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MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Dec. 23, 1902.

Ashes.—The receipts for the past two or three weeks have been practically nil, and there has also been an absence of demand. Last transactions in No. 1 pots were at \$4.30 to \$4.35; seconds at \$3.65 to \$3.70, and pearls are quoted at \$6 to \$6.10.

Cements and Firebricks.—Business is of an entirely holiday character, but prices are steady at quotations as follows: Belgian, \$1.95 to \$2.10 for standard brands; English, \$2.25 to \$2.30; German, \$2.30 to \$2.45; firebricks, \$22 to \$25.

Dairy Produce.—Considering the season the cheese market is fairly active, and there is quite a strong undertone shown, owing to reported quite moderate stocks in England, with local supplies also in moderate compass, so that some holders predict still firmer prices. For finest makes from 12¼ to 12½c. is the general quotation, with the outside figure declined in some cases. A good demand is reported for butter, and strictly choice creamery is said to bring 23c. in small packages, for general run 21 to 22½c. is quoted. Good dairy is quoted at 17½ to 18c.

Dry Goods.—Some fair number of letter orders are reported for sorting Christmas trade, but travellers are nearly all at home, and the wholesale warehouses are comparatively quiet. The large departmental and dry goods stores report good sales, and both city and country collections are satisfactory in character.

Furs.—Nothing specially new is reported in this line, and we continue to quote for prime skins as follows: Beaver, large, \$5.50 to \$6.50; medium ditto, \$4 to \$4.75; choice black bear, large, \$17.50; medium, \$13; small, \$6.50; fisher, \$5 to \$6 for fine dark skins; red fox, \$2.25 to \$4, as to quality and size; silver fox, \$100 to \$200; cross fox, \$5 to \$7; wolverine, \$2.50 to \$5; lynx \$5 to \$9; marten, \$3 to \$7; mink, \$2 to \$4.50; winter rats, 10 to 15c.; fall ditto, 8 to 11c.; otter, \$18 for dark pelts, ranging down to \$8; coon, black No. 1, \$1.50 to \$2.50 as to size; ordinary dark, \$1 to \$1.75; skunk, \$1.50 for all black, other kinds, 20c. to \$1.10.

Hides.—Owing to some accumulation of stock, and a generally weak market, prices of beef hides have declined half a cent, and dealers are now buying on the basis of 7½c. for No. 1. Lambskins continue at 65c. each.

Groceries.—The scarcity in California raisins has been relieved by receipt of fair supplies, which have been long delayed en route, and which are being jobbed on the basis of 8c. for three crown. California prunes are still scarce, especially the larger sizes. Malagas are well sold out, with no further supplies of consequence available at primary points, and valencias are getting low in stock, but currants are still fairly plentiful, also sultanas. Evaporated apples are easier at 6¼ to 6½c., with dried at 4 to 4½c.; gallon apples about \$2, but may be firmer as good export demand is anticipated. Sugars are very dull on spot at moment, and no

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