

## THE PRODUCE MARKET.

**T**his week has again been marked by the general fluctuation prevailing for some time back. Except in the single item of Potatoes, British advances show no additional inducements in any department. The local trade partakes of a retail character, and the very unsatisfactory experience of the past season's operations, added to the general indolence of future prospects, together with continued financial stringency, effectually check speculation for future deliveries; and transactions in almost everything are restricted to actual wants.

**FLOUR.**—Receipts in the first half of the week fell off considerably, and the declining tendency was, for the time arrested, but latterly, they have been in excess of requirements, and the market is again weak at a decline of five to ten cents on super, especially the less desirable brands; \$4.20 to \$4.25 may be considered the range for ordinary; and \$4.25 to \$4.30 for best strong samples. Fancy and Extra, though less enquired for, have maintained their value, owing to scarcity. The few sales of Fancy have been at about \$4.60, and of Extra, about \$4.70. The lower grades still find buyers for all the offerings at nominally unchanged rates. *Bag Flour* has been so sparingly supplied from all quarters, as barely to meet the limited demand, and prices have been well maintained. Best samples continue at \$2.32½ to \$2.37½; and ordinary \$2.25 to \$2.30.

**WHEAT.**—We have no change to note either in receipts or prices. The few cars coming forward are still direct to millers for consumption, and are not placed on the market. Prices continue nominal at 95c. to 97c. for U. C. Spring.

**BARLEY** has been in slightly improved demand; we note transactions at 70c. per 50 lbs.

**OATS** are nominal, at unchanged rates.

**PEASE.**—In the absence of transactions prices are nominal.

**PORK.**—The demand is limited to the merest retail, stock being, for the most part, in the hands of large dealers. The receipts being very trifling, there are no wholesale transactions to note. Prices are firm, as last quoted.

**DRESSED HOGS.**—Arrivals are light, and the feeling gaining ground that the quantity in Canada West, available for shipment to this market, is but limited; all that come in are readily taken at full prices. The dealers and ham curers are still short of their supplies, and prices are the turn upwards. We quote average of 175 to 200 lbs. \$7.10 to \$7.25 and upwards, according to weight, quality, &c.

**BUTTER.**—With a continuance of heavy arrivals, stocks have accumulated, and in the absence of any demand, either local or foreign, some parcels have been forced off at low prices. The fluctuations in gold in the States have postponed the demand which was expected from thence, and stocks are ascertained to be heavier than was anticipated. Still, with three months before us, during which consumption will be entirely thrown upon existing supplies, holders for the most part are firm, and disposed to await a demand, which they feel pretty confident must arise ere long.

The very exceptional experience of last year, of the scarcity and consequent rise in price of Butter in February and March, has induced many holders in the West to fall into the grave error of holding back a large portion of their stocks until the winter; hence the quantity now on hand is considerable. Another, and still graver error committed by the makers has been, that stimulated by the active competition in the early part of the season, when anything bearing the name of Butter was eagerly caught up, quantity, not quality, was the motto of every dairy. Medium has consequently been in over stock and dragging in sale, disappointing all parties handling it, and often entailing loss on the owners.

Many complaints have been made in Britain of the irregularity in quality of Canadian Butter, and serious loss sustained in more than one instance on purchases made here on British account, through the lots being thrown on the shipper's hands. It is to be hoped that in the coming season more care will be taken both in manufacturing and selecting, that Canadian Butter may keep its value in the British markets, where its reputation and consequently its price are being increasingly lowered, as compared with the product of other countries.

By a careful discrimination of quality in purchasing and packing, country merchants have it in their power to raise the value of this important branch of trade on

an average of a couple of cents per lb. the whole of which at present is lost to the country.

**ASHES.**—*Pots*, owing to an advance in Britain, have met an active competition within the last few days, and prices have improved, now standing at \$5.45 for ordinary bills, while rather more is given for heavy tares. Inferiors are wanted, and command \$5.60 to \$5.65 less the customary deductions. *Pearls* have not been materially affected, they are however in improved demand; at a slight advance we quote \$5.45 to \$5.50. The practice still obtaining in Britain of deducting one-eighth of the gross weight as tare, causes shippers to discriminate between light and heavy casks; manufacturers should therefore see that their barrels are strong, well hooped, and heavy, else they are liable to loss in the matter of price. The average of Potash barrels should weigh 80 to 90 lbs. when well seasoned, and Pearl Ash about 70 lbs, and in all cases be of the legal dimensions, viz.: 20 to 22 inches diameter of head, and 3½ to 32 length of stave.

## The Flax Market.

—The market is dull, owing to the decline in gold. Prices for fibre are ranging from 10c. to 12c.; only choice lots command the latter figure. Flax seed is selling at \$1.30 to \$1.40 per 50 lbs. There is no demand here for tow.

## PROVISIONS.

**W**e have some changes to note in this market since our last issue.

**BUTTER.**—Holders of this important article of consumption are feeling uncomfortable with anything like heavy stocks, as every week lessens the chances of making money. Some few lots have been shipped to the States, with the view of forcing sales. It requires to be really choice to bring quotations. Medium and inferior qualities are difficult of sale. The market is dull, and prices in a great measure nominal.

Choice... 19 to 10½c.  
Medium... 17 to 18

**PORK.**—Not much animation. During the week there have been sales to the extent of our Mess, at \$19.75, and smaller lots of uninspected have brought \$19.60.

Mess... \$20.00  
Thin Mess... 18.50  
Prime do... 17.00  
Prime... 15.50  
Cargo... 14.00

**DRESSED HOGS.**—The demand for this product has materially fallen off. We have heard of sales to the extent of 1000, during the week, at \$7 to \$7.15 per 100 lbs., for the Eastern market. Receipts have also decreased. Market quiet.

Quotations, per 100 lbs.—  
150 to 200 lbs... \$5.75 to 7.00  
200 to 300 " 7.00 to 7.50

**LARD.**—The demand for the best qualities keeps up with the supply, and all that comes finds a ready market.

Western in Tierces... 10½ to 11c.  
City rendered in Tins... 10 to 10½c.

## KIRKWOOD, LIVINGSTONE &amp; CO.'S PRODUCE AND LEATHER PRICES CURRENT.

No. 23 ST. NICHOLAS STREET, MONTREAL,  
3rd February, 1865.

**FLOUR.**—We have again to note another dull week, the demand having been restricted principally to the wants of our local dealers. Extras are scarce, and continue in good demand for shipment to Great Britain. *Bag Flour* is also wanted, and would command from \$2.37½ to \$2.42½ for 112 lbs.

Superior extra... \$4.80 to \$5.00 per brl.  
Extra... 4.65 to 4.75 "  
Fancy... 4.40 to 4.45 "  
Superfine No. 1... 4.25 to 4.35 "  
Superfine No. 2... 4.00 to 4.10 "  
Fine... 3.75 to 3.85 "  
Middlings... 3.30 to 3.45 "  
Pollards... 2.90 to 3.10 "

**WHEAT.**—Receipts continue light, and almost exclusively on account of millers. Prices nominal at 97c. to \$1 per 60 lbs. Coarse Grains are in improved demand for shipment to the United States at our quotations.

Barley... 65 to 70c. per 50 lbs.  
Peas... 77½ to 80c. " 66 "  
Oats... 34 to 35c. " 32 "

## PROVISIONS.

**Pork** is without change; our last week's prices have been fully maintained. Beef nothing doing and prices nominal. Hams, dull, and selling slowly at last week's quotations. Lard, in fair demand. Tallow is selling in small parcels at our quotations. In Butter we have to note another week of dullness, the only

enquiry being for very choice Dairy which is scarce and wanted. Dressed Hogs have continued in active demand during the week, in one instance as high as \$7.60 per 100 lbs. was paid for a lot of heavy weight.

Pork, per brl. of 200 lbs.

Mess... \$19.25 to \$19.75  
Prime Mess... \$15 to \$19  
Prime... \$11 to \$15.

Butter per lb.

Choice Dairy... 19c. to 10½ cts  
Medium do... 17½c. to 18 cts  
Store packed... 15c. to 16½ cts  
Lard... 10½c. to 11 cts p. lb.  
Tallow... 7½c. to 8 cts p. lb.  
Dressed Hogs... \$7.10 to \$7.25 per 100 lbs.  
Cheese, good Dairy... 9c to 10 cts. per lb.  
Hams, Canned & Sugar

cured... 11c. to 12 cts. p. lb.

Plain uncured... 10c. to 11 cts. p. lb.

**ASHES.**—Have been in very active demand during the week. *Pots* having sold as high as \$5.60 to \$5.65, and \$5.57½; but we note now a less active market with prices slightly lower, the highest price paid to-day being \$5.62½ for very good tares.

*Pots*, 1st sort... \$5.45 to \$5.60 per 100 lbs.

Inferiors... \$5.65 to \$5.70 " "

*Pearls*... \$5.60 to \$5.65 " "

**PETROLEUM.**—Sales continue of a retail character, and we notice no change in prices, say 23 to 33 cts. for Canada Refined.

**LEATHER.**—The market for almost every description still remains in a very dull state, and prices are more or less nominal. Slaughter Sole of prime quality, the only description enquired for is scarce, and commands a ready sale at 18½ to 19c. for No. 1, and 16½ to 17c. for No. 2.

Yours, respectfully,  
KIRKWOOD, LIVINGSTONE & CO.

## AKIN &amp; KIRKPATRICK'S MONTREAL PRICE CURRENT.

Thursday Evening, Feb. 2, 1865.

**FLOUR.**—Superior Extra... \$4.75 to \$5.00  
Extra... 4.60 to 4.70  
Fancy... 4.40 to 4.50  
Superfine... 4.20 to 4.30  
Superfine No. 2... 3.95 to 4.00  
Fluo... 3.60 to 3.70  
**BAG FLOUR.**—per 112 lbs. Medium... 2.25 to 2.30  
Choice and Strong... 2.20 to 2.40  
**OATMEAL.**—per bbl. of 200 lbs... 4.75 to 5.00  
**WHEAT.**—per 60 lbs. U. C. Spring... 0.85 to 0.97  
U. C. White Winter... 0.80 to 0.90  
**PEASE.**—per 60 lbs... 0.65 to 0.70  
**BARLEY.**—per 48 lbs... 0.70 to 0.75  
**OATS.**—per 32 lbs... 0.00 to 0.00  
**PORK.**—Mess... 19.00 to 19.75  
Prime Mess... 15.00 to 15.50  
Prime... 14.00 to 14.50  
**DRESSED HOGS.**—Per 100 lbs... 7.00 to 7.75  
**LARD.**... 0.10 to 0.11  
**TALLOW.**—per lb... 0.08 to 0.00  
**BUTTER.**—Inferior... 0.15 to 0.16  
Medium... 0.16 to 0.17  
Choice... 0.18 to 0.19  
**CHEESE.**—per lb... 0.08 to 0.10  
**ASHES.**—per 100 lbs. *Pots*—1st sort... 5.45 to 5.47½  
" Inferiors... 5.55 to 5.60  
*Pearls*... 5.60 to 5.65  
" Inferiors... 5.60

**FLOUR.**—With receipts latterly somewhat in excess of the demand, prices of superfine are slightly easier. \$4.20 to \$4.30 may be considered the range, the latter for favorable brands of choice. Fancy and Extra are in diminished request, but unaffected in value, owing to partial scarcity. Lower grades in small supply and readily absorbed by the retail trade. *Bag Flour.*—The supply is barely adequate to the demand, and former prices are well maintained. Were the heavy shipments on the way to come forward, the market would be over-stocked, and prices likely depressed.

**WHEAT.**—Arrivals small, and still mostly direct to millers, quotations nominal and unchanged.

**BARLEY** in rather better demand at a slight advance.

**PEASE.**—Prices nominal in the absence of transactions.

**PORK.**—The receipts and stock are light, and in the absence of wholesale demand, prices remain firm and unchanged.

**DRESSED HOGS.**—With arrivals scarcely equal to the requirements of the local trade, prices are slightly tending upwards; desirable parcels being readily taken on arrival by provision curers, to complete their supply of Bacon and Hams for the summer.

**BUTTER.**—Strictly choice alone commands any attention. Medium, however good, is unsaleable for export to Britain, the demand continuing to be confined solely to the best qualities. Ordinary and Fair are in over-stock, and, with the exception of one or two forced sales at low prices, there have been no transactions to note.

Country merchants would study their interests were they to exercise a rigid discrimination in all the butter they purchase. Their present system of paying for all qualities the same, or nearly the same figure, is fraught with incalculable injury to the trade, in general, as well as to themselves.

Canadian Butter, for want of a better classification, is acquiring a bad character in Britain, and its value proportionately depreciated.

**ASHES.**—*Pots* have improved both in demand and price, owing to a rise in the British markets, which has caused some little speculation and anxiety to secure desirable parcels, amongst shippers. *Pearls* are also slightly improved, and both kinds close firm at our quotations.

AKIN & KIRKPATRICK,  
Produce Commission Merchants, Montreal