STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, May 13th, 1896.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average price 1895.
Montreal	224	223	120	225	223	224
Ontario	56	55¾	20	....	56	84
People's	....	....	....	....	1½	115½
Molsons	176	176	3	180	175	170
Toronto	238	238	2	....	235½	246
Jac. Cartier	....	....	....	....	....	....
Merchants'	167½	166½	159	170	167	172½
Commerce	134	133	123	135	133½	140
Union	....	....	....	110	100	103½
M. Teleg	169	167	100	170	165	160
Rich. & Ont	....	....	....	90	85	97
St. R'y.	213	212½	2681	213¾	212	205
Gas	187	185	689	187	186¾	204¾
C. Pacific Ry	....	....	....	60	59	53⅛
Land gr't bonds	108	108	$500	....	108	100
N.W. Land pfd.	....	....	....	50	....	....
Bell Tele	156	156	40	156	153	155½
Mont. 4% stock	....	....	....	....	....	....

BICYCLE APHORISMS.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE WHEEL EXPRESSED IN PARAGRAPHS.

It is easier to climb a hill on asphalt than to ride over the little bumps of a rough stone pavement. It is the petty annoyances of life, and not the strain of great achievements, that wear men out.

The man who can ride in the gutter without hitting the curb could not ride as near the brink of a river bank without falling in. The realization of impending danger makes disaster almost inevitable.

The scorcher can boast of his records, but the slow rider enjoys beauties of land and sky which the former never sees. Successful men sometimes waste their lives in amassing a fortune, and neglect pleasures and opportunities that are within the reach of all.

The minister, the professor, the doctor, when on their bicycles give the right of way to the driver of a beer wagon. We yield in daily affairs, not to our superiors, but to those who happen to have the power to harm us.

When the pneumatic tube is punctured, we wish for the solid tire. The good old times had some advantages over these days of modern conveniences.

The slow bicycle wobbles; the swiftly moving wheel does not swerve, but it is liable to accident. A small business is always insecure; a large one prospers by the very momentum of success, till the crash comes.

FATALITIES FROM LIGHTNING.

Damage by lightning is unmistakably increasing, according to the director of the statistical office of Berlin. Various causes are assigned, such as the employment of electricity in various industries, the continual change of form of the earth's surface by deforestation, drainage, etc., and the impurities introduced into the atmosphere by the growing consumption of coal. Professor Von Bezold some time ago showed that for Bavaria the fires due to lightning increased from a yearly average of thirty-two in 1833 to 1843, to one hundred and thirty-two in 1880 to 1882; while the number of persons struck by lightning, and of those killed, rose from one hundred and thirty-four and seventy-three respectively in 1855, to one hundred and eighty-six, and one hundred and sixty-one in 1885. An interesting fact noted is, that persons struck generally perceive neither lightning nor thunder, but receive the impression of being enveloped by fire.—*Public Opinion.*

—A good railway engine will travel about 1,000,000 miles before it wears out. However, the life of an engine depends as to its length upon the treatment it receives. With ordinary service it ought to last twelve years.

—The fit of generosity which impelled Congress to vote to its members a sheer gratuity of $1,200 a year, ostensibly for clerk hire, has developed the fact that the average cost to the country of our modern statesmen is four times what it was when Adams, Clay, Webster and their compeers sat in the halls of Congress. And the worst of it is that while the price has gone up the quality has as steadily gone down. —*Phila. Record.*

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 13th May, 1896.

ASHES.—The market continues to strengthen gradually, and first pots are quoted at $3.60 steady. Of pearls, quite a few have gone away by first boats across the Atlantic, some 69 barrels, and values are steadier. Fair shipments have been made of pots to London, Glasgow and France; exports made up to yesterday showing 143 barrels. A few fair lots have come to hand since the opening of the canals, including one of 62 barrels from Picton, and receipts for the month so far are, 117 pots and 9 pearls; in stock, 236 of pots and 33 of pearls.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—Some enquiries for large lots of cements are reported from the west, but none of them have yet resulted in actual business. In small and moderate sized orders there is a fairly steady business doing at $1.95 to 2.05 for British, and $1.80 to 1.95 for Belgian. Receipts since last report have been small. Firebricks continue to be quoted at the old range of $16.00 to 22.00, as to brand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—No improvement is to be noted with regard to butter; from 14 to 14½c. per lb. seems to be all that can be realized for creamery butter, while townships dairy is quoted at 13 to 13½c., and western 12 to 12½c. Cheese continues dull, with no business doing except a little new fodder cheese selling at 7¾ to 8c. A good many eggs have lately been bought up for packing purposes; the quotation is 9¾ to 10c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—City retailers are quite busy as a rule, and are reported to be buyers of considerable lots of cottons, and other staples and seasonable goods. In the wholesale trade a very fair sorting business is reported, with some proportion of the orders for yarns, tweeds, underwear, and some other fall lines. Payments in this line, both country and city, have shown some improvement during the past ten days.

MONTREAL GRAIN STOCKS IN STORE.

	May 4, '96.	May 11, '96.
Wheat, bushels	844,235	680,768
Corn, "	14,621	50,982
Oats, "	432,835	429,179
Rye, "	6,484	6,484
Peas, "	22,253	32,628
Barley, "	64,235	61,236
Total grain	1,384,663	1,361,227
Oatmeal	5,666	5,566
Flour	37,209	32,809
Buckwheat	62,774	20,645

GROCERIES.—In this department trade does not improve, and the movement is a restricted one. The impending elections are evidently a disturbing element, inducing a marked degree of caution in the buying of both the retailer and the importer. Sugar refiners report an absence of demand hardly understandable, so long is its continuance, and warehouses at both the local factories show a heavy accumulation of stock. Quotations for granulated remain at 4⅝ to 4¾c. per lb. as to lot, but the market is if anything weaker. It is reported that lower province refineries have been shading prices, and it would not be wholly surprising were some revision of quotations made shortly. Reports regarding the low opening of the tea market in Japan are confirmed, the decline from last year's figures being reported as much as $6 to 7 the picul in some cases, but it is claimed the difference is more apparent than real, as last year was a losing one in the tea trade, and many goods were actually sold below cost, and it is not expected that any great difference will be shown on local prices, especially when enhanced freight and insurance are considered. A few small parcels of new teas are expected next week, but they will be only fancy lines at about 30c. The C.P.R. steamer, leaving on the 20th inst., will have some fair lots for this market at about 20c., or under. Ceylons continue to strengthen on the London market. Prunes and raisins are much firmer. Of Valencia raisins the market is quite bare, and of both French and California prunes there is marked scarcity. Evaporated and dried apples are dull, the former at 5¾ to 6c., and the latter at 4 to 4½c. per lb.; gallon apples about $2.00. Canned tomatoes are firmer, some houses declining less than 90c. for standard brands.

HIDES. — Dealers report a slightly better movement, the demand being about equal to the receipts of the moment; but the accumulation in the warehouse of the combination is undisturbed, and values, continue very easy, 4, 3 and 2c. per lb. respectively, being the figures still paid for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 green beef