

tively trivial quantity of 87,045 packages for more than eleven months of this year, as against an average of 116,000 packages in like periods of 1887, 1886, and 1885. Cheese, on the other hand, shows steadily increased receipts, 1,134,000 boxes having been received this year, as compared with 1,033,000 for each of three preceding years' average. Dressed hogs and lard have grown pretty steadily in this list; not so with hams, bacon, and barrelled pork. Potash shows a decline, as was to be expected. Beef and tallow, the small quantities of which we have left out of the list, show in the case of the first an increase to 3,616 barrels, and in that of the latter a decline to 930 barrels.

The total shipments of say forty-eight weeks this year from Montreal, of bread-stuffs, provisions, &c. are given below:

ARTICLE.	TOTAL SHIPMENTS.					EUROPEAN.		COASTWISE.		RAIL.
	1888.	1887.	1886.	1885.	1884.	1888.	1887.	1888.	1887.	
Wheat, bushels.....	2,190,242	9,150,240	6,860,321	4,173,749	2,068,854	2,068,854	2,068,854	6,218	115,170	115,170
Corn, ".....	2,800,585	1,206,678	4,625,331	2,281,642	2,717,617	2,717,617	2,717,617	6,565	76,403	76,403
Peas, ".....	1,067,647	2,490,885	2,723,463	2,515,002	934,648	934,648	934,648	26,253	106,746	106,746
Oats, ".....	66,962	511,273	2,045,830	1,442,131	.....	.....	.....	7,997	58,965	58,965
Barley, ".....	12,240	59,792	14,564	78,819	.....	.....	.....	6,216	6,024	6,024
Rye, ".....	.....	111,623	15,667	37,669	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Flour, barrels.....	788,752	900,713	719,625	671,084	394,527	394,527	394,527	283,062	111,143	111,143
Meal, ".....	21,192	42,681	74,874	112,899	11,315	11,315	11,315	9,007	870	870
Asbes, ".....	2,901	3,368	4,042	4,874	2,900	2,900	2,900	1	.....	.....
Butter, packages.....	35,884	92,293	82,999	102,418	16,113	16,113	16,113	13,978	5,793	5,793
Cheese, boxes.....	1,135,249	1,181,643	1,074,429	1,182,441	1,119,709	1,119,709	1,119,709	5,995	9,545	9,545
Pork, barrels.....	7,760	14,010	11,346	18,021	216	216	216	7,171	373	373
Lard, ".....	15,628	21,192	20,707	18,870	15,151	15,151	15,151	310	167	167
Dressed hogs.....	2,272	3,377	3,549	1,389	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,272	2,272
Petroleum, barrels.....	.....	636	5,473	5,559	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Leather, rolls.....	4,551	3,606	8,102	8,671	966	966	966	909	2,676	2,676
Hams and bacon.....	38,796	60,434	84,242	68,758	37,754	37,754	37,754	1,034	.....	.....

The aggregate of grain shipped from Montreal in the last eleven months, 6,137,000 bushels, compares but poorly with the 13½ millions of last year, and the nearly 16 million bushels of 1878. The quantity of every sort of cereal is less. Almost all the wheat, Indian corn, and peas went to Europe, that continent getting none of the oats, barley, or rye. The shipments of potash to Europe, which in 1874 to 1878 averaged 15,000 barrels per annum, have fallen off to 3,600 barrels this year, while those of cheese have grown from 484,000 boxes in 1878 to 1,135,000 boxes during the present year. Butter shipments, which ranged from 124,000 to 193,000 packages in the seven years ended with 1878, had fallen off to 78,000 average in the four years last past.

The Commercial Bank of Manitoba is said to be opening a branch at Morden.

### A TALK WITH SUBSCRIBERS.

Readers of this journal who have any suggestions to make or information useful to the public to give, will always find their letters welcomed at this office if of reasonable length and not unreasonable tenor. We are not of those who believe that conductors of the press have nothing to learn, or that a particular view must be always and in all circumstances correct. In other words, we are open to conviction. It must be understood, however, that the editor is the judge of what is proper, as to language or length, to appear; and if a writer who is fond of seeing the product of his pen in print shall be occasionally disappointed we cannot assume all blame for the fact. Our correspondents must be charitable, besides, in their opinions of persons with whom they are constrained to differ. If not that, then they must be civil in their epithets.

We try to give value, in fifty-two numbers of THE MONETARY TIMES, for two dollars a year, and we are encouraged by some thousands of subscribers to think that we succeed. Such grumblers as W. W., however (who is in arrears for nearly two years) object to this, that, and the other fault, omission, or petty circumstance in the conduct of our business. For instance, "such constant, unpleasant dunning." Did it ever strike W. W., and hundreds more like him, that they are themselves the cause of the "constant dunning" that frets the delicate conscience of W. W.? It is no more pleasant for us to send out dunning circulars than for delinquents to receive them. And that millennial time will be welcome when every subscriber shall send in his money in advance, and thus enable us to make this journal still more attractive to mercantile readers.

People with feelings like W. W. may escape such hurts to their vanity as duns imply by simply paying their debts. Some scores or hundreds of newspaper proprietors, all over Canada, are engaged at some time of the year in just such efforts as ours to collect outstanding accounts. We find the following in the Amherstburg Echo, which heads the item bluntly:

#### PAY UP!

"Newspaper subscribers who are in arrears should bear in mind that a dun is not an impeachment of their integrity, but simply an outcropping of a publisher's necessity. For instance, a hundred men owe him from one to four dollars each. (In our case, say \$2 to \$6 each.) It is a small amount to each individual, but to him the average is large. Instead of getting angry because the publisher asks him for his honest dues, the delinquent subscriber should be grateful to him for waiting so patiently and should pay him up like a man."

As a specimen of the other sort of reader, who recognizes our efforts to give him a paper worth paying for, by promptly and pleasantly paying for it, we are pleased to print the following from a man in Quebec: "Enclosed, I hand you P. O. order for \$5, which will pay me up to December, 1889. I have the money honestly by me, and think it a good investment. Go on and prosper, and a Merry Christmas to you. I don't want to miss your straight-up-and-down paper."

"In reply to your really polite memory-jogger, please find order for \$2 herewith," writes a Wroxeter subscriber, adding: "It pays to be polite. Although the card is a real danner, one can't take offence at it; especially when, like myself, he is behind instead of ahead in payment. Some day I hope to get ahead. Please to continue the paper."

A subscriber in north-eastern Ontario thanks us for reminding him that his subscription for

THE MONETARY TIMES is due. He says: "You are quite right to keep at those who don't pay you prompt; there must be a many of them if your business is like mine. Anyway, I thank you for putting me in mind that I was behind. After to-day I am no longer behind for your welcome visitor."

### A RASCAL PUNISHED.

For some years past the business men of Canada have been annoyed by the extraordinarily bold and unscrupulous doings of a *chevalier d'industrie* bearing the name of Dr. Gustavus Hamilton Griffin. He got into unsavory scrapes at Montreal, at Stratford, and other places, and was arrested, but never to our recollection adequately punished. While in the employ of a Montreal commercial journal as canvasser, he was successful, by unblushing lying and making plentiful promises—which were often broken—in reaping a temporary harvest for himself and his employers, at the expense, however, of antagonizing many millers and manufacturers whom his specious promises victimized. This precious individual turned up some months ago in British Columbia, where he established a rascally sort of society journal and proceeded to attempt blackmail upon the people of Victoria and elsewhere. But he tried his peculiar methods on the wrong man when he threatened Mr. Dunsmuir, of that city, and was arrested for criminal libel. Last week he was found guilty, and, strangely enough, recommended to mercy. When asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed upon him, the brazen and irreverent Griffin said: "My lord, I am an innocent man. I have this to say, my lord: I thank you and the jury, my lawyer and friends who are on my side. The same Providence will carry me through that has brought me through this trial, I am innocent as you, my lord, sitting on the bench." His lordship said he concurred in the verdict given, and added: "The crime is a most dastardly one. Murder can be punished, but when a man sends a letter threatening to murder he creates a ferment in society, besides committing a crime than which there is nothing worse. The jury recommend you to mercy—I sentence you to imprisonment for five years."

### AN INSURANCE TABLE.

A subscriber in Ripley, Ont., makes the suggestion thus: "Pardon me for offering you a hint. By way of addition to the many other interesting and instructive reports and tables published from week to week in your very useful journal, suppose you have one relating more particularly to fire insurance companies doing business in Canada. It would add somewhat to its value, viz., give under the following headings for example:

"Name of Co., Head Office, Amount Deposited with Dominion Government, Amount Deposited with Provincial Government, Amount of business transacted during the month ending, &c., Amount paid for losses during the month ending, &c., Amount of losses remaining unpaid, Losses in dispute, Capital paid up, &c., &c."

"I believe a report or table of this kind inserted occasionally would not only prove a useful reference but a guide to intending insurers."

In reply to our subscriber we would say that the most of the items given above are published at least once a year in our columns. Some appear in the companies' advertise-