

—The Stock Market in Montreal continues very weak, and compared with Thursday last shows a decline in all bank stocks. Consolidated since its suspension has sold irregularly from 15½ down to 12½, while several other institutions which lack public confidence, notably La Banque Ville Marie and La Banque d'Hochelaga, have a sickly appearance. There was a run on the Exchange Bank at close of last week and again on Monday last; on Tuesday morning the stock changed hands at 20; in the afternoon however there was a commission on the market and the price was run up to 30, but the stratum was too apparent to restore confidence, and on Wednesday the best bid was 24, holders asking 29, and no sales resulting. The suspension ensued on the following day, when price was 16 for buyers, 24 for sellers and the market generally weaker. Montreal Telegraph, of which the Exchange Bank held a large quantity, declining 2 per cent., with sales at 87.

—Respecting the suggestion which appears to have been made in the States that the small insurance companies of that country should "offer themselves up as voluntary sacrifices for the good of the stockholders and the larger Co's," in other words, go out of business, a writer in the *Monitor* recalls the truism spoken by Mr. Chard on the floor of the National Board something over a year ago, when he said that: "A large company cannot afford to do a large business at a losing rate," and as the rates all around are acknowledged to be unremunerative, he concludes that the larger the company, and the larger the business transacted at unremunerative rates, the larger the coming disaster.

—An agreeable incident took place at the Bank of British North America here on Wednesday last. Mr. Samuel Taylor, for many years in charge of the Toronto branch and who recently resigned, was presented by his friends with a solid silver inkstand, and an illuminated address. The address, which was signed by Sir W. P. Howland, Messrs. W. H. Howland, W. Ince, J. H. Eston, Geo. Harcourt, W. R. Grindley, Beardmore, Sproule, Lillie, Dr. L. W. Smith, and others, was read by Dr. Larratt W. Smith, as follows:

DEAR SIR,—On your retirement from the service of the Bank of British North America, we desire to express to you our sincere regret at the severance of your connection with that institution. Knowing you as most of us have done since you assumed the management of the Toronto Branch, we can testify how faithfully and with what prudence you have administered its affairs. At the same time, we can equally bear witness to the uniform courtesy and kindness which have marked all your intercourse with us, in business or otherwise; and we can safely say that you will not fail to carry into private life the good wishes of every one with whom you have been associated. We sincerely hope that you may find in your retirement that repose which is the just meed of a well spent and honorable life, and that you and your estimable partner may long be spared in the possession of health and happiness to enjoy it. Before taking leave, we would ask your acceptance of the accompanying testimonial,

valuable rather as an expression of our sincere regard than for its intrinsic worth, and trusting that it may serve to keep alive the remembrance of a few true friends.

—For the information of those who desire to transmit small sums of money between Canada and the United States we rote below the provisions of a money-order regulation which took effect last month. We quote from the *Canada Gazette*:

"There shall be regular exchange of money orders between the two countries (the Dominion and the United States) for sums received from remitters in one country for payment in the other. The maximum amount of any money order issued in either country is fixed at \$50 in lawful money of the country in which the order originates, but no money order shall include the fractional part of a cent."

—The value of importations at Hamilton during July was \$238,292 against \$371,954 in the same month last year, a considerable decrease. The duty collected was, however, almost the same as in July 1878, being \$58,810 against \$58,858.

—Mr. Charles Gould has been re-elected as the Corn Exchange representative on the Montreal Harbour Board.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Hamilton, Aug. 1st.—A disastrous fire broke out this evening in the cornice of Furner & Livingstone's wholesale fancy goods store, extending throughout McInnes' splendid freestone block; from thence sparks flew across the street to Messrs. Sanford, Vail & Bickley's wholesale clothing establishment, which, although seriously damaged by water, was not destroyed; J. McPherson's wholesale boot and shoe stock suffered from removal. The fire then went southward to Dixon Bros' fruit and fire works store, which was consumed; sparks set fire and burned the B.M.E. Church; several other buildings are damaged by sparks. McInnes & Co., were insured as under on stock: Scottish Imperial, \$5,000; Commercial Union, \$18,000; Royal Canadian, \$8,000; Queen, \$20,000; Dominion, \$5,000; Lancashire, \$10,000; Imperial, \$8,000; Scottish Commercial, \$5,000; Aetna, \$12,000; London, \$8,000; Hartford, \$10,000; Phoenix, \$28,000; Guardian, \$10,000; North British, \$12,000; total, \$159,000. Warehouse: Hartford, \$10,000; Royal, \$37,000; Aetna, \$12,000; London, \$10,000; Royal Canadian, \$8,000; Queen, \$3,000; Scottish Imperial, \$6,000; total, \$86,000. Sanford, Vail & Bickley were fully insured as follows: on building, \$11,500 in the Royal; and on the stock as follows: Royal, \$15,000; Aetna, \$10,000; Phoenix, of Brooklyn, \$10,000; Lancashire, \$10,000; Western, \$5,000; Commercial Union, \$20,000; North British, \$10,000; Hartford, \$5,000; Merchants' \$5,000; Imperial, \$12,500; Scottish Commercial \$10,000; Canada Fire and Marine, \$10,000; Liverpool & London and Globe, \$14,000; Phoenix, England, \$10,000; Guardian, \$10,000; Queen's, \$5,000; London, \$5,000; Dominion, \$5,000. Grafton, July 28th.—The barn, etc., of L. Laughline, with contents, burned, uninsured, loss \$2,000.—Cookstown, July 28th.—The Queens Hotel, J. Watson's general store, and Harper's drug stock burned; all insured in Western. Mrs. Coleman's building not insured.

—North Augusta, July 28th.—Peter Moran's house, barns, etc., with Jacob Nolf's store; stock insured \$2,000.—Lyth.—H. Richmond's barn burned by lightning, insured for \$800 in McKillop Mutual.—London, 29th July.—P. McTaggart's brick house burned, with \$400 in money; insured for \$700.—Florence, July 31.—R. Dobbins's barn, with contents, burned; loss \$15,000, no insurance; also the Orange Hall and Baptist Church. The former insured for \$1,000, the latter \$1,500.—Alvinston, Aug. 8th.—Adam Clark's steam saw mill burned, loss nearly \$4,000, no insurance.—Lucan, Aug. 1st.—Dominion Hotel burned, partially insured, loss \$15,000. 5th.—Sam. Flemming's barn burned.—Penetanguishene, August 2nd.—C. Beck & Co.'s lumber mill and a deal of lumber destroyed, with wharf; mill partly covered in Canada, Union and Queens, but lumber total loss.—Stouffville, 31st July.—E. Miller's hotel and stables burned, loss \$6,000; insured Waterloo Mutual \$1,200. E. Wheeler's dwelling, loss \$800, not insured. W. Watson loses on turniture \$600, not insured; J. Hopkins, \$500.—London, July 31st.—A fire broke out in Broad-bent & Cousin's pump factory, which was destroyed.—Dundas, Aug. 3rd.—Little & Marr's moulding shop gutted, loss \$2,500, insurance \$1,000.—Madoc, 3rd.—Horace Seymour's frame dwelling burned, loss \$1,300; insurance \$500.—Rothsay, 4th.—James Rainor's barn in Maryboro burned, with grain and other contents, loss \$1,600; insured in London Mutual for \$700.—Smith's Falls, 2nd.—Thos. Jacob's tannery burned, insured \$1,200 in Phoenix.—Cobourg, 3rd.—Pratt & Wright's bakery and A. Wright's dwelling burned, loss \$1,500; no insurance.—Orillia Aug. 6th.—Fire here last night burnt twenty buildings on Mississauga St., in principal part of the town. Loss estimated at \$100,000. Insurance will fall far short of actual loss. From corner of Mississauga and Peter Streets to Mr. Gibbon's store on the west, up to and including the Albion hotel; on the south everything has been swept away.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Montreal, 2nd.—Lyman's, Clare & Co's. drug warehouse, Princess Street, and Winn & Holland's shed destroyed by fire, likewise P. Vauthier's shed partly burned. The last named loses \$3,500, not insured. The loss on Lyman's building \$3,000, on goods about \$4,000; fully insured in English and Canadian offices.—Granby 27th July.—Thos. Hales' dwelling damaged by fire. Insured \$5,000 in Sherbrooke Mutual.—Shubenacadie N. S., July 30th.—J. B. Fraser's tannery, with contents, also barn, hay and tools burned; insured in Agricultural of Watertown for \$5,000.—Halifax 30th.—Mark Scott's house and barn burnt; insured for \$400.—Quebec July 30. Mrs. Fisher's house and barns, Dennis O'Hare's boarding house, Mrs. Duncan Patton's and A. Lloyd's dwellings burned; insurance is said to be \$30,000.—Woodstock, N. B., 4th.—John Giberson's hotel destroyed; loss considerable.

OIL MATTERS IN PETROLIA.

PETROLIA, Aug. 5th, 1879.

Business remains quiet and nothing of an exciting nature can occur until the very large Pennsylvania production is checked. There is very little prospect of any Canadian petroleum in quantity being exported this season, and the home market is all that Canadian oilmen can expect to supply for the present.

The Crude market keeps steady and strong, when it moves, it is in an upward direction. Little changes hands at present prices. The f.o.b. quotation is 65c. Production is under the Canadian consumption for the year, but the large stock on hand, which in an exporting period would be nothing, presses on current