

# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MAY 18, 1895.

## Montreal Grain and Produce Markets.

**Flour.**—Continues strong under an increasing demand, and prices in the west have an upward tendency. In this market there have been sales of straight rollers 90 per cent. at \$3.70 to \$3.75; but at the f.o.b. prices which some millers in the west are now asking, they could not be laid down here under \$3.85 to \$3.90. Sales of straight rollers in bags have been made at \$1.72½ and \$1.75, and 1,000 bags were sold in the west for delivery in Quebec at \$1.85. Strong bakers flour remains very firm, and if the advance in wheat continues we shall soon have to record an advance. Millers refuse to take orders ahead in the present excited condition of the market and upward tendency of prices. Patent, spring, \$3.90 to \$4; Winter Patent, \$1.40; Straight roller, \$3.90 to \$1.00; Extra, \$3.25 to \$3.50; Superfine, \$2.80 to \$2.90; City Strong Bakers, \$1.25; Manitoba Bakers, \$3.75 to \$1.00; Ontario bags—extra, \$1.60 to \$1.75; Straight rollers, bags, \$1.72½ to \$1.80.

**Oatmeal.**—The market is quiet under a rather slow demand, which is usual at this time of year. There is a little easier feeling and buyers can make better terms for car lots. In a jobbing way prices are quoted as follows:—Rolled and granulated \$1.05 to \$1.10; standard \$1.00 to \$1.05. In bags, granulated and rolled are quoted at \$2.00 to \$2.05 and standard at \$1.90 to \$1.95. Pot barley \$3.75 in bbls. and \$1.75 in bags, and split peas \$3.50 to \$3.60.

**Bran, etc.**—The market for bran is again easier and lower, sales being reported at \$16.75 to \$17.00, and buyers now talk \$16.50. Shorts are quoted at \$18.00 to \$19.00, and moullie at \$21.00 to \$22.50 as to grade.

**Wheat.**—The local market is very firm, the sale being reported of a lot of No. 2 red winter on spot as high as 80c, and No. 1 hard Manitoba is quoted at 85 to 86c; it is quoted at 78c afloat at Fort William.

**Oats.**—Since our last report there have been sales of car lots in store at 40 and 40½c, being about steady at these figures.

**Barley.**—There is little or nothing doing in this market, and prices are more or less nominal at 55 to 58c for malting grades and 50 to 51c for feed.

**Pork, Lark, etc.**—The receipts of pork during the the past week were 30 bbls. and lard nil. The market remains steady for hog products, which are not as high in proportion as hogs. The sale of a car lot of choice heavy Canada short cut was made at \$17.50 and we quote \$17.00 to 18.00, sales having been made at that range as to quality and quantity. Lard is steady, the sale of a carload of compound tacking place at \$1.10, with sales in smaller quantities at \$1.45 to \$1.50 per pail. In cut meats, hams are about the cheapest product on the list and a fair business is being done therein as well as bacon. We quote: Canada short cut pork, per bbl \$17.00 to \$18.00; Canada thin mess, per bbl \$16.00 to \$16.50; Extra plate beef per bbl \$10.50 to \$11; hams, per lb 10 to 11c; lard, pure, in pails, per lb. 9 to 9½c; lard, compound, in pails, per lb. 7 to 7½c; bacon, per lb. 10 to 11c; shoulders, per lb. 8½ to 9c.

**Butter.** The market is easy and lower for fresh made creamery, sales of which were made in this ma. kot yesterday at 17 to 17½c, the inside figur being for a good sized lot, and we quote fresh creamery 17 to 18c as to

quantity. The sale of a lot of held fall creamery was made at 18c. A round lot of old Manitoba dairy butter is offered at 5c and sales of old western stuff have been made at at 6c to 7c. Now butter—creamery 17 to 18c; townships 15 to 16c; Morrisburg 15 to 16c; western 14 to 15c. Old butter—creamery 10 to 18c; townships 9 to 11c; western 6 to 10c.

**Cheese.** Prices here are nominally 8 to 8½c and old cheese 9 to 9½c. The Liverpool cable is 47s white and 48s colored.

**Eggs.**—The receipts from the west have been heavy, but packers have been free buyers at 9½ to 10c, but the demand has materially fallen off during the past few days.

**Honey.**—Old extracted 5 to 5½c per lb. New 7 to 8c per lb. in as to quality. Comb honey 10 to 18c.

**Maple products.** The demand for syrup has fallen off somewhat, although sales are reported in kegs at 4½ to 5c per lb. a choice lot bringing 5½c. Tins 55 to 65c. Sugar 6 to 6½c and old 5 to 5½c.

**Beans.**—The market is quiet but steady at \$1.60 to \$1.75 for good hand-picked mediums. Choice hand-picked pea beans \$1.80 to \$1.85. Poorer kinds are quoted from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

**Wool.**—In the wool market business has been fairly active, and some fair sized lots of Cape wool have been placed on western account on a basis of 18 to 15½c. Prices here remain firm as follows. Greasy Caps 18 to 15c; Canadian fleeces 10 to 22c, B.A. scoured 25 to 31c. In Canada pulled wool 20 to 21½c is quoted for supers, extra 23 to 20c; north-west wool 11 to 12c; B.C. 9 to 11c.

**Hides.**—The market continues strong and advancing, 7½c having been paid by dealers for No. 1 light, which is a further rise of ½c since our last report, and tanners are paying 8 to 8½c. The demand for calfskins is brisk, and as the supply has been scarcely equal to the demand, prices have advanced 1c per lb. to 8c which is the figure dealers are paying. Lambskins have also advanced to 16c. There is a scarcity of hides the world over, and some believe the highest prices have not yet been seen. We quote prices as follows: Light hides, 7½c for No. 1, 6½c for No. 2, and 6½c for No. 3; to tanners 8c to 8½c for No. 1. Heavy hides 7½c to 8c; calfskins 8c; lambskins 15c; sheepskins 75 to 85c.—Trade Bulletin, May 3.

## Hides and Leather.

There has been no adequate advance in leather. Buff hides to-day are selling at 8 cents while a few months ago they sold at 3½ cents. An advance of over 100 per cent. Taking the sole leather business, tanners would lose money at the figures quoted for slaughter to-day. One hundred pounds of steer hides sold in October or November last at \$1.50, to-day they cost \$8.50; with 10 per cent. for cash and selling, the difference is \$1.40. The average yield from a hundred pounds of hides is about 58 lbs. of sole which must be thus sold at an advance of 7½ cents on old prices to realize the same profit. Taking buff or glove grain leather, buff hides are quoted at 8 cents, while six months ago they could be bought for 8½ cents a pound. Taking a fifty-two pound hide the difference in cost is just \$2.13, which, with ten per cent. added makes \$2.31 to be made up in the extra selling price of the leather. Now fifty pounds of buff hides will yield about forty feet of glove grain or buff, and ten pounds of splits, the advance in which is about 8½ cents in the former case and 6 in the latter, aggregating only in the leather at present prices \$2.00. The same quantity of hide yields forty-five feet of pebble and twelve feet of splits, which at an advance of 3 cents in the case of the pebble and 5 cents on splits, nets \$1.95 to the tanner towards the extra cost of the leather. A 56 lb hide turns out about 19

pounds of grain upper and 7 pounds splits, the advance on those leathers only yielding \$2.32 against an increased cost of \$2.72 in the hide. It can be safely inferred that hides have not yet reached their highest point, and that it will be months before any material slacking in the market conditions may occur. When they get to an abnormally high point tanners may decline to buy altogether, and there may be a slump, but in the meantime the leather in process will continue to be affected by the present high cost of hides. It is safe to say that splits, buff, grain and pebble will go up fully ten per cent. higher before anything like a permanent basis will be reached, even in to-day's quotations for hides.—Canadian Glove and Leather Journal.

## Our Cotton Industry.

We have received from Montreal a statement of the capacity, number of hands and wages paid in the cotton mills of Canada, as at 15th April, 1891. This statement shows that our twenty cotton factories had in operation at that date 12,101 looms and 491,252 spindles, and that they employed 8,216 hands, whose yearly wages amounted to \$2,102,000. The industry, it will be admitted, is an important one; and the rate of average wage paid to the eight thousand employees, \$256 per annum to each man, woman or juvenile employed, will, we venture to say, compare favorably with that of any other country at a time when reduced rates of wages prevail so largely. The hands and machines in each mill are given as under:—

### DOMINION COTTON MILLS CO.

Mills	Looms	Spindles	Hands	Wages.
Hochelaga	1,264	66,532	832	\$233,761
St. Anne's	524	21,948	353	81,497
Magog	610	32,540	323	153,423
Coaticook	250	11,000	140	34,993
Moncton	350	15,014	250	45,119
Halifax	542	21,000	333	61,310
Windsor	250	10,600	165	33,476
Kingston	307	10,380	189	44,722
Branford	293	14,000	155	36,059
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,388</b>	<b>194,014</b>	<b>2,775</b>	<b>\$723,189</b>

### CANADIAN COL. COTTON MILLS CO.

Mills	Looms	Spindles	Hands	Wages.
St. Croix	1,033	34,144	675	\$191,416
Canada	870	33,076	529	143,865
Stornont	632	22,560	444	123,685
Ontario	445	12,000	3	89,916
Merritton	227	13,000	185	51,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,203</b>	<b>114,780</b>	<b>2,141</b>	<b>\$601,920</b>

Montreal Cotton Co., Valleyfield	2,150	68,346	1,400	244,222
Merchants Cotton Co. St. Henri	1,200	52,000	657	175,000
Gibson Cotton Co., Marysville, N.S.	632	26,112	560	190,000
Hamilton Cotton Co. Hamilton	71	6,000	200	48,000
W. Parks & Son, St. John, N. B.	300	15,000	500	120,000
<b>Total in Canada</b>	<b>12,101</b>	<b>491,252</b>	<b>8,216</b>	<b>\$2,102,231</b>

Of the 8,000 hands nearly 5,000 are employed by the company controlled the fourteen mills first mentioned on the list, which mill, distributed over four provinces, have almost two-thirds of the total number of looms in the country.

Two of these mills, the Hochelaga and the Merchants, both at Montreal, make bleached goods: the Magog mills produces prints only, half-a-dozen mills make plain greys, half-a-dozen more, shirtings; still others denims, ginghams, linings, ducks, while at St. John, Halifax, Cornwall and Hamilton, yarns and warps are manufactured, as well as denims and other fabrics. The Montreal Cotton Company makes a great variety of linings, silsesias, &c. When it is remembered that in the seven years from 1879 to 1885, no less than nineteen cotton mills were opened in four provinces of Canada, resulting in a most embarrassing over-production of cloth, it argues capable management to find the manufacture so prudently adapted to the demand as to enable the keeping of all these concerns going, as they are to-day, making a healthy variety of goods.—Monetary Times.