

FLEEING TEMPTATION.

Mr. Smith (to Sambo who has just squeezed himself through the barbed-wire fence)—Why, what's your hurry, Sambo?

Sambo.—Oh, I's fleeing from temptation, sah!

Mr. Smith.—Fleeing from temptation, you rascal, and with a fat pullet under each arm!

Sambo.—Why, bless you, boss, dey's four mo' back in de hen-coop, sah!

—Running expenses are those which you pay as you go.—*Augusta Chronicle*.

—Every man in trouble finds that his friends are not as indignant as they should be.—*Des Moines Register*.

—The crooked financier finds himself in straitened circumstances in the course of time.—*Washington Star*.

—Mr. T. H. De Cew, of Essex, is said to own over 1,600 acres of fine timber land in Oregon, which he thinks will yield not less than 100,000,000 feet of lumber.

—Two Barbadoes merchants, Messrs. E. T. Grammon and James E. Spencer, were introduced on the floor of the Grain Exchange in Toronto the other day by Mr. N. Weatherston of the Intercolonial Railway. Closer trade relations with the Dominion is the object of their visit.

—A very timely rebuke of the flippant writing about Canadian authors, artists, and journalists indulged in by Mr. W. Blackburn Harte in recent issues of the *New England Magazine*, appears in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of December 12th. Thus: "Walter Blackburn Harte's article on 'Canadian Journalists and Journalism,' in the December *New England Magazine*, is a readable, 'newspaper' sketch, written in a slap-dash, off-hand style that shows haste in every line. It certainly is not an authoritative deliverance, and it is not accurate, particularly in its biography. J. C. Patterson never was editor of the *Toronto Mail*; J. C. Patterson and T. C. Patteson are two very different individuals. 'Henry' Blackburn did not make the *London Free Press* a success; Josiah Blackburn did. W. F. Luxton did not found the *Norwester* in 1867; that paper had run its course of eleven years before Mr. Luxton ever saw Manitoba. Mr. Molyneux St. John is not editor of the *Montreal Herald*; he has for nearly a year occupied the position of chief of the C. P. R.'s literary department. Mr. John Reade is not editor of the *Dominion Illustrated*. There are other slips, but these will do as samples. And there are omissions. A sketch of French-Canadian journalism without a notice of C. A. Dansereau is an absurdity, for though not now in harness, he was for years indisputably the first of French-Canadian political writers. W. S. Fielding, Premier of Nova Scotia, who is omitted, is pre-eminently a newspaper man; certainly much more so than Hon. J. W. Longley, who is given a deservedly prominent place. Hugh Graham and John Ross Robertson, tried at least by a financial test, have been the most successful of Canadian journalists, but they do not appear in this review. The article is entertaining, but that is about all that can be said of it."

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 23rd Dec., 1891.

ASHES.—A dull market is still reported, with some tendency to weakening in values. We quote first quality pots at \$4.50 to 4.60; seconds, \$3.80 to 3.90. A sale of 2 brls. of pearls, the first for some time, was reported a few days ago at \$6.25. Receipts are small, but about equal to last December; there are now in store about 150 brls. of pots, and 15 pearls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The feature of the week among shoe and leather men is the reported failure of John Ritchie, an extensive shoe manufacturer of Quebec, in which several Montreal leather houses are interested quite heavily. Local shoe houses continue to report excellent spring orders, but no active manufacturing will be done until after "Old Christmas," and the factories are therefore buying no leather.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There is dulness as regards butter export, but local trade in that article is very fair, and as there seems to be no plethora of choice dairy and creamery stocks, values hold pretty well. We quote choice creamery 23 to 24c. per pound; Townships, 19 to 20½c.; Western, 15 to 17c. Cheese is dull but firm in price at 10½ to 11c. per pound. Eggs, 18c. per dozen for fresh; limed stock 15 to 16c.

DRY GOODS.—Wholesale trade is quiet. This is the general remark with all the trade. Travellers are all home for the Christmas holidays, and to have their samples revised preparatory to making a fresh break after New Year's Day. City and suburban retail trade has been good, and keeps so; and money from this source comes in well, but general collections are nothing to brag of; from the North-West, whence money was expected to flow in freely, remittances are disappointing.

FURS.—The more urgent demand for local wants is now over and weakness is evident in others, beaver and mink, more particularly the two latter. We reduce quotations of beaver to \$3.50 to 4.25, and mink 75c. to \$1.25. The market in Europe is still very unfavorable, and purchases for shipping purposes will likely be made at shaded prices generally. Beaver, \$3.50 to 4.25 per lb.; large bear, \$12 to 16; bear, \$8 to 10; ditto cub, \$2 to 4; fisher, \$2.50 to 4; red fox, 75c. to \$1; cross ditto, \$1.50 to 3; lynx, \$1.50 to 2.50; marten, 60 to 75c.; mink, 75c. to \$1.25; muskrat, 10 to 12c.; otter, \$8 to 12; raccoon, 40 to 60c.; skunk, 20, 40, and 60c.

GROCERIES.—A moderate sprinkling of sorting orders is reported, but wholesale trade is of a pretty quiet order as a whole. In values no very striking changes are to be noted. Valencia raisins have been subject to some cutting in prices, and a fair fruit is being jobbed at 5½c. per lb., ranging thence to 6½c. for layers; currants are quoted at 5½ to 7c., latter figure for cases; sultanas sell at 10 to 11c. for a good bright fruit. There has been quite a jump upwards in evaporated apples, said to be as much as two cents a lb., due to speculation in the West. A good article would now cost 8c. laid down here, and the jobbing price is advanced to 9c.; dried ditto, 5½c. There is no demand for or supply of prunes. Malaga fruit in light request, and prices have not varied since opening of the season. Nuts are in fair demand: walnuts and almonds sell at about 15c.; filberts, 11c.; pecans, 15c.; these figures for new crop. The mill price for standard A and B rice is still \$3.70, and the agreement recently entered into to avoid cutting in this article seems pretty well adhered to. All producers of starch reduced their prices a quarter of a cent a couple of weeks ago. Sugars are not much wanted, and refinery prices remain just where they have been for several weeks. In teas steadiness prevails, and a fair country demand is reported, principally for Japans of good quality, ranging from 18c. upwards; common grades and dust comparatively neglected. Canned goods are moving slowly. Tomatoes, \$1 to 1.10 for ordinary brands; Bowly, \$1.25 to 1.30; salmon, \$1.35 to \$1.45; lobsters, \$1.90 to 2.10.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

Stocks of grain in store at Montreal elevators were, at dates mentioned:

	Dec. 21, '91.	Dec. 14, '91.
Wheat, bushels	238,058	267,171
Oats "	76,840	62,313
Rye "	9,184	9,184
Peas "	236,883	240,122
Barley "	219,599	253,034

Total 772,564 831,824

The quantity of flour in store at Montreal on Monday last was 33,477 barrels, compared with 44,076 barrels on the previous Monday.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY.

Visible supply of grain in the United States and Canada to-day as per Chicago compilation:—

	Dec. 21, '91. Bush.	Dec. 20, '90. Bush.	Dec. 21, '89. Bush.
Wheat	43,303,343	25,354,768	34,274,799
Corn	3,915,074	2,217,392	5,856,957
Oats	3,843,657	3,454,452	4,853,277
Rye	2,455,884	479,721	1,251,630
Barley	2,428,115	4,238,028	2,519,933

LEATHER.—No purchasing of leather is being done at the moment except in a hand to mouth sort of way. The English market is

reported fair only. Local prices are unchanged, and more or less of a nominal character. We quote:—Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 21 to 23c.; do., No. 2, B.A. 16 to 17c.; No. 1, ordinary Spanish, 19 to 20c.; No. 2, ditto, 15 to 16c.; No. 1, China, none to be had; No. 1 slaughter, 20 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 18 to 20c.; American oak sole, 39 to 43c.; British oak sole, 38 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 26 to 29c.; ditto, heavy, 23 to 28c.; grained, 26 to 30c.; Scotch grained, 32 to 35c.; splits, large, 16 to 21c.; do., small, 12 to 14c.; calf-splits, 32 to 33c.; calfskins (35 to 40 lbs.), 50 to 60c.; imitation French calfskins, 65 to 80c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; harness, 20 to 26c.; buffed cow, 11 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 14 to 16c.; pebbled cow, 9 to 14c.; polished buff, 10½ to 13½c.; glove grain, 11 to 13½c.; rough, 20 to 25c.; russet and bridle, 45 to 55c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Trade is distinctly flat, and no round sales can be heard of in any line. Local prices are quite undisturbed, and more or less nominal in absence of business. Glasgow warrants are cabled at 47/-, being threepence lower than a week ago, but makers' quotations for iron are not changed. The nail-makers have finally adjusted their differences, and have fixed \$2.10 as the price for standard, but will not make any contracts for delivery after 1st January. We quote:—Coltness, \$22; Calder, No. 1, \$22; Calder, No. 3, \$21.00; Summerlee, \$21.50 to \$22.00; Eglington, \$20.00; Gartsherrie, \$21.50 to 22.00; Carnbroe, \$19.50 to 20.00; Shotts, \$22.00; Middlesboro, none here; cast scrap railway chairs, &c., \$18.50 to 19; machinery scrap, \$15 to 18; common ditto, \$13; bar iron, \$2 for Canadian; British, \$2.25; best refined, \$2.50; Siemens' pig No. 1, \$21.50 to 22.00; Canada Plates—Blaina, Swansea, and Garth, \$2.70 to 2.75. Terne roofing plate, 20 x 28, \$7.75 to 8.25. Black sheet iron, No. 28, \$2.60; No. 26, \$2.50; No. 24, \$2.40; tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$6; charcoal I. C., \$4.25; P.D. Crown, \$4.50; do. I.X., \$5.25 to 5.50; coke I. C., \$3.60 to 3.75; coke wasters, \$3.50; galvanized sheets, No. 28, ordinary brands, 5 to 6c.; Morewood, 6½ to 6¾c.; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6½c.; No. 26, 7c.; the usual extra for large sizes. Hoops and bands, per 100 lbs., \$2.40. Staffordshire boiler plate, \$2.75 to 3.00; common sheet iron, \$2.60 to 2.80 according to gauge; steel boiler plate, \$3.00; heads, \$4.00; Russian sheet iron, 10½ to 11c.; lead per 100 lbs., pig, \$3.50 to 3.75; sheet, \$4 to 4.25; shot, \$6 to 6.50; best cast steel, 11 to 12c.; spring, \$2.50; tire, \$2.50 to 2.75; sleigh shoe, \$2.40; round machinery steel, \$3.00; ingot tin 22 to 23c.; bar tin, 25c.; ingot copper, 13 to 14c.; sheet zinc, \$6.50; spelter, \$6; American do. \$5.50; antimony, 18c.; bright iron wires

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