

## Market Reports.

### MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

THURSDAY, 31st May, 1883.

The Spring trade is virtually over, and the volume of business in most branches falls short of expectations, if not of previous seasons also. The markets have generally remained quiet and steady, since last Thursday, with few changes in values, but the continued cold and wet weather imparts a dull and gloomy feeling throughout all branches of trade. May has been an unsatisfactory month to all classes; the farmers have been unable to make headway with seeding, and great anxiety is felt over the condition of the growing Canadian wheat crop, regarding which recent advices from some sections are quite unfavorable. Remittances continue fairly satisfactory. There is comparatively little demand for money, rates for which remain easy and unchanged, and stocks remain inactive, with some alteration in values. The tendency is downward, and Bank of Montreal sold to-day at 196½ to 197 ex-div. against 198 last Monday, and 211½ ex-div a year ago. Merchants' has dropped 1 per cent. this week, now selling at 121¼; Commerce is 2 per cent. lower than last week; Ontario 1½ p. c. lower, Toronto has fallen 2 p. c., City Gas 1½, Richelieu 1, and City Passenger shows a drop of 5 per cent. to-day and of 8 per cent. this week. See table on another page.

**ASHES.**—Receipts fair, but much less than for first three weeks of May. Sales were made down to \$4.90 for light tares, but have rallied to \$5.00 to \$5.10 for light to good tares. Seconds \$4.60. Thirds none offering. Receipts have been fully equal to export demand, and stock is liberal. *Pearls*, a few small lots of last winter's stock have been sold on p.t., and a few barrels lately received, sold at \$7.15 to \$7.25. A lot of 54 barrels Seconds recently inspected are not yet sold. We repeat our advice to makers of Pearls, to be cautious, as the demand is steadily dying out. Receipts since 1st January, 3,263 barrels Pots, 125 barrels Pearls. Deliveries 2,155 barrels Pots, 135 barrels Pearls. Stock in store at 9 a.m. on 31st May, 1,423 barrels Pots, 82 barrels Pearls.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—The backwardness of Spring weather has interfered with the sorting-up trade, which with some houses has not been as large as last year, and not much new business will be done until the orders for Fall goods commence to come forward freely. Some travellers may be already out with Fall samples, but the oldest houses in the trade do not send out representatives until the beginning of June, quite early enough for all purposes of the retail trade and for the best interests of the wholesale department. Manufacturers are now chiefly engaged on staple goods for the Fall trade, and the market assumes the usual quiet aspect between seasons. Payments reported fair.

**BUTTER.**—The local Butter market is dull and weak, receipts being in excess of the consumptive demand; and owing to the declining English markets there is no business to be done yet with shippers. The price of butter in Liverpool has dropped about 33s per cwt. during the month, equal to about 6½c per lb. in Canadian currency; and the local market is now quoted about 5c per lb. higher than Liverpool.

Eastern Township butter will not bring over 22c here, and shippers refuse to pay over 18c for even sample lots. Good to fine butter in this market is worth 20c to 22c, and Western is arriving more freely and selling at 18c to 20c as to quality. Old butter is still in demand at low prices. *Cheese* is reported nominal, at 10c to 11c, but a somewhat firmer feeling is noticeable the last two days, and sales are reported of lots of 300 to 500 boxes each at 11c to 11½c for finest white cheese; colored lots bring 11c, which is also the price said to have been paid in the country. Buyers are looking for lower prices, and consequently few large sales have occurred. Advices from Belleville district state that most of the make had been sold up to May 19th, while many factories in the French districts have placed their make up to the 20th inst. The New York market remains firm and the Liverpool cable is steady at 65s per cwt. At Ingersoll this week 25 factories offered 4,930 boxes cheese, May make; 2450 boxes sold; 2010 boxes being last half and last 10 days May make at 10½c; 440 boxes for immediate shipment at 11c. Eight buyers present. Cable 65s. At Little Falls, 28th May—5,000 boxes sold, 2,500 at 11½c, 2,000 at 11c, 500 at 12c. Market feeling depressed and weak. At Utica, 28th May—6,700 boxes sold at 11½c to 12c for small; ruling price 11½c, 1,100 boxes consigned.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—The amount of business doing is only moderate, locally the demand is on the quiet side, but country orders come in pretty freely. We have no changes to report in prices, which are on the whole pretty firm. The English markets are rather weak, and lower prices are looked for. *Bleaching Powder* has been rather uncertain, and sales have been made at £5 12s. 6d. The lowest offering at last date was £5 15s.

**DRY GOODS.**—The lull usually felt in this branch about the 1st June is beginning to be apparent. A very light sorting-up business is being done; Spring stocks not having been sold to any extent yet, country merchants do not require to sort up much, and are consequently buying very cautiously. Some leading importers, however, report the volume of Spring business about as large as for the like period last year, but May has not proved a good month for either retailers or wholesalers. Travellers for some houses are out with Fall samples of tweeds and woollens, including blankets, shirts and drawers, etc., and are doing fairly well thus far. Payments generally satisfactory, though complaints are heard from some quarters. The alternately wet weather of the past week has of course not been favorable to any improvement in the city retail trade.

**FLOUR AND GRAIN.**—Breadstuffs markets, foreign and local, have ruled quiet but firm during the week. There has been little business doing in either England or America. To-day Liverpool is cabled quiet but steady. Chicago was rather easier but unchanged, while New York is wired 1c lower to-day for wheat. Imports in the United Kingdom show an increase during the week of 135,000 barrels flour, 15,000 qrs. wheat and 80,000 qrs. corn. In the local market a cargo of Red Winter Wheat was reported sold yesterday at \$1.20; other kinds quiet and steady. A few car lots of oats have been sold along the line at 38c per 32 lbs, and several cars of rye have been placed at prices equal to our quotations for spot; values for coarse grain same as last week. The Flour market has ruled dull all week; buyers are cautious, owing to the weak aspect of outside markets. An exceptional transaction of 1,500 brls. very choice Superior at \$5.15, occurred this week; Superiors generally are difficult to move at \$5.07½. The daily receipts have been liberal, and stocks are accumulating.

**FRUITS.**—Trade good, the principal business being still in *Lemons* and *Oranges*. Lemons are in good demand, at \$3.50 to \$4 per box and \$5 per case; receipts have been large. *Oranges* are slow of sale at a considerable advance; in "landing condition" selling at \$7.50 to \$8 per case, and re-packed fruit is worth \$9. *Apples* continue dull; common stock, \$3 to \$4 and good fruit worth \$4.50 to \$5 per brl. *Bananas*—market glutted, and being worked off at \$1.50 to \$2.50 per bunch, as to size and condition. *Strawberries*—Receipts of Southern berries light and sales generally at 25c per quart. *Cocoanuts* \$5.50 per hundred; slow of sale. *Pineapples* in fair demand at \$2.25 to \$2.50 per dozen.

**FREIGHTS.**—Grain freights quiet, and quoted at 2s 9½ to Glasgow, and 2s 6d to Liverpool; 3s 6d to London, and 4s to Bristol. No charters taken.

**GROCERIES.**—*Sugars* remain about as last week, operations are moderate. *Teas*.—The auction sale of the 30th instant, Messrs. J. Duncan & Co., attracted a good audience. Hysons sold low, as also Imperials, Gunpowders and most of the Young Hysons Japans brought tolerably fair prices. At private sale business is quiet, and values are nominally without noteworthy alteration. *Molasses* steady for Barbadoes. *Syrups* quiet. *Coffee*.—Business not active, values for Mocha, Java, and most other kinds continue with very slight alterations. Stock of Rio appears to accumulate largely in Brazil. *Rice*.—Market shows firmness but no advance further. *Spices*.—Pepper firm, also Nutmegs and the lower kinds of Ginger. Trade not heavy. *Fruits*.—Valentias continue easy and Nalaga Raisins dull and drooping. Currants hold price fairly. Figs not plenty. Prunes no change. Nuts and Almonds, a quiet market.

**HARDWARE AND IRON.**—In general hardware business is quiet, some leading houses reporting orders smaller and less numerous than at the like period last year. Remittances fairly good; and no essential change in quotations. The month's business is reported light in both retail and wholesale departments. *Bar Iron* quiet at \$1.90 to \$2, as to size of lot, and the market rules steady and quiet for *Tin Plates*, *Copper*, *Tin*, *Nails*, etc., while for *Pig Iron* it may be written easier, with a downward tendency in values; travellers out report that consumers are pretty well supplied yet, and not being compelled to buy are holding off for lower figures. Business thus far has been chiefly in small lots of from 25 to 50 tons each at about \$21 to \$21.25 for Summerlee and Gartsherrie, \$20 to \$20.25 for Carnbroe, \$21.50 for Calder and \$18.50 to \$19 for Eglington. See our "prices current" on another page.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—Market continues quiet and steady at unchanged values; native *Hides* are rather scarce, but the enquiry is not sufficiently keen in the face of such a quiet, easy leather market to enhance prices. Western States hides have advanced about ¾c per lb. in sympathy with the Chicago market, and are now selling here in car lots at 9½c to 10c for No. 1 Bull. The Boston market is reported dull, but still quoted higher than this market. There is no change to note in *Sheepskins* or *Catskins*, since last week.

**LEATHER.**—Another quiet week appears to have been passed in the "swamp" on Lemoine and St. Helen sts., by the leather fraternity. The chief feature this week seems to be the reported failure of a well-known shoe manufacturer, who has allowed several notes to go to protest and caused some little consternation among the creditors who number several leading leather firms in the city. Particulars may be seen elsewhere in this issue. The market rules quiet, with prices easy and unchanged.