

ranging from \$3.25 to 3.40; seconds, \$3 to 3.15; pearls, \$4.75 to 4.80 per cental.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—The boot and shoe factories of the city are not running very actively just now, a good many of the French Canadian operatives being engaged in keeping their usual lengthy holiday, which extends till after Epiphany, or old Christmas. The season's trade with retailers has been a moderate one and accounts from the country go to show that good remittances may be looked for, and probably an active spring trade—but that is a little far to look ahead. Prices of leather are firmly maintained.

**CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.**—There is next to nothing doing in these lines at present, and quotations are entirely without change. We quote British cements at \$2.10 to 2.20, Belgian, \$1.95 to 2.05; firebricks, \$17 to 22 per thousand.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—There is no export business in butter at the moment, but for best grades there is a steady local consumptive demand. We quote fine creamery 18½ to 19¼c., fine dairy 15 to 17c., roll butter 15 to 15½c. The cheese market is showing some little gain in firmness. The English market is quiet at the moment, but improved demand is looked for after the holidays, and local holders are evincing stronger views. Fine makes may be quoted at 8½ to 8¾c. For eggs there is good enquiry; really fresh stock is scarce. We quote selected boiling stock 18 to 19c., limes 13½ to 15c., No. 1 candled 13 to 14c.

**FURS.**—Receipts of raw furs show some increase with the advent of snow and colder weather. In quotations there are no further changes. The great London January sales of the Hudson Bay Co., and Lampson & Co. began on the 23rd prox., and already some Canadian buyers have left for the other side. We quote:—Mink, large dark, \$1.50; small, do., \$1.00; marten, \$1.50 to 2.00; fisher, \$4.00 to 6.00; lynx, \$1.00 to 2.00; otter, \$1.00 to 12.00 for dark; pale, \$5.00 to 7.00; red fox, large, \$1.30 to 1.40; small, \$1.00; cross fox, \$3.00 to 6.00; bear, cubs, \$3.00 to 7.00; medium, \$7.00 to

10.00; large, \$12.00 to 15.00; skunk, 15 to 70c., as to color and stripe; coon, 20 to 75c.; rats, fall, 7c. to 10c. kits, 2 to 5c. Beaver, not quoted, killing being forbidden by law.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	Dec. 20, 1897.	Dec. 27, 1897.
Wheat, bushels.....	102,401	334,329
Corn, ".....	64,241	64,421
Oats, ".....	379,553	413,664
Rye, ".....	88,140	46,053
Peas, ".....	111,816	141,572
Barley, ".....	33,907	33,282
Total grain.....	730,058	1,031,321
Oatmeal.....	218	285
Flour.....	12,636	
Buckwheat.....	27,017	34,827

**GROCERIES.**—The sugar market has developed further strength, and refiners have established another advance of an eighth of a cent since last writing. This now makes the factory price for round lots of standard granulated 4¾c., while the lowest figure in yellows is now 3¾c., ranging up to 4c. The outside markets for raws keep advancing, and it is deemed not at all unlikely that some additional advance may be established in the near future; quotations for raw beet have advanced 4½d. within a few days, and in New York 4½ is quoted for centrifugals. It seems to be generally recognized that there is a very light supply of molasses on spot, a state of affairs reported as likely by us a couple of months ago, and prices are steadily going

up. Barbadoes in quantity is now held at 28c., and the jobbing price is expected to be advanced to 30c. any day. A sale of 300 puncheons of Porto Rico was reported a few days ago at 26c., and a lot of Antigua is now held at 22c. Teas continue singularly quiet as regards demand, but there is no weakening in prices. The excitement in canned goods continues; the general asking price for tomatoes in quantity is now \$1.15, and one house claims to have obtained \$1.25 for a round lot. Salmon, which has ruled low, is also said to be showing some signs of improving values.

**HIDES AND TALLOW.**—A good deal of slaughtering of beeves is now being done in the country, and receipts of hides from this source are a good deal larger than usual; in city supplies there has been some falling off. The advance is maintained, the general paying price for No. 1 being 9c. per lb., though 9½c. is reported as being paid in some cases. Quotations to tanners range from 9½ to 10c. Lambskins are quoted at 90c.; of calfskins there are none coming in. Tallow is, if anything weaker; 3 to 3½c. is the nominal quotation for rendered, but some cutting is reported, and it is said offers have been made below the above inside figure.

**HOPS.**—Business is quiet, and only occasional sales of moderate lots are reported. Choice Canadians range from 12½ to 15c.; yearlings slow of sale at 6 to 8c. per lb.

**LEATHER.**—The shoe men are holding off buying just at present, many of their hands being holidaying for a week or two. Conse-

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