

them was not brisk; a half-fattened hog weighing 180 lbs. was sold at \$6 per 100 lbs.

LUMBER.—Wholesale Trade.—In the export lumber trade a large quantity of the deals which were formerly shipped from Quebec are now sent from this port direct; 17,000,000 feet of pine deals have been shipped to date. This includes vessels which are now loading, and is fully 200 per cent. over the amount shipped to same date last year. This is a comparatively new trade here, which may at some future time deprive Quebec of a large proportion of her export trade. The above 17,000,000 feet would load 40 vessels of about 600 tons burden. There is a splendid beach opposite this city, where docks could be built and timber wintered over at a less charge than at Quebec. We trust the day is not far distant when our Ottawa timber men will have booms at Longueuil, thereby saving the risk and expense of towing 180 miles to Quebec. The cost of freighting deals from Montreal to Quebec is about \$1 per M feet, and the wharfage, culling and shipping charges about \$2 more. Nearly all of the above charges could be saved by landing here. Wharfage charges are only 10c. per M feet, and wharfs are being leased from the Harbor Commissioners for \$2 per foot frontage. Our laborers are satisfied with less than half the price charged at Quebec, where the arbitrary measures of the Labor Union are driving trade out of the city. Several vessels have been loaded this year for South America; 3,000,000 feet have been shipped in this way. **Retail Trade.**—The retail trade in lumber is yet at a standstill. Retailers are selling very little, owing to the fact that the stocks of about six yards have been sold by auction since April, two of which contained about 5,000,000 feet, and the contents of one yard was disposed of in the same way every month for a year previous. These auctions were brought about chiefly by the pressure of the banks, who forced the owners to realize. By glutting the market, thereby bringing down prices, they have seriously injured their trade, and have had three times the losses they would have had if they had held over, as the average prices were not more than half the wholesale prices in Quebec or Ottawa. The prices realized were only as follows:—Spruce, 3 in. deals, \$4.50 per 100 pcs.; Spruce, other sizes, \$2 to 3.50 per M ft.; Pine, \$2 to \$8.00. These auctions have supplied nearly all the contractors with 3 or 4 piles each, and until this stock is exhausted their purchases must be small. It is only about a month since one of the banks sold out a small yard of choice lumber, which brought from \$5 to \$6 per 1000 ft. Purchasers say that many of the piles contained one-third clear. It was sold by the pile of 12 to 15,000 feet each, and bought by contractors, as the dealers did not require it, having sufficient to meet their wants during these dull times, when only 217 houses are in course of erection. This is only a little over one-fourth of the yearly number built in this city since 1869. In 1872-3 six or seven lumber merchants of Albany and New York had to bolster up 300,000,000 feet of lumber with the assistance of the banks in order to keep up prices. In 1873 they failed, and the banks there did not force auction sales and ruin the market, as they have done here. Sawed pine timber for building purposes is now being sold here at from \$5 to \$8 per M cheaper than in Quebec, and the retail prices of every description of lumber are lower than at Ottawa or Quebec.

Provisions.—Butter.—There is very little change to note in butter. Shippers receive no encouragement to operate and are doing little or nothing unless it be in strictly fine goods; irregular or fair parcels are unsaleable. **Cheese.**—The market has taken another sudden jump this week. August cheese has advanced to 12c at which price they are in good demand.

Stocks here very light and those who have contracts made are not prepared to talk business. At the Ingersoll market for the week ending Sept. 4th, 12 factories offered 5,215 boxes, mostly August make. 220 boxes August make sold at 11½c; 2 car loads at 11c. Factorymen ask 12c. Buyers offer 11½c for August make. Many factories report no falling off in milk. Late rains have made pasture equal to any this

season. At the Little Falls market for the week ending Sept. 3rd, 15 factories offered 4,950 boxes August make. During the previous few days over 15,000 boxes were contracted for at 10c to 12c for August make, and 12½c offered to leading factorymen for balance of the season. Buyers were excited and paying more than the market warranted. At Utica, 8,000 boxes were offered. Leading factories obtained 12c to 12½c. Average 11½c. At New York the receipts for the week were 130,427 boxes against 66,209 boxes the previous week, and 77,007 bxs. the corresponding week in 1876. Exports for the week were 30,557 boxes against 49,828 bxs. the previous week, and 68,965 boxes the corresponding week in 1876. Closing quotations, fancy factory 11½c; good to prime 10½c to 11c; fair to good 9½c to 10½c.

SALT.—Liverpool salt in good demand and scarce, 52½c; Factory filled Fine dull at 90c, in good supply.

FIRE RECORD.

Belleville, Sept. 2.—A small dwelling in the Grove, owned and occupied by Phillip Clark, was burned; loss, \$500.

Halifax, Sept. 2.—The residence of James Donohue and a barn adjoining owned by Thomas A. Brown were burned. Insured in British Insurance companies.

Ottawa, Sept. 2.—A fire was discovered in the stables belonging to Bate & Co., near the Canal basin, destroying three valuable horses and a shed.

London, Ont., Aug. 31.—During the thunder storm, two barns belonging to Walter Wallace, North Dorchester, were struck by lightning; all the crops, implements, etc., were burned; loss, \$5,000; insured for \$2,000.

Londesborough, Aug. 30.—A fire broke out in the rear of Brunsdon's blacksmith shop, which, with agricultural implements, a carriage show-room and stables, were completely destroyed. Loss \$4,000; insured in the Canada Fire and Marine for \$1,200 and in the Provincial for \$1,000. The stable belonging to N. Bulgar and the shed and stable of H. Wallace & Co. were also burned. Loss \$425.

Ottawa, Aug. 29.—The barn of Robert Highland, of Marlborough, was struck by lightning and completely destroyed, together with its contents. A horse owned by Highland's brother, which was standing in the barn at the time, was killed. Loss \$1,000; insured for \$400 in the Ottawa Agricultural.

Arthur, Aug. 31.—The building occupied by W. J. Carroll as a temperance hotel was completely gutted by fire. The contents, which were partly saved, were insured in the Phoenix Mutual for \$300. The property was owned by Samuel Clayton, no insurance.

London, Ont., Aug. 31.—A barn belonging to Mr. Johnston, filled with grain, was struck by lightning during the storm, and quickly reduced to ashes.

Browns Wharf, Sept. 1.—A large pile of cordwood, containing about seven or eight hundred cords, was discovered on fire, totally consuming the pile. Mr. Rodden owned one hundred cords of the pile and Mr. McGauvran the rest.

Oshawa, Sept. 3.—A frame dwelling in the northern part of the town owned by Patrick Lyons, was destroyed by fire; loss \$900; no insurance.

Halifax, Sept. 3.—The stores occupied by John W. Lovitt and Henry Onkes, at Weymouth, were burned. Most of the goods were saved. The buildings belonged to Mrs. Tooker.

Toronto, Sept. 3.—A fire broke out in the rear of a block of frame buildings, destroying them entirely. Losses to the occupants: Jas. Clark, grocer, loss \$1,000; John Bantoch, loss \$600; and James Curran, painter and owner of the buildings, loss \$1500, partly insured.

Halifax, Aug. 31.—The residence of John Stair was discovered on fire, but was extinguished before much damage was done.

Ottawa, Sept. 1.—A brick house, outbuildings and 3 horses, owned by P. Kennedy, were burned; loss \$3,000.

Port Philip, N. S., Aug. 30.—The steam saw

mills belonging to a party named King were destroyed by fire. Nothing saved.

St. Hyacinthe, Sept. 4.—The school building of the Protestant Ladies College caught fire, which was confined to the second and third storeys. Nearly all the furniture was saved but considerably damaged. Loss covered by insurance. The house adjoining was damaged by water only.

Kingston, Sept. 4.—The residence of John Landerson on York street was destroyed by fire. Loss \$500.

Colborne, Sept. 4.—The steam mill, belonging to Messrs. Dickson & Glover, was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$6,000; no insurance.

RAILWAY RETURNS.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.—Return of traffic for week ending August 25th, 1877, and the corresponding week, 1876. 1877.—Passengers, Mails, and Express Freight, \$69,417; Merchandise, \$114,507; Total, \$183,924. Corresponding week, 1876, \$171,077. Increase, 1877, \$12,847.

NORTHERN RAILWAY OF CANADA.—Traffic receipts for week ending 22nd August, 1877.—Passengers, \$3,932.94; Freight, \$6,899.37; Mails and Sundries, \$541.45; Total Receipts for current week 1877, \$11,373.76. Corresponding week 1876, \$12,209.52. Decrease, \$835.76; Total traffic to date, 1877, \$426,723.96. Total Traffic to date, 1876, \$500,007.54. Decrease, \$73,283.58.

IMPORTS.

Comparative statement of Imports at the Port of Montreal per Grand Trunk Railway, the Canal and River from 1st January to 6th September, 1876 and 1877:

	1876.	1877.
Ashes.....	10,786	10,869
Butter.....	45,169	47,081
Barley.....	68,126	381,670
Bacon.....	215	145
Corn.....	2,484,242	3,444,943
Cheese.....	170,478	149,408
Flour.....	574,418	414,386
Lard.....	25,893	38,145
Oats.....	2,066,486	147,506
Pens.....	555,293	160,267
Pork.....	8,916	17,950
Wheat.....	4,765,729	1,800,605

REMARKS.

Ashes.—Receipts for the week, 247 bbls Pot, 67 bbls Pearl. Increase, 83 bbls.

Butter.—Receipts, 2,022 bbls. Increase, 1,912 bbls.

Barley.—Receipts, 215 bush. Increase, 313,544 bush.

Bacon.—Receipts, — boxes. Decrease, 70 boxes.

Corn.—Receipts, 316,077 bush. Increase, 960,701 bush.

Cheese.—Receipts, 11,740 boxes. Decrease, 30,070 boxes.

Flour.—Receipts, 14,163 bbls. Decrease, 160,032 bbls.

Lard.—Receipts, 505 bbls. Increase, 12,252 bbls.

Oats.—Receipts, 5,830 bush. Decrease, 1,918,980 bush.

Pens.—Receipts, — bush. Decrease, 395,029 bush.

Pork.—Receipts, 415 bbls. Increase, 8,134 bbls.

Wheat.—Receipts, 281,188 bush. Decrease, 2,965,124 bush.

EXPORTS.

Comparative statement of Exports of leading articles at the Port of Montreal, from the 1st January to 6th September, 1876 and 1877.

	1876.	1877.
Ashes.....	7,808	10,128