

Montreal. They were now face to face again with an old abuse.

—Heavy fires have taken place in the woods in the northern part of New Brunswick, in the vicinity of Baie, St. Paul and St. Joachim, Que., and in various places in this province. Probably the most destruction has been done near the Mississippi river, where, it is stated, nearly 1,000 men and one engine were employed fighting the flames. This fire has destroyed over half a million feet of lumber belonging to Mr. McLaren. For several days the woods were on fire in the seignory of the seminary of Quebec, near Eboulements. The fire extended a distance of several leagues, the fire is attributed to the carelessness of fishermen.

—It is worth the notice of the authorities of Toronto that complaints are made by wholesale merchants of the imperfect police supervision, especially on Sunday, on Front and Wellington streets and other thoroughfares in the wholesale quarter of the city. Two cases are reported to us, in one of which a merchant had occasion to visit his warehouse on a Sunday and found that the windows of the basement had been broken, in an attempt by burglars to get in, which the iron grating had prevented. In the other case, the watchman of a Bay street firm, while in the warehouse at 2 p.m. on Sunday last heard a crash of glass, and on going to investigate found traces of footsteps of would be thieves. Now it is on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, when warehouses are closed, that our merchants need, and are entitled to receive, the most careful protection of those who are the nominal guardians of property as well as of the peace; the more so, because burglars are reported as being numerous hereabouts at present.

—Mr. Alex. Buntin, a director of the Exchange Bank, has been committed for trial at the Court of Queen's Bench, Montreal, for having secured to himself an undue and unfair preference, over other creditors of that institution, to the extent of \$2,000. This is in violation of the laws relating to Banks and Banking, Section 61 of which reads as follows: "If any President, Vice-President, Director, * * * * Manager, Cashier or other officer of the bank, wilfully gives or concurs in giving any creditor of the bank any fraudulent, undue or unfair preference over other creditors, by giving security to such creditor or by changing the nature of his claim or otherwise howsoever, he shall be guilty of misdemeanor, and shall further be responsible for all damages sustained by any party by such preference." Mr. Buntin paid the money back; but that does not prevent a prosecution.

—The New York *Bulletin* referring to some returns furnished by the United States Secretary of State, says: "The Secretary, however, may be glad to learn that a plan for perfecting the system of crop reporting in Manitoba and the Northwest Territory has been put into operation, with initiatory results which promise success. The design is, by establishing a system of efficient and prompt collection of current statistics, to be able to present accurately the changes in crop conditions and in the out-turn of agricultural products, and of the results of agricultural labor. We may add that the highest averages of wheat in any of the Provinces of the Dominion—in fact on the whole Continent—are reported from the Provinces we have named. This fact, pointing as it does, in view of the large areas open for settlement and colonization, to a large export in the future, scarcely bears out the unfavorable conclusion enunciated by the Secretary of State."

—The dry dock question is, it appears, a burning one in British Columbia. A recent despatch received by the Minister of Public Works, from Mr. Baker, M.P., Victoria, stated that indignation was expressed there at the Dominion Government for not proceeding with the dry dock. Sir H. Langevin replied to the effect that no acceptable tenders were received; "modified plans and specifications are being prepared; work will have to be advertised again; delay, therefore, unavoidable." The people of the Province were again indignant with the reply of the Minister of Public Works, holding "that the Dominion Government had no right to make modifications without the sanction of the Province."

—The monthly compilation of this city's imports and exports, as prepared by the Board of Trade has just been issued. The June return shows that our total imports for that month were \$762,953 as against a somewhat larger amount for the same period of 1883, viz., \$789,354. The exports of goods, the produce of Canada, indicate a marked increase in favor of 1883, the figures for June of that year being \$333,831 as against \$125,299 for June, 1884. We tabulate the more important items:

IMPORTS.		
	June, '84.	June, '83.
Cotton goods.....	\$70,222	\$79,661
Fancy goods.....	18,355	37,344
Hats, caps and bonnets....	11,663	12,095
Silk goods.....	21,635	21,047
Woollen goods.....	115,485	87,696

Total dry goods.....	\$238,030	\$237,843
Books and pamphlets.....	22,058	26,810
Paper goods.....	23,243	23,150
Coal.....	2,933	20,669
Iron and steel goods.....	79,861	109,970
Leather goods.....	23,805	19,323
Jewelry and watches.....	24,521	21,139
Musical instruments.....	11,435	9,476
Fruit, green, dried, etc.....	20,590	16,705

EXPORTS—PRODUCE OF CANADA.		
	June, '84.	June, '83.
The Forest.....	\$14,505	\$84,024
The Field.....	3,512	203,017
Fisheries.....		80
Animals and their products.....	76,889	30,361
Manufactures.....	28,339	16,349
Miscellaneous.....	2,054	

—The London *Economist* thinks the weakness of the Dominion note system was clearly revealed by what recently occurred when specie to the amount of \$1,250,000 was demanded in exchange for notes by the banks; and that it has become "evident that the gold basis of the Canadian paper currency is altogether inadequate, and will have to be very materially strengthened if future trouble is to be avoided." The same opinion has been expressed here. The friends of the system are more interested than anybody else in keeping it in good running order, for any serious breakdown would make it so unpopular as to threaten its existence.

—Owing to the reduction of canal tolls and other charges, Mr. Hugh McLennan was recently enabled to announce that from the date of those reductions, the ocean vessels coming to Montreal, "had been fully provided with all the grain they could carry" and that "the total results of our imports this year would compare favourably with those of the Atlantic ports of the United States." The experimental reduction must be pronounced a success. One half the tolls still remain.

—The receipts from Customs at Hamilton for the fiscal year just closed, amounted to \$704,750, while in the previous year they were \$875,782.

—The Canadian Pacific Co having applied to the Canadian government for permission to carry American cattle through Canada in bond, the Montreal papers base expectations of extensive exports of Montana cattle by way of that port. Commenting on this the *R. R. Gazette* says: "While a few shipments may be made by this route, it does not appear probable that any very large business will be built up. The greater part of the cattle in Montana are south of the Northern Pacific road, and to reach the Canadian Pacific stations a long and difficult drive is necessary."

—Exports from Hamilton to the United States for June are of the usual varied character, and amount in value to \$48,026. The largest item is that of animals, then come eggs, malt and wool:

	VALUE.
Animals.....	\$17,248
Eggs.....	9,061
Malt.....	5,180
Wool.....	4,095
Lumber.....	2,721
Castings.....	1,928

—According to a statement by Mr. Pottinger, Superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway, the receipts of that road for June last show gains of from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per week over the same month of 1883. The increased development of the coal trade, and increased travel and freight traffic between the Provinces of the Dominion are mentioned as the causes of this improved showing.

—We are informed that the business of the Canada Mortgage Agency which, it will be remembered, purchased the assets of the Colonial Trusts Company, has been transferred to the British Canadian Loan and Investment Company of this city. From what we hear of the character of the business so acquired, we should think the purchase an advantage.

—At St. Stephen, the revenue taken by the custom house in June was \$4,405 as compared with \$16,790 in the previous June. Free goods to the value of \$171,779 last month explains the difference. The number of entries passed last year was 2,033 and value of total imports \$660,496 where in 1882-3 only 1,532 and value \$590,258.

—A branch office of the Western Bank of Canada has been opened in Tilsonburg. Mr. Arthur Guy, late of the Ontario Bank, Winnipeg, is Manager. The new bank occupies the premises recently vacated by Messrs. Harrison & McTaggart, private bankers.

—The gold reserve in the United States sub-treasury in this city (New York) is now smaller than it has been heretofore. It is about \$133,000,000, which is much more than the present legal reserve, but about \$8,000,000 less than the old legal reserve.

—The decrease of the public debt of the United States for the month of June is about \$9,000,000. This will make the reduction for the fiscal year ended to-day about \$101,000,000. The reduction for the last fiscal year was \$137,823,253.

—The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has declared a dividend at the rate of three per cent. per annum, to which has been added a supplementary interest dividend at the rate of two per cent per annum. Both dividends will be payable on the 15th August.