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Commercial.

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 bar-  
rels 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 ship-  
ments of spring goods. Although leather men  
report more frequent orders, shoe men are ap-  
parently buying just as actual wants arise.

**CEMENTS, &c.**—Very little demand for ce-  
ment, 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 com-  
mon 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 com-  
plained of as flat. Remittances are still very  
poor, although one house reports January col-  
lections ahead of January, 1890. Little is new  
in prices, except that grass linens, dressed  
Holland and French canvas are from 1/2d 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 slight-  
ly; tartaric and citric acids are also firmer;  
sulphate of copper has been dull and easier;  
opium weak, also morphia; glycerine is weak-  
er 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.,  
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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