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MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, FEB. 4th, 1891.

ASHES.—The demand is slackening, and to make sales in Britain concessions have to be made. Receipts for January have been very fair, in fact twice as large as for January, '90, but the total is only 190 barrels. First quality pots are now quoted at \$5.00 to 5.10; seconds \$4.25 at the outside. Of pearls only two barrels have been received this year, and they sold at about \$6.00.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The factories are all fairly busy, and will shortly commence shipments of spring goods. Although leather men report more frequent orders, shoe men are apparently buying just as actual wants arise.

CEMENTS, &c.—Very little demand for cement, but prices firmly held, and nothing under \$2.75 would buy best English brands in a small way. Belgian might be had at \$2.50. Firebricks are in pretty free request, the season for repairs to furnaces, &c., being now on, and supplies are running low; a few common can be had at \$22.50, but desirable brands are firm at 25 to \$30 per M.

DRY GOODS.—Despite recent disturbing events in this line, two of the leading houses consulted report spring sales to date decidedly ahead of last year, though in certain sections, particularly of this province, trade is complained of as flat. Remittances are still very poor, although one house reports January collections ahead of January, 1890. Little is new in prices, except that grass linens, dressed Holland and French canvas are from 3d to a farthing advanced in Belfast.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Trade in these lines, which has been very quiet during January, has shown considerable improvement since last writing, and the movement is now a very fair one. Cream tartar has taken an upward movement, and we advance quotations slightly; tartaric and citric acids are also firmer; sulphate of copper has been dull and easier; opium weak, also morphia; glycerine is weaker through over-competition and can be bought at lower figures. We quote:—Sal soda, \$1.15 to 1.25; bicarb soda, \$2.50 to 2.60; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$2.00; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 8 to 10c.; cream tartar crystals, 27 to 28c.; do. ground, 29 to 31c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 46 to 48c.; do. powder, 48 to 50c.; citric acid, 55 to 60c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.50 to 2.75; sugar of lead, 10 to 12c.; bleaching powder, \$2.25 to 2.40; alum, \$1.75 to 2.00; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.25 to

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