

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 5th May, 1897.

ASHES.—The first outgoing steamers this week will take about 150 brls. of potash, on account of orders booked during the past few weeks, but the European demand continues light, and local business is also dull. Quotations are easy at \$3.30 to 3 35 for first quality of pots, \$3 to 3.05 for seconds, pearls \$4 40 to 4 50 per cental.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—An influential deputation went to Ottawa Monday anent the cement duties, and the matter was so presented to Mr. Fielding, that it is understood that the trade have reasonable expectations that the duty as first brought down will be amended. The demand for cements is a fair one; no large orders are reported, but there is a fair aggregate of business in car lots and smaller parcels. Quotations are: for Belgian, \$1.90 to 2; for British, \$2 to 2.15. Seldom has the market been so well cleaned up of both cements and firebricks, but three steamships are now in port with fair supplies of cement. Firebricks are quiet at the moment.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There has been further notable decline in the cable quotation for cheese, the figure now being 54s. 6d. There is, however, good demand for colored cheese for shipment by first vessels for sea, and 10 to 10½c. is being paid for offerings from the country at time of writing. Receipts of stable-fed butter are large, and quotations for new creamery have declined to 15 to 15½c., with dairy makes correspondingly lower. Eggs are fairly steady at 9 to 9½c. per dozen.

DRY GOODS.—Wholesale business with the country is rather better than with city retailers, who complain that the late very showery weather has interfered with the ladies' shopping. Mail and travellers' sorting orders continue to come in very satisfactorily on the whole, and some of the larger houses profess to find remittances rather better since the opening of the present month.

FURS.—We can report nothing new in this line, and repeat quotations as fully revised last week: Black bear, large choice, \$10 to 15.00; medium, \$9 to 12; small, \$4 to 7; marten, large, \$2; small, \$1.50 to 1.75; mink, winter, 75c. to \$1.25; spring, 60c. to \$1; fisher, \$5 to 7; red fox, \$1.10 to 1.40; cross do., \$2 to 5; otter, winter, up to \$12; spring do., \$5 to 8; skunk, 20 to 60c., as to stripe, etc.; lynx, \$1 to 1.75; muskrat, spring, 17 to 20c; winter, 10 to 14c.; fall, 5 to 10c.; coon, 20c. to 60c.

MONTREAL STOCKS IN STORE.

	April 19, '97.	May 3, '97.
Wheat, bushels.....	536,085	605,059
Corn, "	20,629	20,306
Oats, "	842,747	879,541
Rye, "	74,256	78,625
Peas, "	221,853	262,918
Barley, "	53,308	56,131
Total grain	1,748,878	1,902,580
Oatmeal.....	4,883	4,928
Flour	48,194	31,516
Buckwheat.....	87,997	100,051

GROCERIES.—The distribution of goods countrywards does not show any very noticeable increase. The late frequent rains, with the frost coming out of the ground, have left the country roads in unusually bad shape, and this affects business with interior points. The staple lines of sugar and tea continue quite dull. In the former line, refiners report hardly any demand, and the St. Lawrence refinery has temporarily shut down, owing to accumulation of stock. No change has been made in the factory quotations, but there is a certain amount of speculative sugar in the market, and granulated has been offered at 4c., an eighth under the refinery price, but this is believed to be mostly Halifax refined. Brokers who are in communication with German refiners claim they can lay down German refined granulated at \$3.60 to \$3 65 per cental, but even at this figure they can get no orders, as everybody seems filled up. Molasses is still reported very low in Barbadoes, a recent cable quoting 7c., but few transactions reported; on spot the jobbing price is 28 to 29c. The proposition to put ten per cent. on teas in the United States would certainly help this market. The rice milling

company who closed their factory some months ago, though retaining on their hands on half pay, have now notified all their employees of dismissal.

HIDES.—The situation is unchanged. The demand for both hides and calfskins continues very light, with large receipts, of the latter especially, and stocks are accumulating, but dealers are still paying the high figures of late prevailing, namely, 9c. per lb. for No. 1 green hides, and 9 and 7c. respectively for Nos. 1 and 2 calfskins. Lamskins remain at 10c. and sheepskins 90c. to \$1 each.

LEATHER.—Little change is to be noted in this line. A fair amount of dongola and sole leather is being sold, but for the ordinary lines of black leather the demand is still slow, as no active cutting is yet being done by boot and shoe factories for fall footwear. Values continue very steady, and it is held hides could decline quite materially and yet be relatively higher than leather at present prices. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No.1, 22 to 23c.; do. No. 2, 21c. to 22c.; No. 1 ordinary Spanish, 21c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 25c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; common, 17 to 18c.; waxed upper light and medium, 30 to 35c.; do. heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 30 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; western splits, 22 to 25c.; Quebec do., 18 to 20c.; juniors, 16 to 18c.; calf-splits, 30 to 35c.; calf skins (35 to 40 lbs.), 60 to 65c.; imitation French calf skins, 65 to 75c.; colored calf, American, 25 to 28c.; Canadian, 20 to 22c.; colored pebble cow, 13 to 15c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; colored, 6 to 7½c.; harness, 24 to 27c.; buffed cow, 12 to 14c.; extra heavy buff, 15c.; pebbled cow, 12 to 13c.; polished buff, 11 to 13c.; glove grain, 12 to 13c.; rough, 22 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 35 to 45c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—The metal market shows a little freer movement. There have already been some moderate receipts of Summerlee iron, which is being quoted at about \$18 ex ship. There is some little stock of Carnbroe and Shotts in store here, for which quotations are now \$17 for the former and

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