

It is thus shown that except on two articles prices are higher now than they were at the beginning of the extraordinary fluctuations which have characterized the past year. As already said our domestic markets would show very nearly the same result attained by wider movements than in England. In England Pig Iron is about 22 per cent., higher than it was a year ago; in this country it is about 30 per cent., higher. On the general range of commercial and manufacturing staples there has been a net advance during the past twelve months of about 15 per cent.—*N. Y. Commercial List.*

—A Liverpool correspondent of the London *Timber Trades Journal* complains of the heavy expense of loading spring vessels at Quebec. So high are the wages insisted upon by the laborers in some former seasons, that "few vessels went out the second voyage. The result was misery and poverty for the winter." By promising that in future the wages would be much less, many ships were got to go out to the North American ports, especially Quebec, this spring; but to every one's disgust, the laborers put up their wages to the old scale, and the consequence is that the cost of loading has exceeded 25s. of gone, the freight being so slow. Owners, I am certain, will consider very seriously before sending ships out for the fall voyage, the insurance being double, besides the wear and tear. Having been in the timber trade some years, I know from sad experience that to send vessels to Quebec the second voyage, and to pay the same amount of labourers' wages as I have done this spring, on a freight at less than 32s. 6d. means absolute loss. It costs about 30s. per load to sail them, paying insurance wages and laborage, and this on voyages free of any accident. This leaves about 2s. 6d. per load profit on a winter voyage. The best way to prevent these strikes would be for merchants to send the cargo alongside similar to other cargoes, and load the ships at per load, because they could engage the man for the year.

—Timber cut from the middle of June to the middle of August lasts much longer, especially when exposed to the weather, as rails, or with the end buried in the ground like posts, so says a correspondent to the *N. Y. Tribune*, who conveys out in the winter, and as soon as the frost is in from seven to eleven years the ends which were in the ground had mostly rotted, while the parts out of it kept sound. I then took them out, and as the bark had peeled off itself on the other end, and the posts were still long enough for the purpose, I reversed them, and set the well seasoned ends in the ground. They have been there for several years without rotting.

The St. John Horse Shoe Nail Works has a new building of brick, 35x120 feet, with seven nail machines, four forges, three finishers and three tumblers. A twenty horse power engine drives the machinery, and the capacity is 10 tons of nails per month.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal 17th August, 1880.

Great preparations are being made for the Dominion Exhibition which takes place next month, and a decided impetus is expected to be given by it to all branches of trade, cheap trips having been arranged for from all quarters. Business for the week has been slow. Yellow sugars are in good demand and every day's make is bought up at once. Teas are moderately active. Grain

almost nominal. Flour has again declined. The Western market for coal oil having again advanced, we have to report an advance of one cent all round here. The temperature last Sunday and Monday was very low and frosty, since then warmer weather has prevailed. Harvest progresses favorably.

ASHES.—*Pots*.—As is usual at this season receipts of ashes have been very light which has had the effect of keeping the market here firm and steady at \$4.60 to 4.65. *Pearls*.—A good number of barrels has been shipped this week but there have been no transactions, the nominal price is \$5.15. Stocks at present in store are *Pots* 512 brls., *Pearls* 213 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Business continues satisfactory although the value of orders on hand is not large. Prices of all kinds of stock keep firm, and our prices as under are unchanged. Money is rather slow but promises somewhat better for the early future. We quote: *Mens split boots* \$1.9 to 2.25; ditto cowhide do. 2.25 to 3.25; ditto calf ditto 3.50 to 3.75; ditto kip do 2.50 to 3.25; ditto brogans (split) 1.00 to 1.10; ditto buff congress 1.90 to 2.25; Boys buff congress 1.50 to 1.75; ditto split brogans 85c to \$1.00; *Womens split bal-mora's* 85c to 1.10; ditto buff & Pebble 1.20 to 1.50; ditto prunella boots 50c to 1.50 *Misses split brls* 80c to 1.00; ditto buff & pebble 1.00 to 1.15; *Childs buff & pebble* 60c to 1.00; ditto split bails 55 to 60c; *Childs Buff and enamel cacks* 4.50 to 6.50 per dozen.

CATTLE.—The supply yesterday was much beyond the demand, and for butchers' cattle prices were weak at from 3 to 4c. per lb.; a considerable number of shipping were taken up at 4 to 5c. per lb. *Sheep and Lambs* were scarce and were readily bought at \$2.50 to 3.50 for common to good *lams*. *Live Hogs* are not in large supply, sales were made at \$5.25 to 5.50, but for choice animals holders are wanting higher prices.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The market this week has been quiet but steady, the volume of business has been small. We cannot report any change in prices since this day week, we quote *Bicarp Soda* \$3.75; *Soda Ash*, \$1.40 to 1.50; *Bichromate of Potash*, 14 to 15c; *Arrow Root*, 12 to 15c.; *Borax*, 15 to 18c.; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 32 to 35c; *Caustic Soda*, 2.37½ to 2.50; *Bleaching Powder*, 1.75 to 2.00; *Alum*, 1.75 to 1.85; *Copperas*, 90c. to 1.00; *Sulphur*, 2.90 to 3.00; *Roll Sulphur*, 1.95 to 2.10; *Epsom Salts*, 1.35; *Sal Soda*, 1.10 to 1.20; *Saltpetre*, per keg, 8.90 to 9.00; *Sulphate of Copper*, 5.50 to 6.00; *Whiting*, 45 to 50c.; *Quinine*, Howard's, 4.00; *Morphia*, \$3.50 to 4.00; *Opium*, 8.50 to 9.00; *Castor Oil*, 10 and 11c. in lots of ten cases; *Shellac*, 40 to 45c.

DRY GOODS.—Although there has been a fair amount of business done during the week it has hardly come up to the expectations which were entertained about a week ago, but this will likely be improved on by the cheap trips from the west which commenced yesterday and continue till the end of the month, thus enabling buyers from points west of Kingston to visit the city, and doubtless the exhibition will bring along a large number of buyers. Collections are good.

FURS.—There is nothing doing just now in furs, the prospects are good, but owing to the high price of *Seal*, which is more in demand, the consumption will be checked. *Persian Lamb* which is also a first class fur in Lower Canada, is very dear. Imitations of seal are in good demand.

FISH.—There is only a little *dry cod* in the market, which is selling at \$4.50 to 5.00; *Salm-n* is very scarce and dear, with little prospect of stocks being renewed.

FREIGHTS.—The demand this week has been dull, with a downward tendency, and engagements have been made rather under our quota-

tions of last Tuesday. Steam tonnage has been taken up for heavy grain to London, Liverpool and Glasgow at 5/- to 5/9 and oats at 4/- to 4/6.

FLOUR.—The stock in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 16th inst. were 31,855 brls. against 29,564 brls. on the 1st inst. and 27,735 brls. on the 15th of Aug., '79. Receipts for the past week 20,391 brls. Total receipts from 1st Jan. to date 347,870 brls. being a decrease of 105,864 brls., on the receipts for the same period of last year. Shipments during the week, 34,715 bbls. Shipments from 1st January to date 313,975 brls., being a decrease of 61,898 brls., on the shipments for the same period of 1879. Business reported has been chiefly to meet a local demand, and prices have favored buyers. At the close the market was still dull and weak and concessions would be made to induce sales. We quote, *Superior Extra* \$5.30 to 5.35; *Extra Superfine*, 5.25 to 5.30; *Fancy*, nominal; *Spring Extra*, 5.55 to 5.60; *Superfine*, 5.15 to 5.25; *Strong Bakers' Flour*, 5.30 to 5.40; *Fine*, 4.40 to 4.50; *Middlings*, 4.10 to 4.20; *Pollards*, 3.60 to 3.70; *Ontario Bags*, 2.70 to 2.75; *Oatmeal*, 4.40 to 0.00; *Cornmeal*, 2.70 to 2.75.

GRAIN.—*Wheat*.—The stock in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 16th inst., was 110,530 bushels; against 42,885 bushels on the 1st inst., and 83,214 bushels on the 15th of August 1879. Receipts for the past week 592,137 bushels: Total receipts from 1st January to date 4,525,668 bushels being a decrease of 420,080 bushels on the receipts for the same period of last year. Shipments for the week 514,700 bushels: Total shipments from 1st January to date 4,083,243 bushels being a decrease of 228,205 bushels on the shipments for the same period of 1879. There was some business done in No. 2. Toledo Red wheat early in the week at \$1.08½ to 1.11. Canada spring wheat is quite nominal, and will be till the new crops begin to come to hand. *Maize* is firm and dearer at 52c to arrive; *Peas* are still nominal; *Oats* are steady at 33 to 34c; for *Rye* to arrive 75 to 77½c is asked; new *Barley* is nominal but some small sales took place early in the week at 65c.

The following are the stocks of grain and flour in store here on Monday, compared with last year, same date:

	Aug. 16, 1880.	Aug. 15, 1879.
Wheat, bu.	110,530	832,334
Corn, bu.	16,600	700
Peas, bu.	6,780	5,003
Oats, bu.	72,442	30,609
Barley, bu.	4,134	53,576
Rye, bu.	1,511	342
Flour, brls.	31,855	27,735
Oatmeal, brls.	216	34
Cornmeal, brls.	584	147

HIDES.—The opposition among buyers has caused an advance of \$1 all round in hides, and we now quote them \$11 \$10 and \$9.00 for Nos. 1, 2, and 3, respectively. *Lambskins* are steady at 85 to 90c.

HARDWARE.—The firmness shown by holders has rather tended to check business, although there are no prospects from English reports that any reduction may be looked for in the near future, and if anything rather an advance is anticipated. We do not alter our quotations this week, but our outside prices are nearer the mark than the inside. We quote *Pig iron* per ton, Coltness, \$21 to 22.00; *Cart-sherrie*, \$20.00 to 21.00; *Summerlee*, \$20.25 to 21.00; *Eglinton*, \$19.50 to 20.00; *Carubroe*, \$20.00 to 20.50; *Bars* per 100 lbs. *Scotch* and *Staffordshire*, \$2.00 to 2.25; best ditto \$2.35 to 2.50; *Swedes* and *Norway*, \$4.50 to 4.75; *Lowmoor* and *Bowling* \$6.25 to 6.50; *Canada plates* per box—*Glenmorgan* and *Budd* \$3.75 to 4.00; *Arrow* \$4.00 to 4.25; *Hatton* \$3.50 to 3.75. *Tin plates* per box *Charcoal* IC., \$6.50 to 7.00; ditto, IX, \$8.50 to 9.00; ditto, DC., \$6.00 to 6.50; *Coke*,