

STOCKS IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, March 17th, 1897.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average price 1896.
Montreal	229	228	23	231	227½	219
Ontario				85	83	
People's						
Molson's						
Toronto	230	229½	41		228	239
Jac. Cartier				100	89½	
Merchants'	17½	173	7	175	172	164
Commerce	127½	127	20	130	126	134½
Union				100		
M. Teleg.	166½	166½	121	170	166½	165
Rich. & Ont.				90	85	86
St. R'y.	225	224	329	223½	225	217½
Gas	194	192½	396	194	193½	202
Gas, xd	19½	188½	125	191	189½	
C. Pacific Ry xd ..	52½	52½	64	52½	52	56
Land gr't bonds ..	118½	108½	\$500			
N.W. Land pfd.						
Bell Tele.	160	159½	25	165	159½	155
Mont. 4% stock ..						

FRENCH WINES LAST YEAR.

Official figures of the 1896 wine crop of France have reached the State Department, at Washington, from Consul Wiley, at Bordeaux, showing a total production of over a billion gallons, valued approximately at \$234,800,000. The exact figures are 1,179,364,960 gallons, an increase over 1895 of 468,066,880 gallons, and over the average of the last ten years of 273,410,990. In the Province of Algeria last year's vintage amounted to 106,960,500 gallons, while in Corsica 9,923,000 were barrelled. Notwithstanding the somewhat unfavorable atmospheric conditions which prevailed in France, the Consul says the crop is particularly good. The wines bore the requisite amount of sugar, alcoholic strength and body. They are rich in color and with a few rare exceptions are sure to turn out of great excellence.

—"Uitlander" points out in the London Times that the Boers have made a handsome profit out of the Transvaal raid. The expense was really trifling, and in order to make it good the Government promptly levied a special war tax of \$100 on all land owners not burghers. The burghers are nearly all Boers, so that the tax really fell on the sympathizers with Jameson. The members of the Reform Committee have paid over \$1,000,000 in fines, and in addition to this President Kruger claims \$7,500,000 from the British Government and \$8,385,000 from the British South Africa Company as indemnities. When it is remembered that the Boers have been in the habit of making raids on British territory whenever they liked, and have never paid a cent for their depredations, one comes to understand why Mr. Chamberlain read President Kruger's claim for \$5,000,000 indemnity on account of the damage done to the Boers' feelings in such a way as to excite the derision of the British House of Commons. —*Gazette.*

—"The sooner a man puts his establishment on a business basis, and, if needs be, puts his accounts in the hands of a competent book-keeper, the sooner will he know where he is 'at,' and then can decide if it is where he wants to be. Many a man feels on Saturday night, after he has paid off his hands, that he really wishes he could trade places with some one of them, happy in knowing what he would receive at the end of each week for his week's work. Many such men would, if they had the cold fingers of their business held up before them, either make some radical changes in the manner of conducting business, or try some more promising field."—A. K. Taylor, in *The Inland Printer for January.*

—At the council meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade last Wednesday, letters were read from both the Grand Trunk and the C.P. Railway authorities stating that being anxious to meet the wishes of the merchants and manufacturers for an extension to a later date of lower railroad freight rates, which have in the past prevailed during the months of open navigation from Montreal to western points, the two companies had decided to extend the summer rates up to November 15 next. They will therefore be in force from April 1st to that date.

—Paultney Bigelow, the noted American litterateur and newspaper man, who has travelled more than most men, writes to a New York paper last week apropos of British appointments to colonial offices: "From the little I have seen of the world, I venture to assert that no country approaches England in the high average of her government officials, who are for the most part fair-minded gentlemen, brave, courteous and given to manly sport."

It is said the Dominion Coal Company are negotiating for the purchase of the patent fuel works at Gowrie Mine. This is one of the best briquette plants in the Dominion and one of the few in North America. The industry is thus far small in America, but has swelled to enormous proportions in Britain. The price at which the company will likely obtain possession of the works is low. It is stated that the plant cost the Patent Fuel Company \$10,000.—*Colliery News.*

—The Rossland Miner of March 11th condemns the proposition to permit the establishment of toll roads in Kootenay as one which should not be countenanced. "The Government may be a little behind-hand sometimes in building wagon roads, but if a toll road were once built to any thriving camp the result would be to indefinitely postpone the construction of a free highway."

—At a meeting of Michigan lumber operators, held in Grand Rapids last Wednesday, to assist the \$2 tariff on lumber, resolutions were drafted which were to be sent to the Michigan delegation at Washington, recommending the bill under discussion. The signers of the petition represent the annual manufacture of 870 million feet of lumber and 8,000 million shingles, and employ 10,350 men, with a monthly pay roll of \$337,000.

—The Rat Portage Miner says of the Saw Bill mining district of northern Ontario: There are now forty teams hauling machinery and supplies from Bonheur station to the mines. About forty carloads of freight have been unloaded there this winter, with more to come.

—At the Golden Drip the drift on the main vein to the north is now in 100 feet, and that to south about 60 feet, says the Rossland Miner. The north drift shows some especially good ore. The deepest shaft in the south belt is on the Mayflower. It is down 128 feet.

—Work is to begin April 1st on Last Chance mine, on Quartz creek, in the Salmon river district. The claim is owned by the Kootenay-Tacoma company, and has a fair showing of ore assaying on the surface 30 to 60 ounces of silver, besides some small values in gold.

—The town council of L'Original, at its last meeting discussed the state of the town as regards fire protection, and an order was given for an engine and appliances to be advertised for.

—The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, was held last week in London. The chair was taken by Sir Stafford Northcote.

—There is a proposal before the Dartmouth, N.S., authorities to borrow \$13,000 for ferry improvements.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, March 18th, 1897.

BREADSTUFFS.—The grain markets have been very quiet during the week. Notwithstanding the columns of newspaper reports as to the probability of a European war, the import markets of the United Kingdom have failed to reflect war preparations. Crop reports have been optimistic. The bulls of the market have, in fact, failed to secure substantial encouragement from any quarter. Offerings of wheat at the several receiving points of the province have been very limited. The roads are in poor condition, and values offer little inducements to farmers to bring forward their supplies. Peas are weak and dull. Quotations are about 1c. per bush. lower. Barley is dull and unsettled. Oats are steady; prices are unchanged, with 18 to 19c. quoted at outside points. Rye is dull at 32 to 33c. Merchants quote corn at an advance of 1c. per bushel. Buckwheat is dull and prices have declined 2 to 3c. per bush.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—The receipts of the best dairy butter, this week, have been rather limited.

There is a large quantity of so called good butter, but supplies of strictly choice quality are limited, and offerings of this description will bring good prices. Good butter is quoted at 14c. per lb. There is no improvement in the market for inferior goods, which bring very low prices, but even then are difficult to sell. Creamery butter remains steady. Supplies show some increase as compared with offerings a few weeks ago. Local merchants quote prints, 20 to 21c., and tubs, 19 to 20c. per lb. The high price of cheese has, in a measure, limited the consumption, but stocks are not excessive and values are being maintained. Merchants claim that all the surplus on hand will be wanted before the year has closed. New cheese is coming forward from various districts and is meeting with good demand; dealers quote fodder cheese at 9c. per lb. The receipts of eggs have been large, but an expanding consumption has served to prevent a sharp decline in values. Merchants quote eggs at 11c., per doz. but lower prices are looked for.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.—The early approach of the spring weather has had the effect of closing the winter season and opening up the new somewhat earlier than was expected. The receipts of dressed hogs have been very light. Light weights have brought \$6.50 per cwt., and in some instances merchants have paid as high as \$6.75 per cwt. The supplies are not sufficient to keep packers busy, and the market is each day passing more largely into the hands of the butchers. Provisions are firm and continued advances are reported. Barrel pork is very strong at advanced values. Several carloads of long clear bacon were reported sold at the latter part of last week. It is thought that these transactions could not be repeated, as merchants claim 6½c. is now the closest quotation for car lots. The Cincinnati Price Current, March 11, reports "the marketing of hogs has been considerably reduced, although continuing fairly liberal for the time of year. The Western killings for the week have been approximately 315,000, compared with 390,000 the preceding week and 215,000 for corresponding time last year. Prices have been further advanced, and at the close average 10 to 15c. per 100 pounds higher than a week ago."

DRY GOODS.—Business is now "between seasons," and there is little activity in wholesale dry goods circles. Since the millinery openings there have been few retailers in town and the volume of business consists in sorting orders taken for the summer's trade. Values are very steady. The bankrupt stock offered in the market has naturally exercised a somewhat depressing effect upon trade, but the advantages derived from the lessened competition will probably be sufficient to offset this loss.

The stocks in store at Port Arthur on March 6th, were 2,834,665 bushels, and there were received 54,932 bushels, and shipped 4,678 bushels, leaving in store on March 13th, 2,874,918 bushels.

GROCERIES.—The jobbing grocers have not had an active week. Retailers complain of poor roads, which have injured the consumptive demand and made collections difficult. Values are very steady. Sugars are quiet and unchanged. The speculative interest in teas is still continued. There is a fairly good movement in Lenten supplies. Canned goods are in better demand.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Hide values quoted last week remain unaltered, and in fact, the whole situation has undergone little change since our previous report. The butchers still receive 7c. for No. 1 green cow hides, Toronto inspected, and 7½c. for steers. Canadian tanners are cautious hide buyers, and purchase supplies only when actually necessary. Sales are made on a basis of about 8c. per lb. Hide and Leather, March 13, says: "The hide and skin situation offers no encouragement to those who predict and look for lower prices in the near future. There seems to be a general tendency in the country to retain and fatten young cattle, consequently the older and heavier animals are shipped to market. The hide and skin markets would not be able to withstand the indifference of buyers to-day, were it not for the light receipts. Leather manufacturers protest that hides are too dear to-day, compared with leather values. But instead of pushing up leather, tanners are concentrating their efforts on getting cheaper raw material. They claim that if successful in accomplishing this, they would still be able to keep leather quotations where they are to-day." Sheepskins are quiet