

THE HUNTER CASE.

OR, as later developments seem to teach, rather the HUNTERS' case. According to the *Mail*, the son is now detected following in his father's evil steps. The Toronto paper says that the son, C. S. HUNTER, has just had a criminal charge laid against him for obtaining moneys under false pretences. His *modus operandi* of raising the wind, according to this authority, has been to represent himself as an agent of the Citizens' Insurance Company, solicit parties to take out policies, and when he got the premium, to convert it to his own use. The victims who are taking legal steps are coal-merchants of this city, who paid him \$127, no account of which he ever gave to the Citizens' manager. The receipt which HUNTER gave to the firm he swindled bears signatures supposed to be forged. The insurance company repudiate the defaulter's connection with its business altogether. Young HUNTER is said to have absconded to the Western States. In the meantime fresh developments show additional and most cruel frauds on the part of the senior offender, and there really seems no end to his defalcations. So far, however, there is no actual proof that he has brought himself within the operation of the extradition law, though his son, according to the *Mail's* statement, undoubtedly has. The whole matter will probably result in another illustration of the HUNTERS becoming the hunted.

THE STOCK MARKET.

THE volume of business transacted on "the street" during the past week, so far as Bank stocks are concerned, has been below the average, and as a rule prices have not been maintained, but the differences have been so slight as not to require special comparison with our preceding report. Ontario and Molson's have slightly advanced, but the amount of transactions in neither was heavy. Montreal Telegraph was in greater demand than has been usual of late, the sales of this week and last being 1,510 and 662 respectively, while prices rose from a minimum of 209 as per last report to a maximum of 211½, closing at 211. Richelieu, for some time past so dormant, woke up suddenly in all its best energy, and prices crept up from 70½ to 78 in the early part of the week, but towards its end fell to 75½, and closed at 76½. A few knaves started the report that a big French company was going to buy up this line, and many fools believed it, running up quotations with a rush. By the way, it is perfectly extraordinary the wonderful things these French companies are doing or going to do—on paper! The effects of the *canard* was to run up the number of sales from 380 last week to 4,923 this. The excitement has now, however, wholly abated after thoroughly doing the work of its creators. City Passenger continues in its extra activity, the sales this week reaching as high as 2,860; prices, however, were by no means

maintained, the maximum of 157½ of last week being followed by a reaction to 150, but rallying to 155½ and closing at 152½. City Gas sales have largely fallen off, as was to have been expected, but they nevertheless reached 4,206; prices, however, fell from 197 to 186½, and closed at 187½, this decline thus exactly carrying out our recent predictions. St. Paul, M. and M. continued in good demand, the total of sales this week being 1,460, while prices ranged between 155½ and 160½, closing at 156½.

The Money Market is perhaps not quite so easy, and the Banks have ample use for all their available funds in making advances for the handling of crops and meeting legitimate trade demands. The rates at the close of the week to commercial borrowers remain unchanged at 6½ to 7 for prime mercantile paper, and old reliable customers, but outsiders have to put up with 7½ per cent. and higher, according to the quality of the paper offered. Call loans on stocks are negotiated at 6 to 6½ and 7. The market for Sterling Exchange continues dull at 8½ for bankers, 60-day bills and 8½ to 8¾ to the public. Demand drafts are 9½ and currency on New York ¼ to 3-16 premium. In New York the market for foreign exchange is barely steady at the recent decline. The posted rates for prime bankers' sterling are 4.81½ and 4.86 to ½. The actual rates are 4.80½ to 4.81 and 4.85 to ½ with cable transfers 4.86 to ¾, and prime commercial bills 4.78½ to 4.79½.

OVERHAULING CANADIAN SHIPS.—Measures are being adopted to put into force the new U. S. law which provides for the annual inspection of foreign vessels touching at United States ports. The new provisions are important to Canada, as the law will affect lines plying between our ports and those of the States. There are to be six special inspectors at New York, and two each at Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, and San Francisco. The new Act will place foreign vessels almost on the same footing as American steam vessels in regard to the maintenance of their proper condition of hull, boilers, &c., and their equipments to secure safety. Should foreign vessels refuse to submit to inspection after arrival in port, they will be refused clearances by the Custom-house authorities.

SHIP INSPECTION IN ENGLAND.—A return has been issued showing that, from the passing of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1876 to the 30th June, 1882, the total number of ships ordered by the Board of Trade or its Officers to be provisionally detained as unsafe, and reported as defective in hull, equipments, or machinery, was 477, of which 9 were found safe, 459 unsafe, 3 were still waiting survey, and 6 were improperly detained. Of the ships detained 56 were steamships (54 iron and 2 wooden), and 421 sailing ships (5 iron and 416 wooden). The total number of ships reported for overloading or improper loading in the same time was 231, 2 of which were found safe

and 229 unsafe. Of those detained 197 were iron steamships, and 1 a wooden steamship, and 29 were wooden sailing ships, and 4 iron sailing ships.

OUR IMPORTS.—The Customs receipts at Toronto, Halifax and St. John during September show a decrease of \$94,414 as compared with the corresponding month last year, while those at Montreal increased \$56,000. Judging from the returns received from eight of the principal ports of entry, the Customs revenues of last month will not exceed that of September, 1881, from which fact it is to be inferred that the extreme limit of importation has for the meantime been reached. It is inferred that the fact that the receipts at Montreal have considerably augmented means probably that this port is regaining its control of the import trade, which the depression seriously weakened.

NEW TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.—The following new companies were incorporated in the State of New York this week. The Commercial Telegraph Company; capital, \$500,000 (the lines of the Company are to run from New York to different cities and States). The Mexican Northern Telegraph and Telephone Company, of New York; capital, \$200,000 (its line is to run from New York through the State of New Jersey, and thence in a south-westerly direction to the city of Laredo and other cities in Mexico).

THE ESCOTT CASE.

THIS defaulter, it will be remembered, "cleared" from Montreal about three years ago with some \$13,000, belonging to the Canadian Investment and Agency Company, having previously committed other embezzlements. He was traced to Chicago, and arrested there as a fraudulent debtor, and failing to "schedule out," has remained in the county jail from that time up to the present, and so long as the Montreal company is willing to pay his board bill, which is not very much, it seems likely that he will remain under the sheriff's charge. The trouble with him is that he does not account for the missing money. He can only show that \$5,000 of it went into a bad speculation, and for the sake of the balance hidden away, he seems willing to undergo a wearisome imprisonment. The judge told him that he had tried hard to find a way to let him out of jail, but that he could not do so. If he had only spent the money in gambling or riotous living, or in some aimless extravagance, so as to account in any way for the deficit, there might be some hope for him, but as it was he would have to return to jail. This is very like imprisonment for debt, which is made illegal in Illinois.

THE DOMINION BANK.—It will be seen by our advertising columns that the Dominion Bank has just declared a dividend of four per cent. and a bonus of one per cent. upon its capital stock for the current half year—a gratifying evidence of its progress.