

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended Dec. 29th, 1892, are as under:—

	Clearings.	Balances
Dec. 23	\$1,662,578	\$128,092
" 24	1,193,265	244,536
" 27	841,170	135,638
" 28	1,299,226	169,449
" 29	1,161,014	159,789
Total	\$5,557,253	\$837,504

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 28th, 1892.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average. 1892.
Montreal	235	231½	138	235	234	233
Ontario				118½		110½
People's					108½	97½
Molson's	171	171	70		171	159
Toronto	245½	245½	25			
J. Cartier				135	125½	105
Merchants	162	160½	106	163	161	149½
Commerce	144	142	262	144	143	134½
Union						
M. Teleg.	157	155	505	157	156½	136½
Rich. & Ont.	69	69	25	71	69	66
Street Ry.	247	237	679	250	245½	180
do. new stock ..						
Gas	228	224½	1287	228	227½	202
do. new stock ..						
C. Pacine	89	89	125	88½	88	90½
C. P. land b'ds ..					103	
N. W. Land				90	85	80
Bell Tele.				164		157
Montreal 4% ..						

—The automatic telephone company of Montreal, according to a western paper, offered the London city council \$2,500 a year, for twenty years, for a franchise, and to give the city twenty telephones free for the last six years. The proposal was referred to the proper committee.

HALIFAX CLEARING-HOUSE.

Bank clearings for week ending December 24th, 1892, were as follows, viz.:

Monday, Dec. 19	\$164,664 03
Tuesday, " 20	200,349 92
Wednesday, " 21	223,535 13
Thursday, " 22	201,731 71
Friday, " 23	164,419 03
Saturday, " 24	180,682 04
Total	\$1,134,381 86

NEW YEAR IN CHINA.

The custom of giving presents, and particularly that of exchanging New Year calls, is essentially Chinese. The coincidence of these two rather peculiar acts of brotherly love co-existing in Holland and Scotland should furnish cause for thought. It is a little singular, certainly, that the Chinese, who are not an over-charitable or forgiving race, should enjoin the forgiveness of all debts at the beginning of the new year.

It is an amusing spectacle in Chinatown to see the creditor mercilessly hunting down the debtor during the few days that remain. No one is exempt from this necessity, for in order to pay his own debts, he must in turn collect what is due to him. The debtor who cannot fulfil his obligations by New Year goes into bankruptcy by the operations of a custom stronger than law. He undoubtedly earns the contempt of his fellowmen, but at least he is free from their persecution. His debts are forgiven with quite as much sincerity as could be expected under the circumstances.

—The money of the world is estimated to be about \$10,000,000,000, of which about \$4,500,000,000 is paper, \$1,500,000,000 silver, and \$4,000,000,000 in gold.

—Prof. Pabulum—Now, young gentlemen, having witnessed the working out of the formula of producing primary colors, let me ask what is the equivalent of the blue I hold in my hand?

Absent-minded Sophomore.—Two reds and a white, sir?—Judge.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 28th, 1892.

ASHES.—The market is easy; a lot of good No. 1 pots was bought the other day at \$4.30 per cental, which may now be regarded as the outside figure; seconds, \$3.60 to 3.65; pearls nominal at old quotations. A lot of 30 brls. was shipped to New York last week, the first export movement since the close of navigation.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Choice dairy makes of butter and good Western find ready sale at good prices, but creamery moves slowly, and holders seem to stick to their high prices. We quote fall creamery 23 to 23½c. per lb., earlier makes, 22 to 22½c.; Townships, 20 to 21½c.; Morrisburg and equal, 18 to 19c.; Western, 16 to 18c. Cheese is still quite dull, and sells at 10½ to 11c. Good fresh eggs sell well at 22 to 23c.; limed goods, 15 to 17c. per dozen.

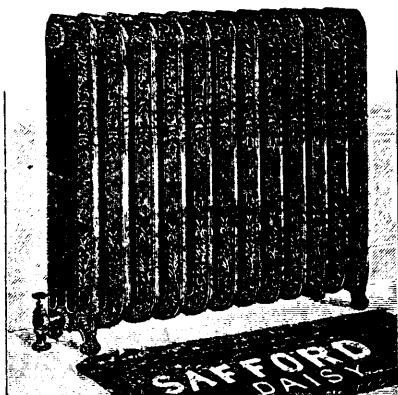
DRY GOODS.—Intensely cold weather has continued for over a week, and has induced freer sales of seasonable dry goods. The wholesale trade report a very fair sorting business for the season, and the outlook for spring business as rather encouraging. December as a whole shows payments quite ahead of same month last year. Remittances from British Columbia continue poor. Advances from the Nor'-West show that the crop there has proved disappointing compared with expectations, and this, with poor prices, will make collections hard all winter.

GRAIN AND FLOUR.—Nothing of any consequence has been doing lately in the local grain market. We quote No. 2 hard Manitoba wheat 81 to 82c. per bush.; No. 3 ditto, 70 to 72c.; peas, 73 to 74c.; oats, 32 to 32½c.; feed barley, 42 to 43c.; corn, 65c. In flour, aside from a local limited enquiry for strong bakers and rollers, there is not much doing. We quote patents \$4.20 to 4.40; straight roller, \$3.40 to 3.60; strong bakers, \$4 to 4.20; extra, \$3.25; superfine, \$2.90 to 3.

GROCERIES.—Holiday times and a broken week are hardly calculated to develop activity in wholesale trade, and therefore matters are decidedly quiet. There is also very little variation in quotations to be noted. Teas exhibit great strength, and there is a good deal of enquiry for them prevailing, much more

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