

—Ocean, river and canal navigation are all open at Montreal and maritime commerce in full swing, the harbor and canal presents a scene of bustle and activity in striking contrast to the appearances of the same localities two or three weeks ago, indeed, a stranger seeing them then and now would fail to recognize them as the same. Wholesale trade in nearly every line but metals shows a pleasing degree of activity, and a feeling of satisfaction and cheerfulness is evident on all sides. Merchandise is moving to the country freely, a good quantity on orders received some time ago for first boats to western ports, but there is also a satisfactory amount of new business of this kind coming to hand. Payments in some lines of trade, our correspondent tells us, are not what they should be, notably is this the case in dry goods, and it is hoped that even this unfavorable feature will shortly disappear. Failures are comparatively few.

—For nearly twenty years, Mr. Joseph Jeffery has managed the London branch of Molsons Bank, and managed it, we believe, with satisfaction to the authorities of the institution. In addition to the duties of this position, Mr. Jeffery has been director or president of the Ontario Loan and Debenture Company, and for some years president of the London Life Co. It is not surprising that even so busy and successful a man should find it needful to lighten his burdens somewhat, and we learn that he has therefore resigned the agency of the Molsons Bank. His resignation has been accepted and the Inspector, Mr. Hutton, is in temporary charge of the branch.

—Quotations of bank and other stocks in Halifax, according to a letter bearing date 8th instant, were as under: Bank of Nova Scotia 139½; Bank of B. N. A. 141; Merchants' Bank of Halifax 108½; Union Bank of Halifax 100; People's Bank of Halifax 98½; Halifax Banking Co. 108½; Bank of Yarmouth 105½; Commercial Bank of Windsor 124; Exchange Bank of Yarmouth 86; Starr Manufacturing Co. 91; Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery 100.

—To the table of Fire Insurance Business in Canada, published in our last, foot-notes should have been added, explaining that the amounts opposite the names of the British America and the Western Assurance Companies in the first column, included income from United States' business, and that the amounts so placed in the eleventh column included assets of these companies in the United States.

A GOOD RETORT.

A subscriber brought to our office on Monday what he called a National Policy hen's egg. Its weight was 3½ ounces, length 7½ inches and circumference 6½ inches. Will some of our Grit friends beat this with their jug-handled free trade hens?—*Stratford Times*. [That egg, Mr. Times, clearly exemplifies one of the certain dangerous and pernicious results of protection. It is an over-production and we will venture to say that the hen after laying that egg, experienced a season of depression bordering on a complete collapse. Free Trade, sir, is a system of normal and continuous production, regulated by the law of demand and supply, and a fair exchange of products. That big egg strained the source, or power of production of the hen; it glutted the market for the time by its bulk, and it was followed by several days of non-production, hence, produced a disturbance in the supply market. You will perceive therefore, sir, that it produced a general trade disturbance—it disturbed the hen, disturbed the production, and then disturbed the supply.]—*Mitchell Recorder*.

—A farmer in Greensboro, Md., thinking to change his grade of potatoes, barrelled all that he had, shipped them to Baltimore, and ordered a few barrels of extra fine northern potatoes for seed. While barrelled his own tubers he lost his spectacles. When he received his northern seed potatoes he found his missing spectacles in one of the barrels. Such things destroy confidence.—*New York Sun*.

—Quite recently a Brooklyn grocer was arrested for selling copper-colored peas. He confessed that he was aware that it was in violation of the law to sell copper-colored peas without a label stating the fact of their being so colored, and therefore was found guilty and a fine of \$25 imposed. A second arrest was made, and a similar fine imposed.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 12th May, 1887.

ASHES.—The market is slightly firmer than a week ago, first pots being now quoted at \$4.40 to 4.42½, with seconds at \$3.90; business in pearls is still of a very light character, and stock is very small indeed. Receipts are rather more liberal than they have been, as was expected they would be on opening of navigation, one day last week there being 110 brls. offered. First direct shipments have been made.

BOOTS, SHOES AND LEATHER.—Some western boot and shoe jobbers have been in town looking at fall samples, and some fair orders have been placed; sorting orders are still coming in fairly. In leather there is more enquiry from manufacturers and the volume of business shows up rather better than at last report. Prices as revised last week still stand. We quote: Spanish sole, B. A. No. 1, 24 to 26c.; do. No. 2, B. A., 20 to 23c.; No. 1 Ordinary Spanish 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; No. 1 China, 21 to 22c.; No. 2, 19 to 20c.; ditto No. 2, 19½ to 21c.; Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1, 25 to 28c.; oak sole, 44 to 48c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 37c.; ditto, heavy 32 to 35c.; Grained 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained 36 to 38c.; Splits large 21 to 26c.; do. small 16 to 20c.; Calf-splits, 26 to 32c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46 lbs.), 70 to 80c.; Imitation French Calf skins 80 to 85c.; Russet Sheepskins Linings, 30 to 40c.; Harness 24 to 35c.; Buffed Cow, 13 to 15c.; Pebbled Cow, 11 to 15c.; Rough 23 to 28c.; Russet and Bridle, 54 to 55c.

CHEMICALS AND DRUGS.—Business is again reported good in these lines at the firm prices prevailing for some time past in most lines. New supplies of heavy chemicals are coming to hand by ocean steamer, and are moving freely to consumers by boat and rail. Citric acid is firmer, opium and carbolic are easier, but prices generally remain as last quoted:—Sal Soda 90 to \$1.00; Bi-Carb Soda \$2.50 to \$2.60; Soda Ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.65 to \$1.75; Bichromate of Potash, per 100 lbs., \$8 to \$10.00; Borax, refined, 10c.; Cream Tartar crystals, 32 to 38c.; do. ground, 35 to 36c.; Tartaric Acid crystal 55 to 60c.; do. powder, 60 to 65c.; Citric Acid, 75 to 80c.; Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11c.; Bleaching Powder, \$2.75 to \$3.25; Alum, \$1.60 to \$1.65; Copperas, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; Flowers Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.60 to \$3; Roll Sulphur, \$2.00 to \$2.25; Sulphate of Copper, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Epsom Salts, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre \$9.00 to \$9.40; American Quinine, 65 to 70c.; Howard's Quinine, 80 to 85c.; Opium, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Morphia, \$2.20 to \$2.40; Gum Arabic sorts, 70 to 90c.; White, \$1 to \$1.25; Carbolic Acid, 55 to 65c.; Iodide Potassium, \$4.50 to \$5.00 per lb.; Iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00; Iodoform \$7.50 to \$8.00. Prices for essential oils are: Oil lemon \$2.00 to \$3.00; oil bergamot \$3.25 to \$3.75; Orange, \$3.50; oil peppermint, \$4.75 to \$5.00; Glycerine 25 to 28c.; Senna, 18 to 30c. English Camphor, 40c. American do. 35c.

DRY GOODS.—The warm summerlike weather of the last several days is just what was wanted, and has led to extensive shopping by the ladies, city retailers all reporting business good. Country stocks are also moving off fairly. Wholesale trade is moderately active; quite a number of buyers have been in town from points within easy distance of the city, making personal selections, while sorting orders from travellers are fairly numerous. What payments came due on the 4th inst. were fairly met, and general collections are

slightly better, but the improvement is very gradual. There is nothing new in prices.

FISH.—Trade in this line still continues of a limited character, dry cod and salmon being the only two articles for which there is any demand; some green cod has been sold at \$1.50 per barrel to clear out stock. Dry cod is steady at \$3 to 3.10; North Shore salmon, \$14.50 No. 1, No. 2 \$14; British Columbia, \$12.50 to \$13; Labrador herring, say \$3.50 to \$4.00.

FURS.—Aside from some fair lots of spring rats, receipts of furs are on the light side. There is nothing fresh to report as regards prices. We quote:—Beaver, \$3.50 to \$4.00; bear, \$15.00 to \$18.00; cub do. \$6.00 to \$10.00; fisher, \$5.00 to \$6.00; fox, red, \$1.00 to \$1.20; fox, cross, \$2.00; lynx, \$2.00 to \$3.00; marten, \$1.00 to \$1.25; mink, \$1.00 to \$1.25; spring rats, 14 to 15c.; winter do. 10 to 12c.; kits, 3 to 5c.; raccoon, 40 to 60c.; skunk, 40 to 80c. as to quality; otter, \$8.00 to \$12.00.

HIDES.—A fair business is reported at 8½ to 9c. for green butchers' hides to tanners, sales of Toronto and Western Ontario hides have been made at the same figures, some Ottawa inspected have sold at 8½c. Dealers are paying 8c. for No. 1 green hides; calfskins, 8c.; lambskins, which are coming in more freely, 20c.; sheepskins, 90c. to \$1.20.

GROCERIES.—The movement of merchandize in this line is of a satisfactory character, showing still further improvement since a week ago, and remittances as a whole may be called good. In sugars there has been a large trade done at the advanced prices; granulated is 6½c. at refinery, subject to the "combination" slight advance to the retail trade; there is some scarcity of low grade yellows; raw sugars are quoted at 4½ to 5½c. Molasses has been much easier of late, with sales reported at a shade under 30c. for fair lots, but latest advices from Barbadoes show a sharp advance of 2c. a gallon, which would make cost here about 30c., and local holders are consequently again firmer in their views. Teas show a fair distributing trade in progress at steady prices; cable advices from Yokohama announce an advance of \$2 per picul on finer grades, but there is nothing in this to affect local prices. Coffees show steadiness, though the speculative movement in this article in New York has rather quieted down. We quote Mocha 22 to 24c.; Java 20 to 27c.; Rio strong at 17 to 18½c. Spices generally rule at firm prices, especially nutmegs and cloves; we quote nutmegs 43 to 80c. as to quality; pepper 17½ to 18c. for black; ginger 9 to 14c.; cloves 20 to 27c.; cassia 7 to 10c. according to package. Dried fruits are not active; currants are rather unsettled, stocks being very low, and new supplies by the "Barcelona" which are wanted, are more or less damaged by water owing to the accident to that vessel in the gulf. An advance is reported in Patras, and holders of Provincials are asking 5½ to 6½c.; Valencias and Malaga fruit at former prices; prunes 4½ to 7c. as to quality; evaporated apples 13 to 14c.; dried do. about 6c. Rice steady at old figures; American reported firmer. Canned goods are in request and firmness prevails in all lines. Nuts not in much demand; prices are as follows: almonds 14 to 15c. for best; walnuts 7 to 12c.; filberts 7 to 9c.; pecans 10 to 11c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—There has not been any material change in the situation since a week ago; business in metals and pig iron has continued very dull, and will until all uncertainty as regards a revision of duties is removed. The feeling gains ground that the Government feels the weight of public opinion too strong to make any change, but until the budget comes down, nothing definite can be known. The iron market at home presents no new features, warrants are cable at 41/3d., and makers' quotations are not altered; locally there is no change in quotations. Tin continues firm at home, being quoted at \$108 5/-, copper and lead unchanged. We quote:—Summerlee and Langloan, \$19.00 to \$20.00; Gartsherrie, \$18.50 to \$19.50; Coltness, \$20.00; Shotts, \$19.00; Eglinton and Dalmellington, \$17.50 to \$18; Calder, \$19 to \$19.50; Carnbroe, \$18; Hematite, \$20.00 to \$25.00; Siemens, No. 1, \$18.50 to \$19.00; Bar Iron, \$1.60 to \$1.65; Best Refined, \$1.85; Siemens Bar, \$2.10; Canada Plates, Blaine, \$2.50; Penn and Pontypool, none here. Tin Plates, Bradley Charcoal, \$5.00 to \$5.75; Charcoal I. C., \$3.90 to \$4.40; do. I. X., \$4.90 to \$5.40; Coke I. C.,