

now before English makers and merchants, for shipment to United States Atlantic ports, it is believed that a further upward movement will be experienced almost immediately. Already several cargoes have been arranged for delivery at Philadelphia, and negotiations are under way for shipments to New York and Boston.

From the Continent come reports, for the first time in many months, indicating an optimistic tone in Germany and Belgium. While not materially higher, prices are certainly on the up-turn, and, with prospects for a firm business ahead, the indications point to higher prices all round. General market conditions in these countries are also showing signs of improvement, which would have the tendency of creating a demand for iron and steel materials and thus warrant better prices for manufacturers.

Locally, everything points to a decided improvement, not alone in prices but in the volume of business. From all points of the country, good enquiries are being received, and as the market is almost bare of pig-iron, consumers are being compelled to pay advanced prices for prompt delivery. They will, however, without doubt, be called upon to pay considerably higher prices for tonnage which they may need to contract for later on for 1910 delivery. Canadian furnaces are pretty well occupied and for the most part cannot take on additional orders for delivery during the present year. Telegraph and telephone orders are being received by merchants, urging them to make immediate delivery of orders which purchasers were of the opinion they would not require for a considerable time to come.

Notwithstanding the strength of the situation in pig-iron, merchants handling finished and semi-finished iron and steel products fail to find the strength uniform in their markets. For instance, steel plates have been almost easy in tone and it is quite possible that figures quoted some months since might be shaded, even, at the present moment. In bar iron and steel, however, the situation is otherwise, and the mills report that advances are now not far away. This will mean much to the general hardware market which has shown few alterations for some time past. During the past week, there have been advances in nails and spikes, and galvanized iron is a shade higher, chain, also, being quite a little dearer. The market generally is stronger:—

Antimony.—The market is steady at 8 to 8½c.

Bar Iron and Steel.—The market promises to advance shortly. Bar iron, \$1.85 per 100 pounds; best refined horseshoe, \$2.10; forged iron, \$2; mild steel, \$1.85; sleigh shoe steel, \$1.85 for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$1.00 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$1.35; machine steel, iron finish, \$1.90; imported, \$2.20.

Boiler Tubes.—The market is steady, quotations being as follows:—1½ and 2-inch tubes, 8½c.; 2½-inch, 10c.; 3-inch, 11½c.; 3½-inch, 14 1-2c.; 4-inch, 18 1-2c.

Building Paper.—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounces, \$1.80 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; dry sheathing, No. 1, 30 to 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; tarred fibre, 55c. per roll; dry fibre, 45c. (See Roofing; also Tar and Pitch).

Cement.—Canadian cement is quotable, as follows, in car lots, f.o.b. Montreal:—\$1.30 to \$1.40 per 350-lb. bbl., in 4 cotton bags, adding 10c. for each bag. Good bags re-purchased at 10c. each. Paper bags cost 2½ cents extra, or 10c. per bbl. weight.

Chain.—Prices are as follows per 100 lbs.:—¼-inch, \$4.90; 5-16-inch, \$4.40; ¾-inch, \$3.70; 7-16-inch, \$3.50; ½-inch, \$3.25; 9-16-inch, \$3.20; ¾-inch, \$3.15; ¾-inch, \$3.10; ¾-inch, \$3.05; 1-inch, \$3.05.

Coal and Coke.—Anthracite, egg, stove or chestnut coal, \$6.75 per ton, net; furnace coal, \$6.50, net. Bituminous or soft coal: Run of mine, Nova Scotia coal, carload lots, basis, Montreal, \$3.85 to \$4 per ton; cannel coal, \$9 per ton; coke, single ton, \$5; large lots, special rates, approximately \$4 f.o.b., cars, Montreal.

Copper.—Prices are strong at 14 to 14¼c.

Explosives and Accessories.—Dynamite, 50-lb. cases, 40 per cent. proof, 15c. in single case lots, Montreal. Blasting powder, 25-lb. kegs, \$2.25 per keg. Special quotations on large lots of dynamite and powder. Detonator caps, case lots, containing 10,000, 75c. per 100; broken lots, \$1; electric blasting apparatus:—Batteries, 1 to 10 holes, \$15; 1 to 20 holes, \$25; 1 to 30 holes, \$35; 1 to 40 holes, \$50. Wire, leading, 1c. per foot; connecting, 50c. per lb. Fuses, platinum, single strength, per 100 fuses:—4-ft. wires, \$3; 6-ft. wires, \$3.54; 8-ft. wires, \$4.08; 10-ft. wires, \$5. Double strength fuses, 4-ft., \$3.75; 6-ft., \$4.20; 8-ft., \$4.83; 10-ft., \$5.37. Fuses, time, double-tape, \$6 per 1,000 feet; explometers, fuse and circuit, \$7.50 each.

Galvanized Iron.—The market is steady. Prices, basis, 28-gauge, are:—Queen's Head, \$4.10; Colborne Crown, \$3.85; Apollo, 10¼ oz., \$4.05. Add 25c. to above figures for less than case lots; 26-gauge is 25c. less than 28-gauge, American 28-gauge and English 26 are equivalents, as are American 10¼ oz., and English 28-gauge.

Galvanized Pipe.—(See Pipe, Wrought and Galvanized).

Iron.—The outlook is strong. The following prices are for carload quantities and over, free on dock, Montreal, prompt delivery; No. 1 Summerlee, \$20.50 to \$21; selected Summerlee, \$20 to \$20.50; soft Summerlee is \$19.50 to \$20; Clarence, \$18.25 to \$18.50; Midland or Hamilton pig is quoted at \$20 to \$20.50 per ton for No. 1 f.o.b., cars at point of production, No. 2 being \$19.50 to \$20, and No. 3 \$19 to \$19.50 for delivery during the next six months. It is said Dominion and Scotia companies are \$20 quoting prompt delivery. Carron No. 1, \$20.50 to \$21; Carron special, \$20 to \$20.50.

Laths.—See Lumber, etc.

Lead.—Prices are about steady at \$3.55 to \$3.65.

Lead Wool.—\$10.50 per hundred, \$200 per ton, f.o.b., factory.

Lumber, Etc.—Prices on lumber are for car lots, to contractors, at mill points, carrying a freight of \$1.50. Red pine, mill culls out, \$18 to \$22 per 1,000 feet; white pine, mill culls, \$16 to \$17. Spruce, 1-in. by 4-in. and up, \$15 to \$17 per 1,000 ft.; mill culls, \$12 to \$14. Hemlock, log run, culls out, \$13 to \$15. Railway Ties; Standard Railway Ties, hemlock or cedar, 35 to 45c. each, on a 5c. rate to Montreal. Telegraph hemlock or cedar, 35 to 45c. each, on a 5c. rate to Montreal. Telegraph poles: Seven-inch top, cedar poles, 25-ft. poles, \$1.35 to \$1.50 each; 30-ft., \$1.75 to \$2; 35-ft., \$2.75 to \$3.25 each, at manufacturers' points, with 5c. freight rate to Montreal. Laths: Quotations per 1,000 laths, at points carrying \$1.50 freight rate to Montreal, \$2 to \$3. Shingles: Cedar shingles, same conditions as laths, X, \$1.50; XX, \$2.50; XXX, \$3.

Nails.—Demand for nails is better and prices are firmer, \$2.40 per keg for cut, and \$2.35 for wire, base prices. Wire roofing nails, 5c. lb.

Paints.—Roof, barn and fence paint, 90c. per gallon; girder, bridge, and structural paint for steel or iron—shop or field—\$1.20 per gallon, in barrels; liquid red lead in gallon cans, \$1.75 per gallon.

Pipe.—Cast Iron.—The market is unsettled and uncertain, as dealers are compelled to meet competition from all sources. Prices are easy and approximately as follows:—\$31 for 6 and 8-inch pipe and larger; \$32 for 5-inch and 4-inch at the foundry. Pipe, specials, \$3 per 100 pounds. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

Pipe.—Wrought and Galvanized.—Demand is much better and the tone is firm, though prices are steady, moderate-sized lots being: ¼-inch, \$5.50 with 63 per cent. off for black, and 48 per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$5.50, with 59 per cent. off for black and 44 per cent. off for galvanized; 1½-inch, \$8.50, with 69 per cent. off for black, and 59 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 72½ per cent. off for black, and 62½ per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$11.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1¼-inch, \$22.50; 1½-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; 2½-inch, \$57.50; 3-inch, \$75.50; 3½-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

Plates and Sheets.—Steel.—The market is steady. Quotations are: \$2.20 for 3-16; \$2.30 for ¼, and \$2.10 for ½ and thicker; 12-gauge being \$2.30; 4-gauge, \$2.15; and 16-gauge, \$2.10.

Rails.—Quotations on steel rails are necessarily only approximate and depend upon specification, quantity and delivery required. A range of \$30.50 to \$31 is given for 60-lb. and 70-lb.; 80-lb. and heavier, being \$30; rails, per gross ton of 2,240 lbs., f.o.b. mill. Re-laying rails are quoted at \$27 to \$29 per ton, according to condition of rail and location.

Railway Ties.—See lumber, etc.

Roofing.—Ready roofing, two-ply, 70c. per roll; three-ply, 95c. per roll of 100 square feet. Roofing tin caps, 6c. lb.; wire roofing nails, 5c. lb. (See Building Paper; Tar and Pitch; Nails, Roofing).

Rope.—Prices are steady, at 9c. per lb. for sisal, and 10½c. for Manila. Wire rope, crucible steel, six-strands, nineteen wires; ¼-in., \$2.75; 5-16, \$3.75; ¾, \$4.75; ¾, \$5.25; ¾, \$6.25; ¾, \$8; ¾, \$10; 1-in., \$12 per 100 feet.

Spikes.—Railway spikes are firmer at \$2.45 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at \$2.85 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 10-inch, and 5½ x 12-inch.

Steel Shafting.—Prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is on the dull side.

Telegraph Poles.—See lumber, etc.

Tar and Pitch.—Coal tar, \$3.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing about 500 pounds; roofing pitch, No. 1, 70c. per 100 pounds; and No. 2, 55c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$8.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, and \$4.75 per half-barrel; refined coal tar, \$4.50 per barrel; pine pitch, \$4 per barrel of 180 to 200 pounds. (See building paper; also roofing).

Tin.—Prices are unchanged, at 32½ to 33c.

Zinc.—The tone is steady, at 6 to 6¼c.

* * * *

Toronto, November 4th, 1909.

An increased activity is observable in many departments of business, and as a rule the trend of prices is upward. In iron and steel goods, since the recent difference between producers of these in Britain and the States, the market is on the rise, and from reliable information the price at point of production has already advanced. Higher prices may be looked for here in sheets, and it might be well to book requirements now.

In building materials, lumber is steady, brick firm and active, cement unchanged from former quotations. Roofing felt is active, building paper quiet, pitch and tar normal, all without change of quotation. The Manitoba and Western demand for these goods is much brisker than that in Ontario.

The following are wholesale prices for Toronto, where not otherwise explained, although for broken quantities higher prices are quoted:—

Antimony.—Demand active and price higher at \$9.25 per 100 lbs.

Axes.—Standard makes, double bitted, \$8 to \$10; single bitted, per dozen, \$7 to \$9.

Bar Iron.—\$1.95 to \$2, base, per 100 lbs., from stock to wholesale dealer. Market well supplied.

Boiler Plates.—¾-inch and heavier, \$2.20. Boiler heads 25c. per 100 pounds advance on plate. Tank plate, 3-16-inch, \$2.40 per 100 lbs.

Boiler Tubes.—Orders continue active. Lap-welded, steel, 1¼-inch, 10c.; 1½-inch, 9c. per foot; 2-inch, \$8.50; 2½-inch, \$10; 2¾-inch, \$10.60; 3-inch, \$12.10; 3½-inch, \$15; 4-inch, \$18.50 to \$19 per 100 feet.

Building Paper.—Plain, 30c. per roll; tarred, 40c. per roll. Demand is only moderate.

Bricks.—Business is very active, price at some yards \$9 to \$9.50, at others, \$9.50 to \$10 for common. Don Valley pressed brick move also freely. Red and buff pressed are worth \$18 delivered and \$17 at works per 1,000.

Broken Stone.—Lime stone, good hard, for roadways or concrete, f.o.b., Schaw station, C.P.R., 60c. per ton of 2,000 lbs., 1-inch, 2-inch, or larger, price all the same. The supply is excessive; hence the lowered price. Broken granite is selling at \$3 per ton for good Oshawa.

Cement.—Manufacturers' prices for Portland cement are \$1.35 without bags, or \$1.65 including cotton bags for car lots on board car, Fort William or Port Arthur; the price at Toronto is \$1.30 without bags, or \$1.70 with bags. Smaller dealers get \$1.35 to \$1.40 per barrel without bags, in load lots, delivered in town. Demand is fairly steady.

Coal.—Retail price for Pennsylvania hard, \$6.75 net, steady. This price applies to grate, egg, stove, and chestnut; only pea coal is cheaper, namely, \$5.75. These are all cash, and the quantity purchased does not affect the price. Soft coal is in good supply, American brokers have been covering the ground very fully. In the United States there is an open market for bituminous coal and a great number of qualities exist. We quote. Youghiogheny lump coal on cars here, \$3.70 to \$3.80; mine run, \$3.60 to \$3.75; slack, \$2.65 to \$2.85; lump coal from other districts, \$3.40 to \$3.70; mine run 10c. less; slack, \$2.50 to \$2.70; cannel coal plentiful at \$7.50 per ton; coke, Solvay foundry, which is largely used here, quotes at from \$5.25 to \$5.50; Reynoldsville, \$4.50 to \$4.75; Connellsville, 72-hour coke \$5.25 to \$5.50.