

## REMARKS.

*Ashes*.—Exports for the week, brls. Pots. Decrease, 2,014 brls.  
*Butter*.—Exports, 4,752 brls. Increase, 38,243 brls.  
*Barley*.—Exports, bush. Increase, 80,625 bush.  
*Bacon*.—Exports, 1,426 boxes. Increase, 21,114 boxes.  
*Corn*.—Exports, 21,605 bush. Increase, 20,064 bush.  
*Cheese*.—Exports, 3,668 boxes. Decrease, 1,493 boxes.  
*Flour*.—Exports, 100 brls. Decrease, 35,974 brls.  
*Lard*.—Exports, 1,182 brls. Increase, 23,672 brls.  
*Oats*.—Exports, bush. Increase, 2,819,677 bush.  
*Peas*.—Exports, bush. Decrease, 272,399 bush.  
*Pork*.—Exports, 724 brls. Increase, 4,389 brls.  
*Wheat*.—Exports, 16,000 bush. Decrease, 2,017,812 bush.

## Commercial.

## MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 14th, 1876.

The business of the week has exhibited no change worthy of note. Most of the wholesale houses are pursuing the even tenor of their way; those who have holiday goods being pretty busy filling orders. There is no change in the money market, which continues dull. Rates of discount continue from 6 to 7 and 9 per cent. according to the character of the paper. Stocks are dull, and there is a total absence of any speculative tendency.

*ASHES*.—Receipts of Pots are growing light. Sales of the week about 75 brls. First Sort at \$4.25 to \$4.30 for light to good tares, and a few barrels of excessively heavy tares at \$4.37½. A sale from second hand of 25 brls. very fine tares at \$4.32½ to-day. No Seconds arriving and no transactions reported in these grades.  
*PEARLS*.—Receipts, 47 barrels First Sort. 15 brls. were sold at \$5.30. There is nothing whatever doing in Seconds. The receipts for the year to date are 13,348 brls. Pots and 1,392 brls. Pearls. The deliveries, 12,639 brls. Pots and 1,023 brls. Pearls, and the stock in store at six o'clock this evening was 2790 brls. Pots and 774 brls. Pearls.

*BOOTS AND SHOES*.—Very little in the way of sales now doing, and not much can be expected until the opening of the spring trade. A further advance since last reports in Sole Leather has taken place, and manufactured goods, especially in heavy lines, must advance. See *Prices Current*.

*DRUGS AND CHEMICALS*.—We have no particular change to note in this line during the past week. Business continues dull. By last English mail we have advices that Chemicals of all kinds are quiet, with little change in any direction. Castor Oil has experienced an advance. See *Prices Current*.

*DRY GOODS*.—The winter-like weather and the near approach of the holiday season has had a decided effect upon this branch of trade, and both the wholesale and retail houses have done a fair business in consequence. Money comes in more freely.

*FISH*.—Draft Cod firmer, good demand; \$5.50 to \$9.00. Draft No. 1, Herrings, firm but trade small. Salmon, No. 1, 2 and 3, \$13, \$12 and \$10. Draft Fish, No. 1 in hhds. Bay Island Catch Herrings, a failure. Cod Fish in brls. No. 1 \$6.50; No. 2, \$5.25; No. 1 Labrador Herring, \$6.00. Fish firm and with moderate demand. Dry Cod Fish more enquiry, \$5.25 to \$5.50 according to quality.

*FLOUR*.—There has been very little business done in flour during the week. On account of the absence of snow there are no good roads to the local country districts, and the more distant sections, tributary to the St. Lawrence, are still in stock, with supplies received prior to the close of navigation. The Eastern Townships and the Lower Provinces are no longer

markets to which Montreal merchants can ship goods in the winter season, owing to the hostile freight tariff of the Grand Trunk Railway. Restricted then, as we have been during the past week to the trade of the city, the business has been very light. The flour receivers have met, as usual, on change, but it has only been to gossip and deplore the situation, and not to make sales. The nominal quotations are Spring Extra, \$5.30 to 5.40; Fancy, \$5.70 to 5.75; Extra \$5.90 to \$6; Superior \$6.25 to 6.50. Wheat, nothing doing.

*HARDWARE*.—Prices here remain unchanged, but there is, at least, a strong firmness of feeling in England, in nearly all the raw staples, such as tin, copper, lead, &c., which may be summed up as follows:—*Iron*.—The markets are looking up, and there is more confidence on the part of buyers. Pig has advanced considerably, but manufactured is unchanged. *Copper*.—The market has materially improved and is very firm. *Tin*.—Is also higher by £6, and also strong. *Tin Plates*.—Are the turn better, but buyers are still very cautious. *Lead*.—There is a better feeling and prices are somewhat higher.

*LEATHER*.—Business for the past week has been very dull. Manufacturers buying sparingly very and only what is required for immediate use. Leather must advance as soon as a demand arises. Hides continue in good demand at advanced prices.—See *Prices Current*.

*LIVE STOCK*.—At the St. Gabriel market this week there was a good demand for prime cattle for the Christmas markets, but not in full supply, and a fair demand for ordinary cattle, while the poorer class were in little or no request. Among the sales made we noticed a prime ox, which brought \$139, and a number of others which sold at the rate of \$5.26, per 100 lbs., live weight. The prices ranged from \$2.70 to \$5.00 and \$5.50. Seven first-class steers, weighing 9,160 lbs., sold at the rate of \$4.75 per 100 lbs. Hogs were neglected, although we noticed the sale of a carload of dressed at \$6.90 per 100 lbs. The arrivals for last week were 22 carloads of cattle, seven double-decked and single-decked mixed carloads of sheep and lambs, four mixed loads of cattle and hogs, and seven mixed loads of cattle and sheep. Ten carloads arrived on Monday. The prices of Hides and Pelts are stiffer. We quote—No. 1 inspected \$7, No. 2 \$6, and No. 3 \$5 per 100 lbs.; Calfskins \$c. a lb.; Sheep and Lamb skins 90c. to \$1.15; Tallow rough, 5½c. a lb.

*PROVISIONS*.—*Butter*.—Cable advices are most discouraging. Market very dull. Shippers doing nothing. To effect sales considerable reduction in price would be necessary. *Cheese*.—Market firm and without change. Stocks are out of first hands, and those whose hands it is now in, are waiting favourable prices to ship. Prices nominally unchanged.

*TOBACCO*.—In manufactured plug, considering the season, the demand continues firm. As is usual in this month, merchants in all lines only buy for the present wants, and tobacco is no exception. Prices remain as last quoted. Reports from some of the leaf markets give an advance in the finer grades of bright leaf, and higher prices may be expected in the beginning of next year. In Outs little is doing, and prices remain as last. *Cigars*.—In this branch there has been considerable falling off in the demand for the past few days, and no improvement can be expected this year. Domestic range from \$13.00 to 50.00, according to size and quality. In imported Havanas little is being done; there have been no late importations.

*Domestic Cigars*.—*The Hard to Beat Brand*.—The average good sales for this favorite cigar still continued during the past week, with prices unchanged. We quote as follows:—Londres de Carte, \$22.50; Conchas, \$30.00; Kings and Queens, \$30.00; Whips, \$32.50; Regalia Britannica, \$50.00; Saratogas, \$15.00; Regalia Londres, \$45.00; Partagas, \$50.00; Fumars, \$55.00; Orientals, \$55.00; Bismarks N. P. U., \$60.00; Reina Victoria, \$75.00. *Dollar Brand and Flor de Canada*.—Fair sales are reported; prices unchanged. For the cheaper production of home-made goods a lively competition exists with fair prices and good sales.

**WHOLESALE GROCERY MARKET.**—The Freight question is commanding, in fact, enforcing attention. We must press heavily against discriminating rates bearing damagingly on trade here, as well as contending strongly in opposition to the Winter Rate policy hitherto prevailing, whereby business is either kept away or sent in direction of United States ports. Noticeable prominently amongst the week's events is the arrival of the English Mails from Halifax in less than 24 hours to Quebec, and notwithstanding their being sent at a loss of time by slow train from Richmond, yet, in 30 hours the mails were here, before reported arrival of mail steamer at Portland. A change of Tariff is not improbable to be agitated at least during coming session of Parliament. The pressure is strong in some quarters for a strong protective policy. It is worthy of note, that in Prussia there is likely to be introduced a measure discriminating on duties, against countries where bounties on exports are given, at least equal in extent to these bounties. In Sugar Refining here we ought to admit the right of refiners to be protected against the policy of any country where, as in the United States at present, a drawback is allowed, considered in its excessive character, as equivalent to a bounty of 30 to 50 cents the 100 lb. Fairness suggests the reasonableness, while not blindly rushing into a protective policy so damaging to real manufacturing prosperity by encouraging false dependencies, or fostering inferiority in qualities of goods manufactured,—without making this error, still the bounty system should be offset by increased duties on bounty-goods equal to the bounty granted. *Sugars*.—Market quiet, and the tendency is towards somewhat lower figures. Sales of Yellow have been made at 9½ to 10½; Granulated, the turn easier, 11c. to 11½c. *Molasses and Syrups*.—A fair demand, without any special change, except that the market may be noted as rather easier. *Teas*.—While a fair demand for ordinary trade exists, there is an absence of speculative enquiry; prices for all kinds are not varied anything of moment. Foreign advices show a general dullness. The very low prices prevailing will doubtless have to do with stimulating consumption. *Rice*.—The speculative demand has subsided, although English advices are to the effect of high figures there prevailing. Quotations here are \$4.00 to 4.25. *Coffees*.—Recent statistical returns show light stocks in prominent United States Markets, with report from Brazil not favorable as to crop. In the meantime the market here is quiet for all kinds. *Spices*.—Pepper and Pimento firm.

*FRUITS*.—Continue dull, with not heavy enquiry.

*WOOL*.—There is a little quietness in Wool at present, and it is likely to remain so until the New Year opens. Prices remain quite firm, both in this market and abroad.

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