

From the 1st January till the end of March, this year there have been moved about 400,000 bushels of grain. In the same time last year there were only about 250,000 bushels moved. The quantity in store in warehouses along the line is about the same this year as last, namely, about 250,000 bushels. It would be a serious matter to have this road closed, especially to those who have invested their money upon the belief that the road would be permanent.

A NOTICE of motion has been submitted to the Commons by the Premier, which forms an appropriate tribute to the memory of the late Hon. Jno. Young, of Montreal. The motion will recite that in consideration of the services (gratuitous during nine years) of that gentleman towards works of great import to the navigation of the St. Lawrence, it is expedient to empower the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal, to pay annually to his widow during her life, out of the funds of the Corporation, a sum equal to the interest at six per cent. on \$10,000, to be reckoned and paid as from the time of Mr. Young's decease.

THE Scottish American Investment Company has instituted proceedings against the Montreal Warehousing Co., for \$9,027. The action was brought in respect of the coupon bonds issued by the Warehousing Co., in 1874, and which are now repudiated on the ground that the act of the Quebec Legislature, authorizing them to pay 7 per cent. interest was unconstitutional, and that defendants in agreeing to pay 7 per cent. entered into a usurious, and therefore illegal contract. A further ground of defence is that the bonds were issued by the directors without the knowledge of the shareholders. The whole issue of bonds amounts to £500,000 sterling.

THE *New York Bulletin* on the authority of a Copenhagen paper, states that the great depression in the Scandinavian lumber trade had ruined many merchants and traders. "At the beginning of the present winter a decline of from £1 to £3, per St. Petersburg standard, took place, but this was rapidly followed by an advance of from 50 to 130 per cent. There is no likelihood of lumber becoming cheaper. On the contrary, there is every reason to look for higher prices. The total number of trees felled in Sweden and Finland during the winter of 1878, was 11,169,000, but only 3,548,000 were felled in winter of 1879. The Norwegian supply is somewhat scarcer, and as there is a great demand from Germany, an advance is not improbable."

OFFICIAL statistics show what heavy consumers of tobacco the Germans are. During the year 1878 that empire used tobacco worth 353,000,000 marks which brought a revenue to the Government of 26,383,966 marks. The quantity used was 2,196,000 cwts. and of this 582,600 has been smoked in the shape of cigars. Reckoning 100 cigars to a pound in weight, the number of cigars consumed in 1878 would be more than 7,000,000,000, or enough to give 20,000,000 smokers two cigars a day all the year

around. Besides in cigars, the Germans smoked 1,327,200 hundred-weight of tobacco in other forms. They snuffed 160,600 hundred-weight, and they chewed 14,260 hundred-weight, more than one-third of all this tobacco was grown by Germany itself, mainly in Rhenish, Bavaria, Baden, South Hesse, and Alsace-Lorraine.

THE extended credit system which has long prevailed has given rise, as was natural, to many schemes of the nature of collection agencies. Bad debts or doubtful debts continue to be made, we regret to say, so numerous as to make one doubt whether the business community are growing wiser in this respect as they grow older. The desperate nature of some of the debts permitted to be contracted is the only explanation for the big percentages offered for their recovery or the risks run in the choice of collectors. But, indeed, the recklessness with which collections are entrusted by Canadian merchants to unknown persons, claiming to represent remote, or it may be apocryphal foreign firms or agencies, compels one to wonder at the credulity of our countrymen. There is a new agency soliciting business in our midst, "The Canadian Reporting & Collecting Association," which, we observe from its circular, has formed connection with Stubb's mercantile offices, well known in Britain, and with the N. A. Attorney's and Tradesmen's P. U. Co. of New York, which is not so well known to us. The Association publishes certificates from a number of Canadian firms who have employed it with satisfaction to themselves. A special feature of the concern is its cipher code, for communication by telegraph or mail.

In January of last year we gave some particulars of a suit, W. Parsons, of Orangeville, hardware dealer, burned out in 1877, vs the Standard Insurance Co., for a fire loss, the grounds of the Company's defence being that the plaintiff had not disclosed prior insurances, as required by the conditions of the policy; that the property insured had not been properly described, &c. The case was decided against the Company. Towards the close of last year, this matter was still in dispute, as well as another company's insurance having been carried to a higher Court, (\$9,000 and \$4,000.) Failing to obtain payment of his claim amounting thus to \$13,000. Mr. Parsons fell behind in his payments, and as we learn from a circular issued by him on the 8th instant, some of his creditors "have come down on him." His liabilities reach \$36,000, and he claims to have a surplus of \$13,960, including these insurance claims.

THE largest mass of pure copper ever found in Lake Superior district, was taken from the Minnesota mine, in Ontonagon county, the rough weight of which was 540 tons, and it produced 446 tons of pure copper. The thickest part of the mass was a little over seven feet. It required the labor of twenty men during the period of twenty three months. The Cliff mine developed one mass weighing a little over two hundred and fifty tons.

## STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

Montreal, April 14th, 1880.

Stocks.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total Transacted in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Average Price, like Date, 1879.
Montreal .....	144	144	725	143	144	136
" " x.d. ....	137	140	575	13	140	131
Ontario .....	78	80	1093	80	80	65
Consolidated .....						47
Peoples .....						52
Molson .....	79	80	81	7	80	78
Toronto .....			9	128	85	111
Jac. Cartier .....				71	135	34
Merchants .....	95	97	898	97	97	84
Commerce .....	119	119	347	119	120	104
Union .....						
Hamilton .....						
Exchange .....				40	47	55
Mon. Tel. ....	94	95	150	94	95	103
Dom. Tel. ....		65	16			
Rich. & O. Nav. ....	42	43	205	42	43	44
City Pass .....				93	94	75
Gas .....	118	119	462	119	119	109
R. C. Ins. Co. ....			7	48	50	
Eastern T'ps. ....				99	100	
Sterling Ex. ....						
Gas & d. ....						
Merchants x.d. ....						

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