

The Western Iron Works, Limited, of Winnipeg, would be pleased to represent firms manufacturing Engineering Specialties, Builders' and Ornamental Ironwork, and Contractors' and Mining Supplies, desiring to increase their Western trade. They have a very large Western connection and could place good lines without delay.

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Montreal, March 12th, 1908.

The market situation in the United States is practically unchanged, although there have been somewhat heavier sales during the past week or ten days. This applies particularly to metals of the lower grades, for pipe-makers, etc., who have, no doubt, been securing some concessions from published quotations. Generally speaking, the market is quiet and unsatisfactory.

The English and Scotch markets are firmer in tone and the tendency of prices seems to be upwards. Stocks continue to show a slight decrease, owing partly to continued heavy exports to Germany and the Continent. A few more furnaces have gone out of blast, and stocks appear to be narrowing into the hands of a few people. Many look for further advances in price, and latest market advices express the view that the bottom has been reached in both English and Scotch metals, including steel-making grades, which have heretofore been on the weak side. The strength of the market for Middlesboro' iron is apparently largely based on prospects of a continuance of business with Germany, but it would seem that German users are now well stocked, and that producers in that country are making at a sufficiently rapid rate to take care of the ordinary requirements of the country. Consequently, there is a bare possibility of demand for English grades not being maintained, and this would, no doubt, exercise a weakening influence on the English market. German makers have recently reduced prices on pig iron about 3s. per ton, bringing them to a basis of English prices.

Locally, the demand for car lots for prompt shipment is somewhat brisker and stocks in Montreal are being rapidly depleted. Inquiries for delivery on opening of navigation are good, and would indicate a fair business for the first half of the year. Several good orders have recently been placed and a number of others are now under consideration. Owing to the quietness of the past few months, consumers generally have larger stocks on hand than are usual at this time of year.

Antimony.—Prices continue steady, at 10½ to 11c. per pound.

Bar Iron and Steel.—The market on mild steel, sleigh shoe, tire and machine steel has declined 5c., that on toe calk having declined 10c. Bar iron, \$2 per 100 lbs.; best refined horseshoe iron, \$2.25, and forged iron, \$2.15; mild steel, \$2.05; sleigh shoe steel, \$2.05 for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$2.05 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$2.50; machine steel, iron finish, \$2.15.

Boiler Tubes.—The market holds steady, demand being fair. Prices are as follows: Two-inch tubes, 8 to 8¼c., 2½-inch, 11c.; 3-inch, 12 to 12¼c.; 3½-inch, 15 to 15¼c.; 4-inch, 19¼ to 19½c.

Building Paper.—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounce, \$2 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, No. 1, 60c. per roll of 400 square feet No. 2, 40c.; dry sheathing, No. 1, 50c. per roll of 400 square feet, No. 2, 32c.

Cement—Canadian and American.—Canadian cement is generally quoted at \$1.70 to \$1.75 per barrel, in cotton bags, and \$1.95 and \$2.05 in wood, weights in both cases 350 pounds. There are four bags of 87½ pounds each, net, to a barrel, and 10 cents must be added to the above prices for each bag. Bags in good condition are purchased at 10 cents each. Where paper bags are wanted instead of cotton, the charge is 2½ cents for each, or 10 cents per barrel weight. American cement is steady at \$1.10 per 350 pounds, basis Glens Falls or Lehigh mills, cotton or paper bags. When the cotton bags are returned in good condition, only

7½ cents is allowed for them. American cement sold at \$2 on track.

Cement—English and European.—English cement is unchanged at \$1.75 to \$1.85 per barrel in jute sacks of 82½ pounds each (including price of sacks) and \$1.95 to \$2.05 in wood, per 350 pounds, gross. Belgian cement is quoted at \$1.70 to \$1.80 per barrel in bags, and \$2.05 to \$2.10 per barrel, in wood.

Copper.—The market for copper is unchanged. Prices are 15½ to 16c. per pound.

Iron.—Prices for delivery after the opening of St. Lawrence navigation are approximately as follows: No. 1 Summerlee, on cars, Montreal, \$21 to \$21.50 per ton; No. 2 selected Summerlee, \$20.50 to \$21; No. 3, \$20 to \$21; No. 1 Cleveland, \$18.50, and No. 3 Clarence, \$18.

Lead.—Quotations are still \$4 to \$4.10 per 100 pounds.

Nails.—Demand for nails is steady, prices being \$2.30 per keg for cut, and \$2.25 for wire, base prices.

Pipe—Cast Iron.—The market is next thing to dead, as nothing is used during the winter. Prices are steady at \$36 for 8-inch pipe and larger; \$37 for 6-inch pipe, \$38 for 5-inch, and \$39 for 4-inch at the foundry. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

Pipe, Wrought.—The market is firm but duller. Quotations and discounts for small lots, screwed and coupled, are as follows: ¼-inch to ¾-inch, \$5.50, with 54 per cent. off for black and 38 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 66 per cent. off for black and 56 per cent. off for galvanized: ¾-inch, \$8.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1¼-inch, \$22.50; 1½-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; and 3-inch, \$75.50; 3½-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

Spikes.—Railway spikes are not in very good demand, \$2.60 per 100 pounds, base of 5¼ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at \$3.15 per 100 pounds, base of 5½ x 10 inch and 5½ x 12 inch.

Steel Shafting.—At the present time prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is very dull and lower figures would hardly be refused.

Steel Plates.—Demand is quite dull and a firm bid at lower figures than quotations would be considered. Quotations are: \$2.75 for 3-16, and \$2.50 for ¼ and thicker, in small lots.

Tar and Pitch.—Coal tar, \$4 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing 575 to 600 pounds; coal tar pitch, No. 1, 75c. per 100 pounds, No. 2, 65c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$4.35 to \$4.50 per barrel of about 280 pounds; pine pitch, \$4.25 per barrel of 180 to 200 pounds.

Tin.—The market shows a slight advance, being now quoted at 33 to 33½c. per pound.

Tool Steel.—Demand is light, but the market is firm. Base prices are as follows: Jessop's best unannealed, 14½c. per pound, annealed being 15½c.; second grade, 8½c., and high-speed, "Ark," 60c., and "Novo," 65c.; "Conqueror," 55 to 60c.; Sanderson Bros. and Newbould's "Sabon," high-speed, 60c.; extra cast tool steel, 14c., and "Colorado" cast tool steel, 8c., base prices. Sanderson's "Rex A" is quoted at 75c. and upward; Self-Hardening, 45c.; Extra, 15c.; Superior, 12c.; and Crucible, 8c.; "Edgar Allan's Air-Hardening," 55 to 65c. per pound.

Zinc.—The market is unchanged, at 5¼ to 5½c. per pound.

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Toronto, March 13th, 1908.

The labor market, in the direction of builders' employees in different classes, is much more satisfactory to employers. Plumbers and steamfitters have all the hands they want, on terms independent of the Union; structural ironworkers can get what hands they need; stonemasons and bricklayers are under agreement from 1st March, 1908, to 11th May, 1911, at 50c. per hour; carpenters and painters are working on same terms as 1907; builders' laborers are also content with same arrangement as last year. Men are abundant for all the building going on now. No worker, however, need look for an increase.

Lumber dealers are firm in their prices and confident of advancing in spring. Cement-makers maintain their attitude