

THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

THE weather has been considerably broken, and, navigation not having commenced, the amount of business transacted has been small. Receipts by Grand Trunk have been less than for the two preceding weeks, and most likely to improve, owing to the near approach of open navigation, and reduced freights. Some speculation is indulged as to the commercial effect of the prospective opening of the South; the opinion being general that considerable produce will be averted from Atlantic cities, relieving them of certain articles of Provisions much in excess, and that a speedy improvement in value will ensue.

FLOUR.—Since the date of our last, arrivals have been small, and, with an active competition both for Eastern markets and local use, prices have kept advancing; but have now reached a point beyond which buyers refuse to operate for the present. Little has therefore been done for a day or two, as the views of sellers and purchasers have been somewhat apart. Latest sales of superior Extra have been at \$5.40, of good Extra at \$5.10, and Fancy \$4.90. The demand has, as usual, mainly fallen on Superfine, prices being various, according to quality. Strong brands have chiefly engaged attention, commanding from \$4.90 to \$5, and even more, in a few instances, for broken lots. Ordinary brands have moved slowly at from \$4.75 to \$4.85. Some being of opinion that present rates will not be maintained after opening of navigation, are willing to accept lower prices for May delivery, and a few sales have recently been made at \$4.80 to \$4.75, mostly at inside figures. We note continued deficiency in the lower grades, and prices have kept pace with the general improvement. We quote No. 2 \$4.40 to \$4.50, Fine #4 to \$4.25, and Middlings \$3.60 to \$3.80.

Bag Flour.—For a part of the week, the limited demand consequent on the condition of the roads, was insufficient to absorb the receipts, and prices were slow of improvement; but latterly buyers have come forward more freely, and an active competition for the offerings has enabled holders to secure an approach to its relative value. Latest sales of choice strong samples have been at \$2.62½ to \$2.67½, and even ordinary finds buyers at its full relative worth.

WHEAT.—In the continued absence of transactions, prices are purely nominal.

PORK.—In the absence of wholesale transactions, we continue to quote \$20 to \$21 for Mess in retail parcels. Of other grades there is none in first hands, and quotations are therefore purely nominal.

BUTTER.—Receipts are not large, and, were it not for the previous heavy accumulations, which still weigh on the market, prices would probably show some signs of rallying, as there is a disposition to purchase shown among shippers to the Lower Ports. The quantity required, however, as has already been presumed, will not be great; and holders, at this advanced stage of the season, are disposed to meet buyers on their own terms. The bulk of what is on hand is of very poor quality, and shippers are discriminating in their selections, rejecting all but the best parcels they can find, no reduction in price being sufficient inducement to take poor trash, which constitutes the bulk of what is in stock. The continuous vexation resulting from abortive attempts to move the bulk of the Butter in stock, even at ruinously low prices, and the more serious loss to be entailed on the actual owners, must be our excuse for advertising to the subject of quality so often; and we cannot too strongly commend the well-timed articles on the subject, from some of our leading commission houses, published in a former issue. It is hoped that—profiting by the disastrous experience of this season, as indeed of all past seasons, when inferior Butter has been at all times most difficult of sale and often quite unmerchantable, shipments of such, even when made at low prices, resulting in nothing but loss and disappointment to the owners, while at the same time good and prime has been sought after at full prices, and realized fair profits to all interested—a sustained effort will be made to produce an article which will always, and in all states of the market, command ready sale and full market rates. It is useless to disguise the fact that the Butter of Canada is many cents per pound worse in quality than it might be were the most ordinary skill and attention paid to the manufacturing and packing. Parcels sent on here for sale, even among those represented as being strictly dairy-packed and good, turn out, on examination, to be irregular in quality and colour, ill-flavoured, worse salted, and in a word, deficient in every property which makes Butter an article of consumption. We are not unmindful of the many and formidable difficulties those having immediately to do with manufacturers' experience in applying proper remedies, or of the influence of competition in obliging many to continue a course condemned by their judgment. Nothing but a persuasion that some concert of action sufficiently general for all practical purposes might be secured, causes us so frequently, and in such strong terms, to dwell on the subject. As some generally recognized price regulates most in any given community, might not some understanding be come to by which prices could be graduated according to quality? The merchant must, of course, aim at paying only such a price as to cover the general average of his receipts; and when all is taken in at the same figure, the careful dairywoman has a portion of her due withheld, and handed over to her slovenly neighbour. The matter is of sufficient importance to justify continuous and general agitation, and we earnestly commend to the energy of our Western merchants the adoption of some plan to meet the exigencies of the case.

ASHES.—There has been a fair enquiry for Pots during the week, and prices have ruled steady at about \$5.25, reaching \$5.27½ and \$5.30 in a few instances for heavy tares, closing quiet but steady at \$5.25 for Firats, add \$5.60 for Inferiors, less deductions. In Pearls there has been very little offering; and no anxiety is shown to purchase, as the quantity to arrive on opening of navigation is known to be heavy. We quote \$5.45 to \$5.50 as ruling rates.

MANUFACTURED TOBACCOS.

During the week the market has been somewhat dull, although prices are well maintained. Since receipt of news of the fall of Richmond, capture of Lee's army, &c., indicating a speedy termination of the war, the impression has prevailed in some quarters, that large stocks of manufactured tobaccos, probably held in Richmond and other towns of Virginia, would be thrown upon the market, and create a sudden fall in prices; but this supposition is erroneous, because in the first place no large stock of Virginia manufactured exists; and secondly, if it did exist, it is the property of the Federal Government, which most certainly would not sell it for less than the duty 45 cts. Any stock of tobacco captured by the Federal Government will be sold in the United States as tax paid tobacco; the authorities would not sell this property in bond at a low price when they can sell off in the United States at a price enhanced, by the fact that it is held by them as having paid a duty of 45 cts. per lb. Any one taking a retrospect of the plug tobacco trade during the ten or fifteen years preceding the war, will find that although at times large accumulations of stock have taken place and where forced on the market, were sold in New York at 6 to 9 cts. gold and sometimes even a little lower; yet, the average of prices at which tobaccos have been laid down here duty (30 per cent) paid, has been 16 to 18 cts. per lb. Plug tobacco sold at 7 cts. per lb. does not quite pay the manufacturer for the labor and expenses of manufacture; the Leaf at this price has to be given away. With Leaf, much below the average price, say 4 cts. per lb., Plug tobacco would not remunerate the manufacturer, if sold at 12 cts., 30 per cent. duty and freight added would make 16 cts., 10 cts. extra would make 26 cts. So that until an enormous accumulation of manufactured tobacco takes place in bond, we cannot look for supplies coming in here from the States at present. In the United States almost the entire stock is duty paid, that is, it was made previous to the last increase of United States duty and was taken out of bond at 30 cts. duty to evade the payment of the extra 15 cts. imposed this spring; none has been manufactured since to speak of. What applies to cost of manufacture in the States applies here. The stock in Canada is much lower than an average one, and the spring trade on the eve of commencing, so that any change in price, we are confident, will be in the way of a rise rather than a fall.

DRUG TRADE.

ONE of the most profitable departments of the Drug trade is that of Patent Medicines. It is computed upon almost exact data, that over \$150,000 in value is annually retailed in Montreal alone. The elements of success in a patent medicine are inexpensive materials, the demand for a particular remedy, and judicious advertising. Simple as advertising appears, it requires considerable genius to hit the popular mind. If successful in creating a demand, the proprietor, after "running the machine" for three years, generally sells out his interest for a handsome bonus. One firm in New York is said to have made over \$500,000 on four Patent Medicines which were successful, in neither of which have they now any interest. The popular American remedies find ready sale in Canada, and there is scarcely a village or cross road "store" which the agents do not visit. Every village newspaper teems with the advertisements, which forms their chief income. In addition to the ordinary means, the very rocks on the mountains, at the sea-side, the fences at watering-places, and in cities and villages, are painted over with the names and purpose of the remedy. One firm has expended in one year over \$300,000 in advertising. Owing to the limited population of Canada, there are few patent medicines which yield a large return, the duties preventing export to the States. To evade the duties, several of the more popular remedies are sent into Canada in bulk, and put up here, giving profitable employment. The bottles are made at the Canada Glass works. The saving in the expense of manufacture by this means we are informed is 25 per cent. Various attempts have been made to control the patent medicine trade by Legislative acts; but such is the weakness of human nature that mankind prefer some other than the old fashioned safe way of curing the ills that flesh is heir to, and of making a fortune. Bristol's Sarsaparilla and Petroleum stocks offer a most expeditious if not always the safest road to fortune. There are no less than five extensive firms in Canada, whose sole business is the Patent Medicine Trade.

Seeds.

Clover.—None offering, considerable demand; quotations nominal. **Timothy.**—Very little doing; worth \$3.00 per bushel.

Boots and Shoes.

Since last week's report we have little to note, manufacturing is not pushed hard, as stocks are not going off very freely. There is nothing like the amount of business that was transacted at the same time last year. It is anticipated that the better class of customers will not be in the market before May. As manufacturing is now getting into fewer hands, prices are most likely to advance, and accompanied also by a marked improvement in styles; a superior article is now more generally wanted. We quote:

Men's Stags Boots,.....	\$1.60 to 2.00
" Kip Boots,.....	2.25 to 2.35
" Calf ".....	2.60 to 3.00
" Brogans,.....	1.10 to 1.30
Boy's,.....	1.50 to 1.60
Youth's,.....	1.25 to 1.35
Child's,.....	1.00
Women's Leather,.....	0.75 to 1.00
" Congress,.....	1.10 to 1.50

RECEIPTS OF PRODUCE AT MONTREAL.

Per Grand Trunk Railway, for the week ending Wednesday, April 12th, 1866.

WHEAT.—7,950 bushels consigned to various parties.

FLOUR.—8,321 barrels, consigned to

T. W. Raphael.	George Denholm.
R. Mitchell.	Leeming & Buchanan.
Akin & Kirkpatrick.	Cameron & Ross.
Gillespie & Moffatt.	D. Butters.
H. Empey.	And others.

ASHES.—387 barrels, consigned to

J. Dougall & Co.	D. Morrice.
Taylor Bros.	Forester, Moir & Co.
Akin & Kirkpatrick.	A. Robertson & Co.
J. A. & H. Mathewson.	Lyman, Clark & Co.
Robertson & Beattie.	James Douglas.
George Winks.	Thos. Hobson & Co.
Griffithing & Workman.	D. E. McLean.
Gillespie & Moffatt.	George Scott.
W. Nivin & Co.	Wm. Stephen & Co.
Benny, McPherson & Co.	And others.

BUTTER.—427 kegs, consigned to

Geo. Winks & Co.	Leeming & Buchanan.
John Dougall & Co.	W. Nivin & Co.
Akin & Kirkpatrick.	F. W. Henshaw.
Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co.	Thomson, Claxton & Co.
Converse, Colson & Lamb.	M. Laing.
Thos. Hobson & Co.	And others.

PORK.—225 barrels, consigned to various parties.

LARD.—40 barrels, consigned to various parties.

HAMS.—7 barrels, consigned to various parties.

TALLOW.—32 barrels, consigned to various parties.

LEATHER.—122 rolls, consigned to

Cameron & Ross.	Kirkwood & Livingstone.
F. Shaw & Bro.	Hua & Richardson.
T. W. Raphael.	And others.

TOBACCO.—69 hhd's, consigned to

H. Chapman & Co. and others.

HIGH WINES.—63 casks, consigned to

P. Arnold.

POTATOES.—2,133 bushels, consigned to various parties.

Furs.

The London Fur sales, which have recently taken place, have not caused any great change in prices of Raw skins in this country. We give prices compared with the September quotations. Raccoon of 1st quality somewhat lower, and other qualities from 10 to 15 per cent. lower; Muskrat, about January prices; Otter, declined about 10 per cent. and not much sought after; Red Fox advanced 10 per cent; Fisher, owing to scarcity, has advanced considerably; Bear maintained the fall rates; Martin and Mink, slightly advanced; Silver and Cross Fox, declined in price.

Quotations of this market:

Prime Mink,.....	\$2.50 to 3.00
Otter,.....	3.00 to 4.50
Red Fox,.....	1.75 to 2.00
Fisher,.....	4.00 to 6.00
Martin,.....	1.50 to 1.60
Spring Muskrat,.....	0.18 to 0.20
Raccoon,.....	0.25 to 0.40

THOS. HOBSON & CO.'S PRODUCE CIRCULAR.

PRICES CURRENT.

Thursday Evening, April 13, 1866.

Flour, Superior extra,.....	\$5.40 to \$5.50
Extra,.....	5.20 to 5.35
Fancy,.....	5.00 to 5.10
Superfine,.....	4.80 to 5.00
Do. No. 2,.....	4.30 to 4.45
Fine,.....	4.00 to 4.25
Bag Flour, per 112 lbs.,.....	2.60 to 2.70
Oatmeal, per bbl. of 200 lbs.,.....	4.75 to 5.00
Pork—Mess,.....	20.00 to 20.50
Thin Mess,.....	17.00 to 18.00
Prime Mess,.....	15.00 to 15.50
Prime,.....	15.00 to 0.00
Butter—Ordinary, per lb.,.....	0.12 to 0.13
Medium,.....	0.14 to 0.15
Fine,.....	0.16 to 0.17
Eggs, per dozen,.....	0.13 to 0.14
Lard, Western,.....	0.12 to 0.13
Tallow,.....	0.08 to 0.09
Cut Meats—Hams, per lb.,.....	0.11 to 0.12½
" Bacon,.....	0.08 to 0.10
" Shoulders,.....	0.07 to 0.08
Seeds, Timothy, per 45 lbs.,.....	2.75 to 3.00
" Clover, per lb.,.....	0.14 to 0.16
Ashes, per 100 lbs. 1st Pots,.....	5.25 to 5.30
" Inferiors,.....	5.60 to 5.70
" Pearls,.....	5.50 to 0.00

FLOUR.—The demand for the U. S. Markets has again been brisk, and the market is very bare of all grades. There was a good attendance on change to-day, but little business transacted. Sales of Superior Extra at \$5.50 and Extra at \$5.25; Ordinary Super. at \$4.90; strong brands bringing \$5.00 to \$5.10, in some instances 5 to 10c. more. Bag Flour sold at \$2.70.

PORK.—Market easier, prices tending downward.

BUTTER.—The demand for the city trade has been tolerably brisk, but very little enquiry from other sources; to-day there are purchasers for low priced lots, but not much offering, the market having been pretty well cleared some time ago. There is also some enquiry for good lots for the Boston market, but the transactions have been small, the views of buyers and sellers being apart as to price.

EGGS.—The demand this week has been very brisk, and the supply though large, not nearly sufficient; the ruling price has been about 13½ to 14c. Sales to-day at the latter figure.

LARD.—Dull at quotations.

CUT MEATS.—Good demand—short supply.

TALLOW.—Sales at 8½ to 8½c.

SEEDS.—More offering, prices about same as last week.

ASHES.—Market firmer, price to-day \$5.27½ to \$5.30 for 1st Pots; \$5.70 for Inferiors; Pearls nominal.

THOMAS HOBSON & CO.,
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