony, 10½ to 11c.

OILS, PAINTS AND GLASS.—Orders are coming in well, and some houses report shipments ahead of last year. Turpentine has advanced a cent South since the price was up locally last week, and English advices regarding linseed oil are of a very strong character. Dry lead keeps moving upward in Europe, the quotation is said to be £20 for ordinary brands, and £26 10s. for special makes. We quote: Single barrels, raw and boiled

linseed oil, respectively, 57 and 60c. per gallon, for one to four barrel lots; 5 to 9 barrels, 56 and 59c.; net 30 days, or 3 per cent., for 4 months' terms. Turpentine, one to four barrels, 73c.; five to nine barrels, 72c.; net 30 days. Olive oil, machinery, 90c.; Cod oil, 34 to 36c. per gal.; steam refined seal, 34 to 36c. per gallon. Castor oil, 8 to 8½c. in quantity; tins, 9 to 9½c.; machinery castor oil, 7½ to 8c.; Leads (chemically pure and first-class brands only), \$6; No. 1, \$5.62½; No. 2, \$5.30; No. 3, \$4.87½; No. 4, \$4.50; dry white lead, 5½ to 6c. for pure; No. 1, ditto, 5c.; genuine red ditto, 5c.; No. 1, red lead, 4½ to 4¾c.; Putty, in bulk, bbls., \$1.65; kegs, \$1.80; bladder putty, in bbls., \$1.80; smaller quantities, \$1.95; 25-lb. tins, \$2.05; 12½-lb. tins, \$2.30; London washed whiting, 40 to 45c.; Paris white, 75 to 80c.; Venetian red, \$1.50 to \$1.75; yellow ochre, \$1.25 to \$1.50; spruce ochre, \$1.75 to \$2. Window glass, \$1.90 per 50 feet for first break; \$2 for second break.

LEAN AND FAT YEARS IN FIRE INSURANCE.

To oblige a subscriber, we give below the National Board of Fire Underwriters' statistics of the results of the fire and fire-marine insurance business in the United States for a series of years:

UNPROFITABLE YEARS.	
Years.	Loss.
1889	\$ 5,369,983
1891	9,218,797
1892	6,377,489
1893	10,410,102
1898	1,919,650
	\$33,296,021
PROFITABLE YEARS.	
Years.	Gain.
1888	\$ 671,621
1890	2,848,934
1894	9,993,171
1895	8,884,328
1896	12,390,126
1897	9,116,045

Loss in unprofitable years .. 33,296,021

Balance of profit ... \$10,608,204
The \$10,608,204 of profit was the result of handling \$1,291,478,992 of premiums, or considerably less than one per cent.—Insurance Press, N.Y.

—The plan of the same journal for profit-sharing in fire insurance is this: Let the companies pledge themselves to divide one-half of their underwriting profits each year among all agencies in proportion to premiums taken; first premiums, twelve and one-half per cent.; companies' rules for acceptance of business to apply to all agents alike; no favorites. Advantage to company; growth of reserve, the interest on which, and on capital and surplus, is a sufficient source of profit to stockholders. Company's retention of one-half of the net earnings in profitable years to be a fund to offset losses in unprofitable years.

CROPS AROUND EDMONTON.

Speaking of the crop prospects in that neighborhood, the Edmonton Post says, in its issue of Saturday, 23rd September, "We have had fine, clear weather all week, and the effect in the country must have been beneficial in expediting the harvest. In many places threshing is under way and some heavy yields have been reported. Those who cut green are few in comparison with those who waited for the change in the weather and got it, and the loss from premature cutting will be small. There have been slight frosts, but little damage to grain can now be done."