

in the present case was what was to be done to provide for payment of the premiums. The Master of the Rolls took occasion to comment upon the harm which is often done by wills which are drawn by incompetent persons; costs are incurred, and the Court of Chancery, as the judge stated, gets the blame, which really is attributable to the folly of the testator. In the present case the decision was that the premiums were to be provided for out of the testator's estate without deduction or set-off. The costs of litigation and of the argument arising upon this nice point of law will probably be found very considerably to diminish the amount which will ultimately come to the hands of the persons whom the testator intended to benefit by his will.—*London Review*.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—St. Catharines, 18th.—A vacant building owned by F. D. Maddens burned, insured for \$350.—Napanee, 18th.—Geo. Lasher's tenement-house burned, loss \$1,500, insured in Commercial Union for \$1,000; loss to inmates \$500, not insured.—Campbellford, 27th Dec.—Hayck's livery stable burned; insured in Scottish Commercial, \$500.—Peterboro', 24th.—Letellier's bakery and dwelling burned; insured in the Quebec.—Pembroke, 25.—A fire broke out in J. McLaren & Co.'s store, Masonic Hall block, and spread to J. Stewart's tin shop and Mrs. Bean's confectionery; Robert Russell's building insured for \$2,000 in Royal Canadian and \$2,000 in Canada Fire and Marine; Mr. McLaren's stock insured, \$1,500 in Western and \$2,500 in Lancashire; Stewart's building, \$1,200 in Union; Masonic Lodge furniture, \$1,000 in Lancashire; Town Hall, \$1,000 in Citizen's. The Standard and Union had \$500 on outbuildings.—Paisley, Dec. 29.—A fire broke out in Colborn's grocery, and spread to Given Bros., whose stock was insured, \$1,000; Colborn insured, \$500 on buildings and \$300 on stock.—Erin, Dec. 29.—N. Clark's Brisbane Hotel burned; stock insured, \$400 in Standard.—

OTHER PROVINCES. Sorel, 20th.—The S. E. R. R. engine house burned down.—Halifax 19th.—A building belonging to the city was injured, insured in Halifax Fire Ins. office.—Tabusintac, N. B. 16th.—Robt. Loggies dwelling burned with contents, one life lost.—Joliette, Que. Dec 26.—A number of buildings burned. These were Bourdon's hotel, loss heavy insured \$700. Duconda & Co hardware, insured in N. B. & Mercantile and Citizens \$4,000. Parthailis, drug stock in Com. Union, and N. B. & Mercantile \$3000; D Baudry loss \$300 not insured.—Montreal, Pat. Wright's dry goods store damaged insured in Citizens, Com. Union and Canada Fire & Marine Cos.

AMERICAN FURNITURE EXPORTS.—Some of the great furniture manufacturers of the States have established agencies in South America, and issue catalogues in Spanish. Very extensive shipments are made to the Argentine republic, the States of Columbia, Chili, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, and other countries. The heaviest export trade is to the British colonies. About \$300,000 worth of chairs, bedsteads, and washstands are annually sent to Australia. Still more have been sent to Canada.

The total exports of furniture from the United States in 1878 amounted to nearly two million of dollars. The export to Australia consists of the cheaper varieties made of maple and so as to "knock down" for shipment, such as wood-seated chairs, painted and varnished, cane-seated chairs office chairs plain rockers and common cradles Children's high chairs and towel racks are shipped in considerable quantities. There is also a ready sale for black walnut suite frames and French walnut veneer sofa-frames, running in

price from \$2.50 to \$7. There is also a sale for fancy brackets, extension hat-racks, &c., of walnut.

E. C. CHATHAM.—You have scarcely read the *Monetary Times* with care or you would have found your question answered long ago. The *phylloxera*, which has proved so destructive to the grape vines of France for more than one season past, is a parasite which attacks and nearly strips whole vineyards. This insect is engaging the attention of scientific men in several European countries. We have written upon it in our issue of the 18th June last, and both before and since that date. The scourge is far from being conquered for we find descriptions of its ravages in various French papers. The wine trade *Revue* of November says that in the Department of the Gard, out of 104,411 hectares (or 208,800 acres) 97,794 hectares are completely ruined by the scourge, occasioning a loss of 20,000,000 francs. In the Gironde, the *phylloxera* exist in 95 communes out of 102; in the Medoc, the vineyards have suffered almost as cruelly; in the Herault out of 70,606 hectares of vines in one *arrondissement*, 68,556 have absolutely disappeared, leaving but 2,050. There are, however, 2,014 acres planted recently with American vines, which it is hoped are hardy enough to withstand the attacks of the pest. It is also infesting the Lot-et-Garonne, where it has entire possession of the Villeneuve vineyards, it has settled at Musigny in the Cote d'Or, and has even been traced to Switzerland. In some parts of France vigorous measures have been taken to eradicate it; the sulpho-carbonate of potassium, applied by an ingenious apparatus, has been used in the Beziers district with good effect. Submersion of the vineyards has also proved effective, and the grape growers along the Rhone are awaiting the construction of a canal which will enable them to place the surface of their lands under water and thus destroy the pests. The sandy lands of La Camargues, it has been found are impervious to the attacks of the insect, and these lands have arisen enormously in value for vine-planting.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 28th December, 1880.

The business of the past week has been of the usual holiday character. Stock taking is hardly over yet, the general opinion is that last season's business has been satisfactory both as to the amount done and the promptness with which payments have been made. Manufacturers of cottons and tweeds are kept busy on orders, their stocks being pretty well reduced, a good deal of tea has been sold at auction but the grocery trade has been dull. The weather has been fine, not too cold. The ice bridge has "taken" and winter roads will be made this week.

ASHES.—Pots.—Market weak with only a light demand at \$5.00 to 5.10 for firsts. Pearls quite nominal no sales reported since this day week. The stocks at present in store are Pots 85 brls., Pearls 21 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—No change to report this week either in the volume of business being done or in values. We repeat our last quotations, *Men's Split Boots*, \$1.90 to 2.25; ditto *Cowhide Boots*, \$2.50 to 3.50; ditto *Kip Boots*, \$2.75 to 3.25; ditto *French Calf Boots*, \$3.75; ditto *Split*

Brogans, \$1.00 to 1.10; ditto *Split Lace Boots*, \$1.50 to 1.75; *Boys' Long Boots*, \$1.75 to 2.20; *Women's Split Bals*, 85c to \$1.10; ditto *Buff Bals*, \$1.25 to 1.50; ditto *Pebble Bals*, \$1.25 to 1.50; *Misses Split Bals*, 85c and \$1.00, ditto *Buff and Pebbled Balmorals*, \$1.10 to 1.15.

CATTLE.—Most butchers were well supplied before Christmas, and very few cattle were offered yesterday; in the absence of demand it was difficult to effect sales, prices were nominal. *Live Hogs* were in moderate supply but few sales were made, buyers and sellers being apart in their views, holders generally ask \$5.75 per 100 lbs., but nothing over \$5.62½ was bid. *Dressed Hogs* are in fair supply, and sales yesterday in the market averaged from \$6.65 to 6.75 per 100 lbs.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Trade is quiet as is usual at this season, the only change we note in price is in Borax, which we advance 1c., and it is questionable if much could be picked up at our inside quotation. We quote *Bicarb Soda* \$3.30 to 3.50; *Soda Ash*, \$1.60 to 1.90; *Bichromate of Potash* 14 to 15; *Borax* 13½ to 15c; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 29 to 31; ditto *ground* 33 to 35; *Caustic Soda*, \$2.50 to 2.75; *Sugar of Lead*, 13 to 14c; *Bleaching Powder*, \$1.75; *Alum*, \$1.90; *Copperas*, 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; *Flour Sulphur*, \$3.00 to 3.25; *Roll Sulphur*, \$2.40 to 2.50; *Epsom Salts*, \$1.30 to 1.50; *Sal Soda*, \$1.15 to 1.25; *Saltpetre*, per keg, \$9.50 to 10.00; *Sulphate of Copper*, 5½ to 7c; *Whiting*, 70 to 80c; *Opium* \$8.25 to 8.75; *Quinine*, \$3.75 to 4.00; *Morphia*, \$3.75 4.00; *Castor oil*, 10 to 11c; *Shellac*, 45 to 50c.

DRY GOODS.—In the wholesale trade most houses are very busy winding up stock-taking and preparing for the spring trade; while manufacturers' stocks are pretty well cleared out with plenty of Spring orders on hand. Collections for the season are remarkably good. The retail trade are still doing a large staple dry goods business, indeed it is many years since the retail stores have exhibited such a scene of activity as during the past week or two.

FREIGHTS.—To Liverpool, via Portland, heavy grain 7/- to 7/6; Flour 4/6 brls.; Potash 35/- Pearl ash 42/6; Butter and Cheese 45/- per gross ton.

LOUR.—Receipts for the past week 11,479 brls, total receipts from 1st January to date 715,963 brls, being a decrease of 50,113 brls on the receipts for the same period of 1879;—shipments for the week 2765 brls; total shipments from 1st January to date 733,338 brls. being an increase of 9719 brls on the shipments for the same period of 1879. Transactions have been few during the week and only for the supply of immediate local wants, prices are weak and somewhat under those of last Tuesday. *Superior Extra*, \$5.40 to 5.45; *Extra Superfine*, \$5.30 to 5.35; *Fancy*, \$5.30 to 5.35; *Spring Extra*, \$5.20 to 5.25; *Superfine*, \$4.90 to 5.00; *Strong Bakers Flour*, \$5.75 to 6.25; *Fine*, \$4.25 to 4.40; *Middlings*, \$3.70 to 3.80; *Pollards*, \$3.25 to 3.50; *U. C. Bags*, \$2.60 to 2.70; *U. C. Oatmeal*, \$4.40 to 4.45; *Cornmeal*, \$3.00 to 3.10.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—Receipts during the past week nil. There has been nothing doing in wheat beyond a few car loads for milling purposes. The nominal quotation for No 2 Red winter is \$1.26, and Canada spring \$1.20 to \$1.80. Peas are nominal at 81 to 82c, Oats are firm at 35c, nothing has been done in Rye or Barley prices of which are still quite nominal in the absence of transactions.

GROCERIES.—Holiday goods only moving. At John Osborn, Son & Co.'s trade sale last Wednesday, a considerable quantity of *Teas* changed hands at the following prices:—Hyson—42 hf-chests choice Nankin Moyune at 30½c. Imperial chests choice Nankin Moyune at 30½c. —20 hf-chests curious Nankin Moyune at 30½c. at 15 do. at 27c; 9 choicest do. at 34½c; 33 do. at 39c. Gunpowder—18 hf-chests choicest Nankin