

—It is satisfactory to find, says the *British Trade Journal*, that the direct weekly mail service between Canada and England is resumed; but there is still much to be desired as regards the carriage of the Canadian mails. There should be more than one mail a week, and they should be carried by faster steamers. Thirty years ago there was a weekly mail to and from Canada; to-day there is no more. Thirty years ago it was possible by the fastest steamers to convey the mails in little over seven days between Quebec and Moville; to-day the quickest time possible is not many hours better. This is certainly curious when the remarkable advance in speed in the New York mail service is kept in mind. And to-day Canada has a reason for high speed in her mail service with the mother country which New York has not. If the new highway to the East by the Canadian Pacific Railway is to get fair play to develop itself, there must be a fast mail steamer route between Canada and England; otherwise two or three days of the time gained by the fast steamers on the Pacific are lost in sending the mails round by New York.

—The *Coal Trade Journal* of the 16th says: Hard coal is said to be on the mend, but it will take very careful and conservative handling to keep it in good shape. Everyone who is willing to look at the conditions with an unprejudiced eye must admit the truth of this statement.

### Meetings.

#### BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

A general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held in London, Eng., Sept. 1st, at the offices of the bank, 3 Clement's Lane, E.C., Mr. E. A. Hoare in the chair. The attendance was very small.

The secretary (Mr. A. G. Wallis) having read the notice convening the meeting—

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—In moving the adoption of the report, I have in the first instance to draw your attention to the change we have introduced in our usual proceedings by the publication of a balance sheet, which we have not previously done at this time of the year. It may not be generally known that by the Canadian Banking Act all chartered banks of the Dominion are compelled to publish in great detail a monthly statement of accounts. This bank has, in conformity with this Act, been accustomed to a publication of its accounts as frequent as that upon which the London banks have now determined, namely, on the last day of each month. It is not, of course, possible to include in the monthly statement the figures of the London office, but nevertheless it will be interesting to you to learn the net result of the position of the bank as submitted to the Dominion Government. I find that during the present year the proportion of specie and notes of the Dominion Government constituting the immediately available assets of the bank, to the notes issued, and Government and other deposits payable on demand, constituting the immediate liabilities of the bank, has been as follows upon the dates named: January 31, 39 per cent.; February 28, 39 per cent.; March 31, 37 per cent.; April 30, 35 per cent.; May 31, 35 per cent.; June 30, 35 per cent. These figures I may say are entirely normal, there being but little variation from year to year. They show, I think it will be admitted, a position of exceptional strength, and will compare well with those of any other banking institution in Canada, or in any other country. To return to the figures in the present balance-sheet, the changes between the present time and December 31st are not remarkable. Our investments in Consols show an increase of £10,000, being the amount which was invested in accordance with the statement of the chairman at the last annual meeting. The premises account still stands at £88,000, showing no change. By the time we

next have the pleasure of meeting you, however, it is probable that there may be an increase under this head, owing to the purchase of a town site at Vancouver, upon which it is our intention to erect suitable bank premises.

In June last our general manager, Mr. Grindley, came to this country in connection with his private affairs, and although his visit was limited to a few days, he was good enough to place a considerable portion of his time at the disposal of the court. This opportunity of verbally discussing matters of importance was very gladly taken advantage of by the directors, and proved most valuable, and our only regret is that it has not been found possible in the past to arrange for such visits more frequently. We feel confident that the shareholders, no less than ourselves, are deeply indebted to Mr. Grindley, whose wise and prudent management, and zeal in the service of the bank, cannot be too highly estimated. As to the future, there appears good reason to hope that the crops in Ontario may prove better than they have proved during the last year or two. It is perhaps early to speak with certainty, but there are indications of a more favorable result being realized this year. I now beg to move that the report and accounts herewith presented be received and adopted.

Mr. R. H. Glyn seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously, the proceedings thereupon terminating.

#### STATISTICS OF POPULATION.

The population of the English towns given below are according to census of this year, the others are recent:

Birmingham	429,171
Bristol	221,665
Manchester	505,343
Portsmouth	159,255
Liverpool	517,951
London	4,211,056
Sheffield	324,243
Leeds	367,506
Belfast	208,122
Dublin	249,602
Bagdad	150,000
Benares	207,570
Bombay	773,196
Hyderabad	36,000
Madras	406,112
Delhi	173,393
Lucknow	261,485
Brisbane	35,000
Melbourne	290,000
Cape Town	33,250
Valparaiso	97,737
Buda Pesth	360,551
Florence	122,039
Stockholm	176,743
Dunedin	24,372
Sydney	120,757
Colombo	100,238
Breslau	272,912
Copenhagen	234,850
Prague	162,323
Tobolsk	18,481
Cabul	60,000
Calcutta	684,653
Cawnpore	125,000

#### STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Sept. 23rd, 1891.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average, 1890.
Montreal	228½	228	96	229	227	227
Ontario	115	113	115	115	113	115
People's	94	97	23	98	97	99
Molsons	163	167	164	167	164	164
Toronto	235	235	232	235	232	232
J. Cartier	101	100	100	101	100	100
Merchants	153½	152	99	154	150	145½
Commerce	133½	133	150	134	132½	128
Union	90	90	6	86	84	96
Mon. Teleg.	113½	110	1070	112½	111½	100½
Rich. & Ont.	56½	56	125	53½	54½	56
Street Ry.	18½	187	100	186	189	188
do. new stock	185½	185½	95	190	189	177
Gas	208	207	48	210	206	210½
do. new stock	203	203	203	188	203	203
C. Pacific	90½	88½	3000	89½	89	78½
C. P. land b'ds	80½	80½	100	81	80	78
N. W. Land	147½	143½	776	145	142	142
Bel. Tele.	147½	143½	776	145	142	142
do. new stock	147½	143½	776	145	142	142
Montreal 4%	147½	143½	776	145	142	142

#### WAR PRICES IN DIXIE.

Here is a list of prices taken from the bill of the Oriental Restaurant, at Richmond, under date of January 17, 1864:

Soup, per plate	\$1 50
Turkey	3 50
Chicken	3 50
Rockfish	5 00
Roast beef	3 00
Beefsteak, per dish	3 50
Ham and eggs	3 50
Boiled eggs	2 00
Fried oysters	5 00
Raw	3 00
Cabbage	1 00
Potatoes	1 00
Pure coffee, per cup	3 00
Pure tea, per cup	2 00
Fresh milk	2 00
Bread and butter	1 50

#### WINES, PER BOTTLE.

Champagne	\$50 00
Maderia	50 00
Port	25 00
Claret	20 00
Sherry	35 00

#### LIQUORS, PER DRINK.

French brandy	\$3 00
Rye whiskey	2 00
Apple brandy	2 00

#### MALT LIQUORS, PER BOTTLE.

Porter	\$12 00
Ale	12 00
Ale, half-bottle	6 00

#### CIGARS.

Fine Havana	\$1 00
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—Washington Post.

#### THE POPULATION OF FRANCE.

The French census returns show that, for all practical purposes, the population of France is stationary. In five years there has been an increase of 208,000, and that includes a considerable immigration of foreigners; whereas, on the other side, there has been hardly any emigration of Frenchmen. England is now very nearly level with France, and will undoubtedly be ahead at the next numbering. In spite of their large emigration rate, Englishmen are increasing nearly seven times as fast as Frenchmen. At the beginning of the century France had a population of twenty-seven millions to England's sixteen. Now the two countries are running a neck-and-neck race, with 37,700,000 and 38,000,000 respectively. However, to the patriotic Frenchman the more important comparison is with Germany. Here, also, the difference is very remarkable. Germany, like England, also has a high emigration rate, but in spite of that she adds more than twice as much to her population in one year as France adds in five years. The population of the German Empire is now greater by ten millions than the population of France.

—Another enormous honey tree was taken down at New Westminster, B.C., last week. It contained 480 pounds of pure honey. Col. Scott, the owner, says no more will be taken down this year.

—In all their wars the British have won the splendid average of 82 per cent. of the battles.

—In Scotland it is said that to rock the empty cradle will insure the coming of occupants for it.

### Commercial.

#### MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Sept. 23rd, 1891.

ASHES.—Receipts have been light since last writing, outside one lot of 24 brls., and values rule pretty steady at \$4.65 to 4.75 for first quality pots; seconds, \$3.90 to 4.00. The only transaction in pearls has been a sale of two brls. at about \$6.25; of pearls there are only seven brls. now in store.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—There is at present some fair demand for creamery butter, but in other lines demand is quiet. We quote finest cream-