

FRENCH ECONOMY.—The French butcher separates the bones from his steaks, and places them where they will do the most good. The housewife orders just enough for each person and no more, even to the coffee. If a chance visitor drops in, somebody quietly retires and the extra cup is provided, but nothing extra by carelessness or intention. When the pot is boiled, the handful of charcoal in the little range is extinguished, and waits for another time. No roaring cook stove and red-hot covers all day long for no purpose but waste. The egg laid to-day costs a little more than the one laid last. Values are nicely estimated, and the smallest surplus is carefully saved. A thousand little economies are practiced, and it is respectable to practice them. Cooking is an economical as well as a sanitary and gustatory science. A French cook will make a franc go as far as an American housewife will make three, and how much further than the American Bridget nobody knows. We should probably be greatly astonished, could the computation be made, how much of the financial, recuperative power of France is owing to her soups and her cheap food; better living after all than the heavy bread and greasy failures of our culinary ignorance. The Frenchman's or woman's financial conscience will not permit waste, or exceeding the income, no matter how small. The Paris workman saves something every day out of his little wages, despite all the city enticements; and by and by is apt to go back to his native village, and purchase his little plot, and live on it contented, never poor enough to be insolvent.—*Springfield Republican*.

THE Montreal wholesale quarter, the hardware warehouses in particular, was invaded a few nights ago by a gang of burglars, who had a night's prowling behind the parish Church of Notre Dame, but all their risk was incurred for a paltry \$18.50. Entering over the door of the gateway at Messrs. Peck, Benny & Co.'s, hardware merchants, on St. Paul Street, they got to the top of Jno. Crilley & Co.'s by a ladder, and descended into the office, but found no plunder. They then apparently entered Messrs. Cavill, Barr & Co.'s, also by the roof, and ransacked the drawers, obtaining therein \$13.50. Next, they broke through the roof door of Messrs. Morland, Watson & Co., cutting the rope fastening, but upon ransacking the office, found nothing. They then entered the store of Messrs. Stirling McCall & Co., wholesale dry goods dealers, but secured nothing there. Their visits to the other establishments were equally fruitless, except that to Messrs. W. Darling & Co., iron and metal importers, where they obtained \$5 in cash, after breaking open the drawer of every desk in the office. The opening of safes was not attempted nor were any tools left about, so that they were probably not "first-class cracksmen." Still, such aerial visitors are worse than Asmodeus.

COST OF IRON IN MEDIEVAL TIMES.—The cost of iron and iron tools was a serious difficulty in mediæval husbandry. When iron implements were worth 2d. a pound, that is to say, at least 2s. a pound in modern money values, the culture of soil was superficial, and the fertility of the soil was rapidly exhausted. Before the middle of Elizabeth's reign the art of smelting cast iron was discovered, for a good deal of the Queen's heavy ordnance was made from this material. Nor is the price of wrought iron trebled, as that of most other commodities is. In the fifteenth century it was worth from £5 to £8 per ton; in the reign of Elizabeth from £10 to £14. For, as the success of agriculture is a measure of the success with which other employments can be prosecuted, as well as a leisure class can be maintained, so the inventions of the mechanic materially assist the progress of agricultural art and lessen the cost of its operations.—*Contemporary Review*.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 8th June, 1880.

The weather for the past week has been very favorable for crops of all kinds; grass is exceptionally good, and as a consequence butter is coming into the city more plentifully and meets with a ready sale at fair prices. There has not been much demand for either flour or grain, most of the flour shipped is apparently bought in the west, and the same remark applies to wheat, as only an occasional sale of a cargo is reported here. Groceries are very dull and teas are offering at extremely low prices. Sugar has advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ all round since this day week. Hardware is very quiet with unsettled prices; the importations are large, and are in many instances being pressed upon the market. Furs are very quiet, the season being about over, and until the July London sales take place we will withhold our quotations.

ASHES.—*Pots.*—Business within very narrow limits, less from absence of demand than from light receipts; market firm and prices advanced, we now quote \$3.95 to 4.00. *Pearls* still quiet, only a small business has been done at \$5.55 to 5.65; stocks at present in store are pots 518 brls; Pearls 403 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There is little change to report, and the trade is very quiet, being engaged on sorting up orders (which are only of a very limited nature) and in preparing goods for fall trade.

CATTLE.—There was an active demand yesterday for shipping cattle at from 5 to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per pound. The total shipments this week were 2,906 cattle and 1,863 sheep. Butchers' cattle are in fair demand at firm prices, a good business being done to-day at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5¢. Inferior animals brought from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ less. *Calves* were selling at all prices from \$2.00 to 10.00. *Hogs.*—Good fat hogs were selling at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ per pound.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The market has been quiet, and prices on the whole have been steady since this day week. As prices in England seem to have touched bottom we do not anticipate any further decline here. Collections are fair. *Cape Aloe* 16 to 17¢; *Alum* \$1.80 to 2.00; *Bleaching Powder* \$1.75; *Borax* 13 to 14¢; *Castor Oil* 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; *Caustic Soda* \$2.75 to 2.90; *Cream Tartar* 34 to 36¢; *Epsom Salts* \$1.25 to 1.40; *Extract Logwood* 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; *Indigo* 85¢ to \$1.00; *Madder* 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 13¢; *Opium* \$8.50 to 9.00; *Oxalic Acid* 11 to 13¢; *Potass Iodide* \$6.00 to 6.10; *Quinine* \$3.90 to 4.00; *Soda Ash* \$1.75 to 1.90; *Bi Carb Soda* \$3.20 to 3.30; *Sal Soda* \$1.00 to 1.10; *Tartaric Acid* 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 60¢.

DRY GOODS.—We have nothing very encouraging to say about this trade; business is quiet but stocks are not over large. There is not much doing in cotton goods, and the advance in the price of Canadian tweeds has confined business to the supply of immediate wants only, buyers are unwilling to lay in stocks at the present high prices and are holding off in the expectation of lower prices further on in the season. Remittances are fair.

FURS.—There is nothing doing here just now in raw furs, as the bulk of the skins are in, and now only an occasional lot makes its appearance, and until the London sales take place in July we do not consider it requisite to give quotations, which are nominal.

FISH.—There is no new fish as yet in the market, and quotations are nominal, from \$4.00 to 4.25 is asked for any old stock of *Dry Cod*.

FREIGHTS.—Engagements made during the past week were at the same rates as we last quoted, viz., for heavy grain to Liverpool and

Glasgow by steamers and iron clippers 3/6 to 4/-; to London 4/8 to 5/-; Oats to Liverpool and Glasgow were taken at 4/- to 4/3.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the past week 17,625 brls.; total receipts 1st Jan. to date, 170,947 brls., showing a decrease of 111,405 brls. on the receipts for the same period of 1879. Shipped during the week 14,009 brls.: total shipments from 1st January to date 107,144 brls., showing a decrease of 63,698 brls. on the shipments for the same period of 1879. A very considerable decline in prices has taken place since the date of our last report, but even at this decline the amount of business done has been small. The market appears to be steady at the decline, with indications of a better demand at the close of the market to-day. We quote as follows: *Superior Extra*, \$5.50 to 5.55; *Extra Superfine*, \$5.45 to 0.00 *Fancy*, nominal; *Spring Extra*, \$5.50 to 5.60; *Superfine*, \$5.25 to 5.35; *Strong Baker's Flour*, \$5.90 to 6.40; *Fin'*, \$4.50 to 4.60; *Middlings*, \$4.10 to 4.20; *Pollards*, nominal; *Ontario Bags*, \$2.80 to \$2.85; *Oatmeal*, \$4.50 to 4.55; *Cornmeal*, \$2.60 to 2.70.

GRAIN.—*Wheat.*—Receipts for the past week 90,058 bushels: Total receipts from 1st January to date 1,123,562 bushels; showing a decrease of 744,573 bushels on the receipts for the same period of 1879. Shipped during the week 191,864 bushels: Total shipments from 1st January to date 825,522 bushels, showing a decrease of 689,435 bushels on the shipments for the same period of 1879. There has been more doing this last week in this grain, altho' after all it does not amount to much, but is sufficient to establish quotations. No. 2 Canada White \$1.22; Toledo Red winter \$1.25 to 1.27; Holders of Canada spring are asking \$1.30 at which prices buyers fight shy. *Maise* is rather firmer but not quotably higher 50 to 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; being still the current rates. *Peas* have advanced and are now quoted 88 to 88 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per 66 lbs. *Oats* the market is steady at an advance of 1¢. on last weeks prices we now quote 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 36. *Rye* is nominally 91 to 92¢. *Barley* is nominal.

GROCERIES.—*Teas.*—The market is very flat and "sick." Teas are offering at very low prices but there is no demand. Buyers are only purchasing from hand to mouth. In the present state of the tea market it is impossible to give quotations as buyers seem to have them pretty much in their own hands. *Coffee.*—About the usual amount of business has been done at prices which favor buyers. Some Old Gov't Java sells as low as 21 to 26¢, while better samples of the same kind bring 27 to 30¢; Maracaibo is steady at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 24¢; Mocha, 29 to 30; Jamaica 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 21. *Sugar.*—Since our last there is an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ all round on refined sugars. A very good demand exists and the market closes firm at the advance. We now quote Paris lumps 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; Granulated, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; Grocers A, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; yellow, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. *Raw Sugars* are not very active but the market is pretty firm at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8¢ for good grocery grades. *Molasses*—Barbadoes firm at 36 to 38¢; Trinidad, 30 to 35¢; Muscovado 28 to 30¢; Porto Rico, 34 to 36¢. *Rice* is in fair request at \$4.00 to 4.25¢. *Spices* have met with the usual jobbing demand at former quotations all kinds of Malaga fruit are scarce and prices of most kinds of raisins have advanced. We quote loose muscatels \$2.50 to 2.60; Layers \$2.25 to 2.30; London Layers, none in the market; Valencias 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8¢; Sultanias 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9¢; Currants are flat at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; Figs 6 to 11¢ for mats and boxes; Tarragona almonds 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 18¢; Filberts 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9¢; Walnuts 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11¢.

HIDES.—There is a quiet business being done in hides at \$10, 9 and 8, but the quantity coming in is small. *Lambskins* have advanced at the beginning of the month to 40¢; *Calfskins* are steady at 13¢.

HARDWARE.—Business in heavy hardware is very unsatisfactory and prices anything but