

of the damage done is very considerable, and the total will reach some thousands of pounds. The breakwater, which was built a few years back, strange to relate, suffered no material damage. Two of our largest coasting steamers dragged their anchors, and were blown on to the shore, but happily were towed off by tug boats. There is a large market in Townsville now for galvanized corrugated iron, and in fact, building materials of every description are being sought for.

Heavy rain has been experienced in North Queensland. At Kuranda, the rainfall for 24 hours' ended 9 a.m., 21st inst., amounted to fourteen (14) inches, which has caused the Barron river to rise considerably. We have had splendid rains in and around Brisbane and on the Darling Downs recently, and we now have bright prospects for the future. It is simply wonderful how quickly Australia can recover from the effects of a long drought. The dull conditions have existed so long a time that we are more hopeful that there will soon be a change for the better, and that our importations will increase. As for our exports, the less said the better, because through the drought they must necessarily be small; but our exports will come in time.

The Canadian-Australian Mail Line, i.e., The "All-Red" Route, is fast gaining the popularity it so richly deserves. The company are now advertising those popular excursions to Banff, on the Rocky Mountains of Canada, the most charming mountain, river, and lake scenery in the world. These are the cheapest and best excursions ever offered from Australia, the round trip occupying about eight weeks. The "Miwera" is the first steamer which is advertised to leave Brisbane, June 17th, 1903.

The S. S. "Aorangi," is due in Brisbane, (Moreton Bay), this morning and resumes her voyage late to-night, upon receipt of Southern Mails, and after embarking several passengers. She has an exceptionally large list of passengers for Canada and the U. S. A., being the largest list recorded by the "All Red Route" which is very pleasing, to say the least of it. I enclose a cutting in regard to this mail service which expires in May next, and which will be renewed as far as present indications warrant. The "Moana" is due here on Saturday next, outward bound, being two days late in leaving Vancouver but it is expected that the lost time will be made up on the voyage over. We have lately been importing large quantities of wheat from California. The barque "Norma," 64 days out from Seattle, arrived here yesterday; she is a steel four masted barque of some 2,000 tons, laden with wheat. Why does not Canada export to Australia wheat, now that the drought prevented our growing enough for our own requirements? I suppose the exceptionally large quantities of Manitoba flour exported to Australia by each Canadian steamer does not warrant your doing so? Manitoba flour is recognized by our bakers here as being one of the best procurable in the world. What is the ruling price of yours, please?

The Bell Piano and Organ Company's high class organs and pianos are largely advertised here, and the sales of the pianos are very good. The pianos give great satisfaction, and are very highly spoken of.

QUESTOR.

Brisbane, Queensland, April 22nd, 1903.

#### SPORTY STOCK BROKERS.

We are used to hearing of the New York stock brokers having high jinks once in a while, but we have not heard of their attempting such a feat as was engaged in a little while ago by the London stock brokers. On Friday morning (May 1st), some 87 gentlemen of the Stock Exchange of London, started to walk from Westminster to Brighton, a distance of 52 miles. At 6.30 in the morning the race was begun, and all along the route through Kensington and other suburbs, thousands of spectators had assembled, while the road was lively as on a Derby day with vehicles, bicycles and motor cars. Suburban residents started out of bed and the ladies cheered the plucky young fellows as they passed. The road was heavy after the rains, but the first man arrived at the Aquarium, Brighton, in nine and a half hours, while half a dozen others followed in a few minutes after. Of the 87 who started, 53 reached Brighton, the others falling out by the way.

May we not hear now of some dozens of the members of the Montreal Stock Exchange engaging in a competitive walk to St. John's? or even Ste. Agathe? And why not the Toronto stock brokers start some fine morning for Hamilton, 44 miles by the highway? We have known a fellow, an Englishman, who used to do it every Sunday for months, and suffered from sore feet for the rest of the week. But he was full-blooded and too energetic. There is no reason why our fine fellows of the Stock Exchange, young or middle aged—nobody can be old in that business—should not attempt the exploit in leafy June, and not get sore feet either. It is the very sort of excursion that Mr. Lyndhurst Ogden would like to organize; and a capital handicapper he would make, not taking a back place to anyone either, as a fair heel-and-toe walker. The president is a sedate man, and would see that no improprieties or intemperances were indulged in, while Col. Pellatt might be depended on to preserve the formation *a la militaire*. Frisky people, such as Hal O'Hara and Reginald Brown might need the restraint of a committee, composed say of Chris. Baines and Fred. Stewart, while the time-keeper would naturally be Mr. MacKellar, provided he could keep up with the procession. We commend the idea to the managing committee of the board.

#### A COMMERCIAL ESCAPEDE.

Editor Monetary Times, Toronto.

Dear Sir,—A few years ago a gentleman connected with the Montreal Telegraph Company wrote several letters, which were published in the Monetary Times, giving very interesting reminiscences of Toronto and some of its citizens in the later forties and early fifties. I happen to have been concerned indirectly in a very singular occurrence, and its relation will, I have no doubt, interest a few elderly people who will remember the circumstances, and perhaps may amuse the younger generation.

In front of the old City Hall there were four or six—I have forgotten which—grocery stores, divided by the entrances to the fruit and vegetable market. The one adjoining the entrance to the west was occupied by Mr. Wm. Keighley, a very respectable Englishman, only a few years out. He died rather suddenly in the prime of life. He was the father of Mr. Keighley, of the late firm of Smith & Keighley. Adjoining the entrance on the east was a store occupied by, I think, Glendenning & Son, and the adjoining one, that is the east corner, by Dan Kehoe—and the story is connected with Dan.

He and his wife were both actively engaged in the business, and "the grey mare was considered to be the best horse." They both had a sweet Limerick brogue, indeed she could almost "charm a bird off a bough." They did quite a large business in Oswego plaster, and Syracuse salt in barrels, and I think Dan owned a small schooner, in which he imported the above commodities. They also did a considerable business in whiskey, serving the shebeens and small groceries in the outlying wards. Dan was looked upon as a "dacent man" and prosperous, and his credit was unlimited so far as his business was concerned. Hence it was like a bolt out of the blue when it transpired on a certain Monday morning that Dan Kehoe had absconded. The store had been pretty nearly emptied, everything possible having been turned into money, and an investigation showed that it was a case of downright robbery. Among the creditors were the late A. M. Smith, Reford & Dillon, and probably others whom I have forgotten.

At this time—about 1858—I was doing business in the St. Lawrence Market, exactly opposite the weigh-house, so that I used to see the business that was done by Kehoe, and therefore was interested in the escapade. About a week after it took place, I was crossing the lake in the old steamer "Zimmerman," en route to Buffalo to purchase cheese, in which I did a considerable business. Among the passengers on board was Sergeant-Major McDowell, of the Toronto Police Force, a fellow of more brawn than brains, as the sequel will show. I said to him jocularly, "Are you going after Kehoe?" Very shortly and brusquely he replied, "No," and I do not think that was his intention, though of course it would not be necessary for him to enlighten me.