

inson, only a small insurance in Niagara Mutual for \$500 on stock and building. F. Hilton and John A. Scoon, building owned by John A. Scoon, insured for \$500 in Home. P. O'Dwer's building, owned by Mr. A. Haydon, no insurance. A. Goodwin's building, owned by Mr. A. Haydon, no insurance. W. H. Stewart's building, owned by Mr. C. Napper, insured in Western for \$450. Altogether, over and above all insurance, the losses will not be much less than \$23,000. Mr. Goodwin estimates his loss at \$2,000. Messrs. Johnson & Co. estimate their loss at \$4,000; Mr. O'Dwyer, \$2,000; Mr. Meekinson at \$2,000; Mr. Haydon at \$2,000; McKellar and Strathy, \$2,000; Mr. Carre, \$1,000; while the others have more or less suffered, among them Messrs. Cameron and Ritchie, whose goods suffered by removal. Mr. Stonehouse's law office was also destroyed—loss about \$100.

Brantford, March 21.—Premises of P. Levey; loss 500; insured for \$250. Also, a wooden tenement on the 17th, valued at \$400; no particulars. Cause believed to be incendiarism.

Caledonia, March 20.—Saw mills of Scott & Co.; loss \$4,000 to \$5,000; partially insured; cause incendiarism.

Toronto, March 24.—A row of frame buildings on the corner of Yonge and Gerrard Sts., owned by Mrs. McCutcheon, and insured for about \$1,200; of the occupants, Sawdon, tinsmith, lost about \$550; partially insured in the Western of England; Bickerstaff's loss about \$700; insured in same company. Bonnick's loss trifling; Bridgewater's loss about \$700; partially insured.

Cobourg, March 16.—Barn of B. McEvers; loss \$800; no particulars.

Grimsby, March 20.—House of James Russ, and contents, with \$1,300 in money. Cause, a spark from a defective stove-pipe.

Kingston, March.—Steamer Empress, owned by Owen Lynch; loss \$12,500; insurance \$10,500.

Commercial.

The Sugar Duties.

A telegram which we have seen from Ottawa states that it is probable the tariff will be altered imposing an ad valorem charge of twenty-five per cent., and a specific duty, though no statement is made as to the specific portion. It must be either levied uniformly or on the sliding scale/principle. We can assure the Government that the country is pretty thoroughly out of conceit of the sliding scale as applied to Canada. If an ad valorem duty of 25 per cent. and a specific duty of 1 per cent. be adopted, and taking the figures of 1866-7 as a basis, they would give a slight increase of revenue. In practice the excess would, we think, be found to be very considerable. Let us see what would be the result of the imposition of such a duty. Taking the average cost of the several grades, as shown by the returns of sugar entered in the Province of Canada for the year ending 30th June, 1867, and levying a charge of 1c. and 25 per cent., we get the following average duties on each grade:—

Class.	Average Value.	Duty per 100 lbs.
1	\$7 80	2 95
2	5 74	2 43½
3	4 49	2 16
4	4 21	2 05
5	3 63	1 91
6	3 12½	1 73

Such a tariff would be less favorable to refiners than that now in force, but consumers would, we are certain, find no fault with the working of it.

Opening of Navigation.—The Prospect.

Within the past ten days, the weather has assumed such a mild aspect that there seems good reason to look for an early opening of navigation. Lake Huron is already open, but the Mackinaw Straits and St. Clair River will not be clear for some time yet. At this port very little movement has been made so far, and we are sorry that we cannot look for a brisk season for our vessel owners. Supplies of grain to be carried are limited; lumber is dull and may move slowly, and it is not easy to see that the demands upon our lake tonnage will be very heavy from any

quarter. The stringency of the American coasting regulations operates very unfairly. Until 1866, Canadian bottoms were permitted by the American Government to take in cargoes at Chicago, Toledo, and other American ports, destined for ports on the American side east of the Welland Canal. Such cargoes being discharged at Port Colborne, and passing over the Welland Railway, were shipped at Port Dalhousie to Oswego, Cape Vincent or Ogdensburg. The present position of the matter is that American vessels can take Canadian shipments to their own ports in competition with our vessels, while they (the Americans) have at all times the large trade from the west through the Welland Canal, as also to Buffalo, all in their own hands, we not being allowed to compete with them, thus giving them a decided advantage over us. This has been a serious drawback to the prosperity of our lake craft for the past two years. Representations have recently been made by those more immediately interested to our Government on the subject with a view of having such changes made in our laws as will be a set-off to these disadvantages. It has been suggested that we waive the collection of Welland Canal tolls on all cargoes shipped in Canadian vessels from American ports bound for Canadian ports. In the present position of the matter a strong inducement is offered to Canadian owners to have their vessels transferred, making them American bottoms. Some measure is undoubtedly required which will tend to encourage our lake trade, and put our vessel owners on as good a footing as Americans.

Toronto Market.

GRAIN.—Wheat—Receipts 5,687 bush., 5,436 bush. last week, and 4,660 bush. for the corresponding period of last year. The market has exhibited little activity, and no business of any moment was reported, except the sale of a couple of round lots of Spring Wheat at stations west of this, for export, at \$1 65 bagged and on cars. Holders will have now to take their chance of the prices ruling at the opening of navigation, as it is quite impossible to get any quantity off by the Grand Trunk Railway. Stocks here are considerable, and we believe there is a large quantity in the warehouses at the ports on Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay. At present the course of prices is very uncertain; there seems no chance of a scarcity before the lakes and canals are open, and there is, therefore, little room to anticipate any material change in prices before that time. The English market is reported firm by latest mail advices. The imports of Wheat and Flour into all the English ports for the month of February were as follows:

	1867.	1868.
Wheat, cwts.	1,423,169	2,214,181
Flour, cwts.	267,934	252,176

The imports of Peas were one-half less than last year. Barley—The market for the past three days has been active and excited, and closed 25 cents higher. Bright Barley is now worth about as much as Fall Wheat, pound for pound. A sale of a lot was effected at \$1 50 for 43 lbs. There is a brisk demand for the American market from points east and west. Sales of malt have been made to some extent to go to Detroit, and places west of that city. Oats—Are quiet, with a limited demand, and were offered at 50c. on track, and 60c. delivered, with some business at 57½. Peas—Nominal. Seeds—Little doing at quotations. Flour—Receipts 1,520 bls. 1213 bls. last week, and 1,694 bls. for the corresponding week of last year. The market has ruled quiet, with only a small demand at \$7 10 and \$7 15 for No. 1 superfine; extra, sales at \$7 50 to \$7 75; superior sold at \$8 25.

The following were the stocks of grain and flour in store in the city warehouses on the 25th inst., and at same date last year:—

	1867.	1868.
Spring wheat, bushels	79,997	95,420
Fall " " "	78,061	88,404
Oats " " "	9,757	27,237
Peas " " "	166,193	21,213
Barley " " "	22,788	1,600
Flour, barrels	12,026	13,884

Provisions.—Butter—not so firm, the demand has slackened off and prices in the New York market have declined 5 to 10c., the tendency being still downward. There is a very little stock in this market, and not much disposition to buy at present prices; no sales. Cheese.—There is a good demand from retailers at 9 to 10c. Pork.—Holders are firm at \$19 to \$19.50 for mess; no sales, but some enquiry. Bacon—is wanted for shipment, and there is a good business doing with local retailers at 7½ to 8c. Hams—Stocks reduced and held firm at 10c. for dried; smoked 11 to 11c. Lard—Retail lots sell at 11½ to 12c.; large lots could not be had below 11c. Dressed Hogs.—A lot of medium sold at \$6 and a lot of choice mess at \$6.75, at Guelph Station.

FREIGHTS.—Tariff rates by Grand Trunk to the following points are:—Flour to all stations from Belleville to Lynn, inclusive, 35c; grain per 100 lbs., 28c; flour to Brockville and Cornwall, inclusive, 43c, grain, 22c; flour to Montreal, 5 c, grain, 25c; flour to all stations between Island Pond and Portland, inclusive, 85c, grain, 43c; flour to Halifax, \$1 05, grain, 53c; flour to St. John, 95c; Marine Insurance, Portland to Halifax, 1½ on flour, and to St. John 1 per cent. Dressed Hogs, Toronto to Montreal \$70 per car load of 20,000 lbs.; in less quantities, 40c per 200 lbs. Toronto to Liverpool, by Grand Trunk via Portland—Boxed meats, per 100 lbs., 90c; lard and butter, \$1 05c; beef, per tierce, 14s 6d stg; pork, per bbl. 11s 8d; flour and oatmeal, 6s. Rates by Great Western—Flour to Suspension Bridge, 25c; Susp. Bridge to Boston, 80c, American currency.

Demerara Sugar Market.

The following is from Sandbach, Parker & Co.'s Circular, dated Demerara, February 24:—We have only had two arrivals from the United Kingdom during the fortnight, the number from United States and British Provinces has however been fully kept up, so that in some branches of business, especially Breadstuffs and Provisions, there has been a good deal of animation.

SUGARS.—The stocks now coming forward are superior in quality, and as the yield at present is up to the average, the quantity to be offered for sale in the next three months will be large. The samples shown at the Exhibition which has been held the past fortnight, reflect great credit on our Planters—the improvement during the year has been very marked; the American market still rules higher than the English; and the diverting to the former of stocks from all parts will most likely have a tendency to equalize prices. The only transactions during the fortnight have been in Vacuum Pan samples, Muscovados have been quite neglected.

MOLASSES.—There has been more competition for this article, and prices have ruled high as compared with the previous six months. All offering has been freely taken up at quotations.

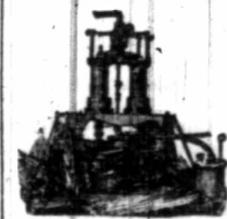
RUSS.—Transactions during the fortnight have been on a very small scale, nearly all manufactured being shipped to the United Kingdom.

Transactions have taken place during the fortnight at the following rates:—

Sugars (package included, sold by 100 Dutch, 10 per cent tare, f.o.b.)—Muscovados, equal at No. 8 Dutch standard, \$4; do. No. 10 do. \$4.30, per 100 lbs. Vacuum Pan do. No. 14 do. \$5.75; do. No. 18 do. \$6.10 per 100 lbs.—in hdqs. of about 1800 lbs.

Molasses (package included, sold by Imperial gall.)—Muscovado, from 20 to 24c. as to color and density. Vacuum Pan 28 to 34c do.—in puns of 100 galls.

Rum (colored, package included, sold by Imperial gall.)—from 35 per cent. to 38 overproof, 48 to 50c.; do. 38 per cent to 40 overproof, 52 to 60c.—in puns of 100 galls.



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