

BLACK MORTAR.—The liability of mortar to the infiltrating action of rain and damp has always been a source of anxiety to those engaged in building. There never was a time when bridges, houses, and every description of stone and brick erections, were constructed with so great rapidity. It was the usual custom to allow successive sections of the brick wall to settle before proceeding to add to its height, but this would be too slow for the present generation. We now build a house in less time than it used to take to get the foundation in. It is, therefore, tenfold a matter of importance to have sound and durable mortar; any method of rendering it impervious to the influences alluded to is worthy of consideration. M. Chevalier proposes to effect by adding a portion of coal to the usual ingredients, and obtains in this manner a most solid and impermeable material. One part of coal, ground fine, is mixed with two parts of sand and one and a half of slacked lime, and the whole treated with water in the ordinary manner. The only but nevertheless a very forcible objection to this mortar is its colour, although we see no particular advantage in mortar being of a dirty white colour in preference to a darker and more decided tint. The latter shade would certainly last much better than the former, which if clean looking when first laid very soon loses its fresh appearance.

WHEN TO CUT OAK BARK.—Oak bark contains more tannin when cut in Spring by four or half times than when cut in winter: it is also more plentiful in young trees than in old ones. Out of 400 tons of oak bark are said to be imported into England annually from the Netherlands, Germany and ports in the Mediterranean. The quantity of English oak bark used we have no means of ascertaining. Our own tanners pay very little attention to the period when oak or hemlock is cut. We believe that as a rule, however, this work is done at the season when the bark will easily peel, which will be in June, or about that time.

Sir H. Davy says that 84 pounds of oak bark are equal to 24 pounds of galls, 3 pounds of sumac, 7 pounds of bark of 10 years old, 11 pounds of the bark of Spanish chestnut, 18 pounds of elm bark, and 21 pounds of common willow bark. For a very long time oak bark only was used in England for tanning. Hemlock does not grow there. As the oak was being gradually consumed, (the case with the hemlock with us) other substances were introduced, hewn, myrtleleaves, wild Laurel leaves, birch tree bark, and even oak saw dust.

The principles of tanning have not been correctly understood until since the year 1830, in consequence of the researches of Davy and others.—*Hulk and Leather Interests.*

ST. JOHN TRADE REPORT.

ST. JOHN, N.B. March 9 1867

VERY little change has taken place in the general aspect of business since our last week's report; there is rather more activity observable than during the past two months, but generally speaking, things have a very quiet appearance. The stringency of the money market continues unabated, and many important branches of business are seriously incommenced in consequence. We believe that this state of things arises more from the want of the necessary banking capital (which is the only circulating medium,) than from any other cause. A large portion of the means of the existing banks is invested at the present moment in West Indian and other exchange, from which no immediate returns can be expected. And in the meantime the general business of the country is suffering almost as much as though we were in the midst of a commercial panic. Yet there have been no undue speculations, no failures of any consequence have occurred, and the trade of the Province is undoubtedly in a sound and healthy condition. Taking the imports and exports of the Province as affording the necessary basis for estimating the volume of trade, we find that in 1855 the total amount was in round numbers \$12,000,000 (this is exclusive of new ships), while the banking capital employed was about \$2,000,000. In Canada we find the figures stand nearly thus: imports and exports, \$100,000,000. Bank capital employed, \$23,000,000. Thus, allowing for the value of the new ships, New Brunswick has been forced to carry on its trade, with just about one-half the capital which Canada has found necessary for the same amount.

The shipping arrivals of the week have not been large, a schooner from New York with general cargo, one from Philadelphia with coals, and a few small vessels in ballast comprising the whole list.

EXPORTS.—The clearances of the week are represented by two vessels for Liverpool with deals, three for Havana, two for Matanzas, and two for Cardenas with boards and sugar shooks, and one for New Haven with boards. West India freights have experienced a further decline, and 19 to 21c. for shooks to North side of Cuba, is now about the average rate.

As far as we can learn the lumbering operations in the interior of the country have been carried on very successfully, and an unusually large production is likely to be the result of the winter's work.

WHEAT, &c. Since our last report the flour market

has become much firmer. No actual advance has yet taken place, but the tendency is decidedly in that direction. The large stocks which had accumulated here at the commencement of the winter have been gradually worked off, while the increased demand of the last two weeks has been fully maintained. Very little flour has been forwarded to the interior during the winter, and the stock in the country districts must be pretty well exhausted by this time, so that by the opening of navigation we may expect a brisk demand. The arrivals for the week have been limited to 700 bbls. per steamer via Portland.

Strong superfine \$8.00 to \$8.70, Ordinary brands do. \$8.31 to \$9.50. Corn Meal \$1.50 to \$1.75. Oatmeal, per 100 lbs., \$5.00 to \$5.25.

PROVISIONS AND GROCERIES.—The demand for provisions has improved, but prices continue low, and sales are mostly of a retail character. We quote Mess Pork (Am.) \$20 to \$21. Prime \$17.00 to \$17.50. Mess Beef \$12.00 to \$15.00. Butter varies very much in price. Roll butter being sold in the country market at 19c. to 20c., and single firkins at 17c. to 18c. No large quantities are taken, and inferior qualities are wholly unsaleable. In groceries there is but little doing. The stock of molasses is large, but holders are firm, expecting that prices will not recede below their present range. Porto Rico 40c. to 42c.; Cienfuegos 35c. to 38c.; St. Kitts 30c.

E. & N. A. RAILWAY.

St. John to Shediac 108 miles. Traffic receipts for month ending 28th February, 1867.

Passengers, \$2,900.00. Freight, \$4,329.76. Mails and Sundries, \$419.00. Total \$7,748.85. Decrease, as compared with corresponding month of 1866, \$601.27. This difference is entirely made by the interruption of freight traffic, caused by the recent break in the line near Sussex. The receipts for passengers and sundries show a slight increase.

The brig *Frederic H. Parker*, of Harborville, N. S., which was abandoned over a year ago on a voyage from St. John, N. B., to Porto Rico, was passed on the 2nd inst. in lat. 44 N., lon. 11 W., by a vessel arrived at Falmouth. This makes nearly a dozen times we think that this vessel has been seen and reported since her abandonment, and it seems little less than miraculous that she should keep afloat such a length of time, and weather all the severe gales she must have since experienced, left as she has been, entirely at the mercy of the wind and waves.

Brig. *Brill*, (Crowell), sailed from Shields, with a cargo of coal, for Newport, R. I., passing Swanage, (Dorsetshire), Nov. 9th, and has not since been heard of.

The barque *Edna Young*, laden with deals, while attempting to sail out of the harbour yesterday morning, was caught in an eddy, and owing to some mismanagement went ashore on Navy Island Bar. She lies in a very dangerous position, and it is feared that if got off she will be so much injured as to be obliged to discharge her cargo.

BY TELEGRAPH.

ST. JOHN, N.B., March 20, 1867.

BUSINESS generally dull, no arrivals of flour since last report, demand steady and stocks much reduced; prices advanced about 25c. per bbl. Strong superfine, \$9.00 to \$9.20; ordinary brands, \$8.75 to \$9.50. Money market very stringent, 60 day bills on London, 10½ premium. Montreal sight drafts 1½. Reported suspension of Westmoreland Bank confirmed. Meeting of stockholders called 25th inst. Provisions unchanged.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE

Ballie, James, Co.
Buckner, Jack & Co.
Johnston, James, & Co.
Clark, Lewis & Co.
Clark, John P. & Co.
Cathart, T. James, & Co.
Davis, Welch & Co.
Ewart, Robert & Co.
Foulds & Hildren.
Gault, Ewen & Co.
Gilmour, J. Y. & Co.
Greenfield, N. & Co.
Harrison, James, & Co.
Lewis, Ray & Co.
MacFarlane, Andrew, & Co.
MacKinnon, J. G. & Co.
MacKay, Joseph, & Co.

May, Joseph.
Mac, Thomas, & Co.
McColloch, Jack & Co.
McIntyre, Deacon & Co.
Meyer, J. & Co.
Moss, R. H., & J.
Muir, W., & R.
Munderloh & Neenach.
Ogilby & Co.
Pitt, John, Austin & Co.
Prennet, Amable, & Co.
Robertson, A. & Co.
Roy, Jas., & Co.
Simpson, William, & Co.
Sutcliffe, McCall & Co.
Thomas, Thibaudan & Co.
Winks, George & Co.

SINCE our last there has been a continually increasing activity in this department, until now, when we write, the city is full of prominent Western merchants, and most of our importers have about as many customers as they can attend to; and, although buyers exhibit considerable caution, the sales thus far have been satisfactory. The parcels bought are fair, and in most instances quite up to expectations.

Many of the travellers have returned, they have done well, having effected more sales than were anticipated. Stocks, we report never in better condition than at

present, being large and attractive, and competition more lively than usual, so that Western merchants have no difficulty in completing their orders at satisfactory prices and terms.

It is too early in the season for us to give an opinion as to whether stocks are likely to be too heavy for the wants of the trade; thus far all desirable goods are selling freely, and there is no apprehension of an over-stock, most of our importers having acted cautiously, and in our judgment, the imports will show a large weekly decrease for the future, as compared with those of the previous year, as we are assured by our merchants that most of their spring importations are forward.

We have no change to note in prices. In our Liverpool cotton reports, there is an advance quoted on the raw material, which has given a firmer feeling in the Manchester markets; should this advance be sustained, goods could not be imported at less prices than stocks now held in the market.

THE GROCERY TRADE.

Anderson, John & Co.
Haldwin, C. H., & Co.
Chapman, Fraser & Tyoe.
Chapman H., & Co.
Childs, George, & Co.
Darric, Clark, & Co.
Fitzpatrick & Moore.
Fournier, Jules.
Francis, J. C., & Co.
Gillespie, Moffatt & Co.
Jedery, Brothers & Co.
Kinnear & Kinnear.
Lindsay, Thomas & Co.
Mills, H. James.
Phipps, Joseph.
Robertson & Bantline.
Robertson, David.
Simpson, Jack & Co.
Tidman, John, & Sons.
Thompson, Murray & Co.
Torrance, David, & Co.
West, James.
Winn & Holbairt.

THE past week has been one of marked inactivity in this line of business, little having been done either by importers or jobbers. A number of country merchants are now in town, however, making their purchases of dry goods, and it is expected that they will, many of them, be buyers of groceries before they leave the city, so that more animation in the market may be looked for.

SUGAR.—We have no change to notice in this article. The demand seems almost entirely to have fallen off, and transactions are of very trifling amounts. Holders, however, are very firm in their requirements, feeling confident that, unless prices recede in the West Indian markets, nothing can be imported below their asking rates. The following are extracts of a letter dated St. John's, Porto Rico, 2nd March:

"SUGAR.—But few lots have been offered during the past fortnight, which fetched prices ranging from \$3½ to \$4½ for refining to fair quality; to-day we quote \$3½ to \$4½ for extremes of current qualities in our market."

"The excited state of some of the markets at our outports which caused an unreasonable advance in prices, as high as \$5½ having been granted for first quality, has somewhat subsided and a calmer feeling prevailing with a decline of about 12½ to 25c. on the highest rates paid."

"MOLASSES.—No transactions have taken place, although several lots are offered, at 10c and 11c. Mayaguez the demand is brisk at \$20 to \$25 per 110 galls., exclusive of cask, &c."

TEAS.—Are without much inquiry, and sales very light. Prices, however, are firmly maintained.

Messrs. Ducaes, Claveau & Co., in their circular of 2nd inst., report the London Tea market as follows:—

"Contrary to expectation, the market for most descriptions of Black Teas has not further advanced, although a good business has been done in both red and black-leaf Congous of shipping qualities at about previous rates. Fine to finest may be quoted slightly lower in price. Sonchongs continue in demand at former quotations. Oolongs are still very scarce, and the finest descriptions continue in great request. In the Green Tea market, in consequence of considerable orders having come forward from Canada, America, &c., prices have again advanced, and Young Hyson of fine quality may be quoted as fully 1d per lb. dearer, with an upward tendency. In Japan there have been no arrivals since our last, and the small stock at present held here is mostly of a poor quality, and scarcely worthy the attention of buyers."

RICE.—The stock is very light and in few hands. Sales have been made of choice Arracan at our outside quotations, and even higher figures are asked.

SALT.—Some 200 sacks were offered at auction on the 19th, and 200 sacks sold at 8½c, the balance was withdrawn.

WINES AND LIQUORS.—Not much doing. DeKuyper's Gin in bids is very scarce, and prices though not higher are very firm.

MONTREAL CATTLE MARKET.

Extra quality Cattle, none: First quality of Cattle, none: second and third quality, 16.00 to 27.00. Milch Cows, \$24.00 to \$30.00, Extra \$35.00 to \$45.00. Sheep, \$3.00 to \$6.00, Extra, \$3.00 to \$10.00. Lambs, \$3.00 to \$4.00. Hogs, live weight, 15.00: Dressed, \$5.50 to \$6.00. Hides, inspected and trimmed, 9c. per lb. Pelts, \$1 to \$1.50 each, Tallow, 6c. per lb.