

days, as showing a tendency to steady transactions in railroad circles. The list consists of 1,660 box cars, 800 coal cars, 25 refrigerator cars, 24 motors, 500 gondolas and 16 Pullman coaches. Of these 2,066 were for western and southern railroads. About 400 locomotives have also been contracted for, 343 of which are for western and southern lines.

It is not easy to say, after reading all these extracts, how soon we in Canada are to feel an impulse from the revived activity in the States which is "so near and yet so far." The most agreeable way would be to concur with the *Railway Review* in its opinion that certainly the United States is in the upward trend towards better things, and Canada, which has a good deal to be thankful for, must benefit by her activity when it comes.

FRUIT AUCTIONS IN MONTREAL.

For several days of early May there was discharging at the Long wharf in Montreal the cargo of the Mediterranean steamship "Fremona," direct from Messina and Palermo, with a cargo of some sixty thousand boxes of oranges and lemons. The fruit was landed in exceptionally good condition, and the nostrils of any one passing by the wharf would be regaled by perfumes appropriate to the fruits we have named. The "Fremona" is the first arrival of four steamers; the other three are expected to succeed her, one a week for three weeks, until 180,000 to 200,000 boxes are received. It is stated that the high prices realized last spring for similar cargoes gave Montreal a great reputation among the Italian shippers, who showed their anxiety at both Messina and Palermo to get fruit on board this ship. Prices this year are lower than last.

On Tuesday, the 5th inst., the most of the fruit was put up for sale at the premises of the Fruit Auction Co., on McGill street. Some 20,000 boxes had been already sold f.o.b., Palermo and Messina, to several dealers in Canada and the States, but 31,000 boxes were offered to those present from various Canadian cities ranging from Winnipeg to Hamilton and London, from Sarnia and Brantford to Toronto and Ottawa. Besides these there were twenty buyers from New York, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati and Albany in the United States. The fruit was generally of a very good quality, the proportions of the whole cargo being as follows: 5,000 boxes and 500 half boxes of Messina oranges, 304 boxes and 824 half boxes of Palermo oranges, 42,500 boxes of Messina lemons and 6,633 boxes of Palermo lemons. The whole arrived in excellent condition. The prices paid per box at auction for the lemons ranged from \$1.50 to 3.00, or an average of about \$2.40. Oranges sold at from \$2.00 to 3.50 per box, and at \$1.20 to 2.60 for half-boxes. The bidding was brisk, especially for lemons, and it is said that two-thirds of the cargo was purchased for shipment to the Southern and Western States, but the prices realized were 50 to 60c. per box lower than what was paid for the same ship's cargo last season.

THE FUR MARKET.

The general tone of the fur market cannot be called satisfactory. People on this continent have not felt able this year or two to buy what may be called the more luxurious and expensive kinds of furs to the same extent as in former years. English advices say that the general result of the March fur sales in London was less satisfactory than in 1895. The reasons given for this are the mildness of the weather, the increase in supplies, and the extensive failures in the American fur market.

Such skins as beaver, otter and bear have been realizing poor prices in Canada, compared with other times. Beaver and otter furs have not been bought in Toronto for the past four years in consequence of the passage of a law by the Ontario Government prohibiting the killing of either animal for the space of five years from 1892. Bear skins have, however, fallen in price one-half in this market within twelve months, and in Montreal they are comparatively neglected and bring poor prices.

Results of the London fur sales of March last are summarized in the last circular of Culverwell, Brooks & Co., who say that otter advanced 10 per cent., while the small supply of beaver offered brought about January prices; marten, being wanted by English furriers, went up 15 per cent., while mink, curiously enough, went down by as much; lynx declined 40, and skunk, of which the import was heavy, 18 per cent; black bear 35, and wolf only 15; fisher kept its price; so did raccoon, which, at the date of the circular, April 24th, was in active request in London. Red fox declined 30, and cross and silver fox 40 per cent., the latter by reason of weakness in the Russian demand. The next London general fur sale is to take place 3rd to 8th June.

DRAPERY COMPANIES' RESULTS.

A list of forty-five drapery companies in England is given in the last received *Drapery World*, showing in parallel columns the profits earned and dividends paid in 1894 and 1895 respectively. In ten cases no dividend at all is shown in 1894, Arnott & Co., limited; Chadwick & Bro., limited; Lister & Co., limited; and the Waterloo House and Swan & Edgar being among these. All these but two paid dividend, however, in 1895. Indeed there were but two of the whole forty-five which did not pay a dividend, ranging in amount from two per cent. in the case of Alexander & Co., to 12½ per cent. in the case of Rylands & Sons, limited, last year. Cooper, Box & Co. lost £537, and Swan & Edgar (Waterloo House), £16,410. The profits of Bradbury, Greatorex & Co. were £34,354; those of Rylands, £117,866; of Redfern, limited (is not this the ladies' tailoring house?), £25,531; of Pawsons & Leafs, £16,327; of A. & S. Henry & Co., £94,798; of John Crossley & Sons, £84,225, which last-named concern paid 10 per cent., as did Crisp & Co., while the Fore Street Warehouse Co. paid 5, and Foster, Porter & Co., 7½, the same rate as in the previous year. Our contemporary concludes: "This table affords an interesting study to those interested at all in this branch of industrial securities."

The list in full is as below, the different columns showing the available profits earned and the percentage of dividend paid in 1894, as well as in 1895:

Name.	1895.		1894.
	Profit. £	Dividend. Per cent.	Dividend. Per cent.
Alexander, R. F. & J. & Co	23,256	2	—
Arnott & Co., Ltd., Glasgow	16,347	8	—
Baker, Chas. & Co., Ltd.	27,649	6/8 per share	9
Barker, John & Co., Ltd.	47,708	12	11
Bradbury, Greatorex & Co	34,354	8	5
Cannock & Co., Ltd.	10,269	9	9
Cawthra & Co., Ltd.	14,805	6	6
Chadwick, Jam s & Bro., Ltd	36,469	2½	—
Cooper, Box & Co., Ltd.	Loss, 537	—	—
Crisp & Co., Ltd.	15,843	10	—
Crossley, John & Sons	84,225	10	10
Crowe & Co., Ltd.	6,363	6	6
Crowe, Wilson & Co	8,538	5/- per share	5/- per share
Devar, Routledge & Co	13,179	6½	6½
Dwyer & Co., Ltd.	6,975	7	7
Evans & Allen, Ltd.	1,370	5	—
Evans, Ben., Ltd.	8,251	7	—
Evans, D. H. & Co., Ltd.	27,087	12	12
Evans & Owen, Ltd.	6,040	7½	7½
Firth, T. F. & Sons, Ltd., Leeds.	26,359	10	8
Fore-street Warehouse Company	22,916	5	4
Foster, Porter & Co.	17,706	7½	7½
Henry, A. & S. & Co., Ltd.	94,798	7	5
Howell, J. & Co.	27,132	10	10
Lib rty & Co., Ltd.	24,118	10	8
Lister & Co.	73,382	4	2
Louise & Co., Ltd.	13,257	8½	—
Lunt, R. & Co.	4,228	7½	7½
Lyons, T. & Co.	15,670	7	7
McBirney & Co., Ltd.	8,088	6	6
Oldroyd, M. & Sons, Ltd.	41,400	7½	7½
Owtram, R. & Co.	6,612	10	7½
Pawsons & Leafs, Ltd.	16,327	5	5
Pim Bros., Ltd., Dublin	16,995	8	5½
Pryce-Jones, Ltd.	16,908	6	6
Redfern, Ltd.	25,531	10	10
Roberts' (J. R.) Stores, Ltd.	17,703	8½	9
Roberts, T. R., Ltd.	12,492	10	—
Rylands & Sons, Ltd.	117,866	12½	10
Spencer, Turner & Boldero	52,014	7	7
Switzer & Co., Ltd.	9,263	8	8
Wallis & Co., Ltd.	42,630	8	8
Waterloo House and Swan & Edgar.	Loss, 16,410	—	—
Webb, J. H. & Co.	723	5	5
Wilkinson & Riddell	22,286	7½	7½

SOMETHING ABOUT TEA.

The imports of tea into Great Britain for the first ten months of this season show an increase of more than ten million pounds over last, or the previous corresponding period. The report of Gow, Wilson & Stanton gives the following comparative figures as the quantity of tea (in lbs.) on which duty was paid at all bonded warehouses in the Kingdom from 1st June to 31st March:

	1895-96.	1894-95.	1893-94.
Indian	101,076,652	94,333,861	93,676,716
Ceylon	63,559,900	58,538,795	56,368,638
China, etc.	22,212,191	23,955,404	24,689,508
Total pounds	186,848,743	176,828,060	174,734,862