

PERSONAL.—The health of Mr. M. P. Ryan, M.P., which has been seriously affected during the past week, we are happy to say, is gradually improving.

POSTERS.—A little boy's remark in school, at Potsville, Ind., that he knew a good way to kill babies, which was by throwing them out of the window, led to the discovery of a child-murder.

—The German papers complain that an enormous amount of tobacco has been smuggled across the German frontier by an organized band, the members of which are principally Dutchmen.

—Mr. Harris, formerly of Preston, England, has left that town \$1,250,000 for educational purposes, and \$500,000 to what is known as the Queen Anne's Bounty Fund for aiding poor clergy.

—The London Standard proposes a lottery under the sanction of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of Dublin for the relief of Irish distress. The proposition meets with favor from several other quarters.

—Jacob Freeze, for whom Lincoln requested an appointment as Colonel of a colored regiment, "regardless of whether he could tell the exact shade of Julius Caesar's hair," is now in a State prison for embezzlement.

—Mr. O'Connor Power, M. P. for Mayo, and for two seasons a lecturer here, has passed his legal examination and been called to the English bar. He is the fourth Home Rule member who has selected England for his residence.

—The Pope is said to have commissioned Father Ballerini, a Jesuit, to examine the dispute between the Roman Catholic Bishops in England and the religious orders domiciled in that country. The religious orders dispute the claim of the Bishops to supreme authority in their diocese.

—Charles Jones, a third owner of a Leadville mine worth \$1,000,000, died without making a will. A lawyer, taking advantage of a small mortgage, got fraudulent possession of the property; but some miners discovered the scheme, and have found heirs in a poverty-stricken Vermont family.

—A London paper, in tracing the mode in which 122 of the titled families of England have acquired lands, states that scarcely a dozen of the number got them by professional or commercial pursuits. The writer asserts that not one-tenth of the 5,500,000 acres possessed by the 122 was acquired for value received.

—Aaron Barnes of Independence, Iowa, was advised to go to the poor house, as he was old, infirm and destitute; but he said, "I'll die first," and hobbled away from the village store toward his lonely shanty. He was not seen after that for a week and was found dead, from hunger and cold, by a messenger who brought the news that his claim for \$1,000 pension money had been allowed.

—At Craguana, Mayo, Ireland, when a process server, aided by 100 police, attempted last month to serve notice of ejectment, his progress was arrested by 300 women, armed with heavy sticks. The women were remonstrated with, but all arguments failed. At length the police forced their way through, with fixed bayonets, several of the women receiving thrusts, and reached the house where the process was to be served. Here, again, a crowd of women opposed, and several were wounded; the process was, however, served.

—Mr. and Mrs. Holberg made it lively for four burglars at Cambridgeport, Mass. Holberg caught up a hatchet when he heard the robbers in the house and chased two of them into the street. Mrs. Holberg locked the two in a room, and yelled "Murder!" until they jumped from a window fifteen feet to the ground. One was hurt by the fall, and could not run away. Meanwhile, Holberg had chopped another considerably. The two un injured burglars then opened negotiations for the liberation of their captive comrades, offering to return the booty which they had and pay \$200 besides. Holberg accepted the terms and let them all go.

—Bishop Orinor, of Hamilton, Ont., in sending a subscription for the relief of the Irish, writes to a local committee:—"It is very humiliating for Irishmen to see their country coming so frequently before the world as a mendicant for alms, when even the worst year the country produces more than double the quantity of provisions that the people could consume. This sad condition arises from the unjust law which now exists between landlord and tenant. An exorbitant rent is exacted from the tenant and spent in a foreign land by the great majority of landlords, who have no sympathy for their tenants. We are told that the rights of property are sacred. Yes, but the preservation of a nation is still more sacred, and the Government that allows millions to suffer and starve for the aggrandizement of a few does not do its duty. Let us hope that this severe trial will produce some salutary remedy for this long standing evil."

—The stock of boots and shoes of the insolvent estate of A. Lennan has been purchased by L. Veneberg, of Cowanville, at 30c on the dollar.

—Messrs. Mackay Brothers have taken out a writ of attachment against Messrs. Brown & Co., of the Reclot House, for \$183.11. Mr. John Fair, assignee.

—Mr. J. J. Brown, late merchant, New York, formerly of Hamilton, Ont., has assigned. His estate shows a large surplus, which at present cannot be made available, but it is probable that his liabilities will eventually be paid in full.

—Three capias have been issued by Messrs. T. & C. DeLoraine against Adolphe Benoit and J. M. J. Polycarpe, a horse dealer, who have been charged with horse-stealing and other crimes and promissory notes payable at slight or short date. He was arrested and locked up for several hours, when he was liberated on bail.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE WHOLESALE TRADE.

TUESDAY, Feb. 10. There has been scarcely any change effected in the business situation here since our last reference. The distribution of general merchandise gradually increases as the season advances, and, on the whole, nothing has occurred to make doubtful our previous predictions of a good, healthy spring trade being done in this city in nearly all branches. We notice that in some lines of trade prices show a weakening tendency, but it is generally because they were a short time ago advanced to a point which has interfered with the consumption. In a few other lines values still show a stiffening tendency, but are not likely, we think, to reach an extreme point. Breadstuffs and provisions still remain very inactive here, and prices are easy.

The following are the latest quotations: Superior Extra, \$4.10 @ 6.20; Extra Superfine, 5.98 @ 6.00; Fine, 6.00 @ 6.00; Spring Extra, new ground, 5.80 @ 6.00; Superfine, 5.55 @ 5.60; Strong Bakers, 6.10 @ 6.20; Fine, 6.10 @ 6.10; Middlings, 4.40 @ 4.50; Poland, 4.40 @ 4.50; Ontario Bags, 2.80 @ 2.90; City Bags (delivered), 3.20 @ 3.25; Omeal, Ontario, 4.50 @ 4.60; Cornmeal, 2.90 @ 3.00.

FINANCE & COMMERCE.

TRUE WITNESS OFFICE, Tuesday, February 10.

There is no new feature to note in the local money market. The demand for accommodation at the banks continues quite moderate, while the amount of capital unemployed is large; rates of interest and discount are therefore easy, and nominally unchanged. Good lines of commercial paper are readily discounted at 7 to 8 per cent, according to the name and date. Loans on collateral security are easily obtained at 5 per cent on call, and 6 on time. There is a small business doing in Sterling Exchange at 83 to 84 premium for round amounts of \$3 to \$4 bills between banks, and \$3 to \$4 do over the counter. In New York the posted rates are steady at \$4.83 1/2 for 60 days, and \$4.86 for demand drafts. Currency drafts on New York are quiet and firm, at 1/2 premium.

The Bank of England rate of discount is now 3 per cent.

It is now stated that shares in the Edison Electric Light Company cannot be bought at any figure.

—The Quebec Gas Company have declared a dividend of 3/4 per cent. for the current half year.

—The traffic receipts of the Great Western Railway for the week ending January 30, were \$79,459.19, compared with \$89,023.40 for the corresponding week of 1879, a decrease of \$9,564.21.

—The Midland Railway return of traffic for the week ending January 21st, 1880, and the corresponding week of 1879 shows:—Passengers, \$1,131.18; freight, \$1,828.65; mails and sundries, \$341.76; total, \$3,301.59. For 1879, total, \$3,077.07. Increase, \$224.52.

—The Customs returns of Belleville, Ont., for January, compare as follows with those for the same month of the preceding year:—Imports, 1880, value, \$13,976; duty, \$2,957.23. 1879—Value, \$11,263; duty, \$2,755.54. Exports, 1880, \$13,786; 1879, \$2,405, showing an increase of \$11,351.

The Customs receipts at Montreal during January were \$359,914.42, against \$356,389.29 in January, 1879, an increase of \$3,525.13. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1st, the amounts compare as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: 1878-9, 1879-80. Rows: Jan. receipts, Prev. 6 months, Increase.

—The Pullman Palace Car Co. has declared a quarterly dividend of 2 per cent, payable February 16.

—The traffic receipts of the Grand Trunk Railway for the week ending January 31st, compared with the corresponding week of 1879, were:—

Table with 2 columns: 1880, 1879. Rows: Passengers, mail and express, Freight and live stock, Total, Increase.

—Following is the statement for January of the St. John (N.B.) Savings Bank: Deposits, \$7,609.09; Stock, \$9,200.00; Payments, \$9,931.00.

—Appended is a comparative statement for the year:

Table with 2 columns: 1880, 1879. Rows: Deposits, Exports, Stock in 1879, Withdrawals in 1879.

Business Troubles.

Henri Boney has been attached by Victor Olivier for \$368.80. L. J. Lajoie, assignee.

A demand of assignment has been made upon A. P. Macdonald, contractor, for \$340.04 by David H. Henderson.

A writ of attachment for \$208 against Louis Berthiaume has been issued by D. Harrault, A. Bourbonniere, assignee.

A writ of attachment has been issued against Joseph A. J. Craig, cabinet maker, &c., M. P. S. Ross, assignee.

A concurrent writ of attachment has been issued against Robert Forsyth by the Consolidated Bank of Canada for \$2,888. William S. Creighton, assignee, Halifax.

A writ of attachment has been issued against Albert E. Kemp, at the instance of Robert Kemp, for \$500. Hugh A. Bain, assignee.

A writ of attachment has been issued against Alexander Prefontaine, baker, Belleville, for \$885, by La Banque Jacques Cartier. L. A. Globensky, assignee.

The following writs were to-day issued:—Against John Findlay at the instance of the Hon. Adam Pope et al for \$226.70; J. M. M. Duff, assignee. Against Ernest Morice in favor of John Kay; amount \$320.25; J. L. Lajoie, assignee.

A writ was also issued in favor of Thomas Burdett against Edman Brown for \$201.75; T. A. Evans, assignee. J. B. Cartwright et al., caused a writ to be made out against William L. Thompson and William C. Buckley (Thompson & Buckley), for \$240.12; L. C. Patt, assignee.

At a recent meeting of the creditors of D. E. Jones et al., H. A. Bain was appointed assignee.

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THE FARMERS' MARKETS.

Households and St. Ann's—Prices at Farmers' Markets, etc.

Tuesday, February 10.

The thin attendance of farmers and others at the city markets to-day was in marked contrast to the appearance of the markets on Friday last, but one only needs to be reminded that this is Shrove Tuesday—or, as it is vulgarly termed, "Pancake Tuesday"—to be able to account for this state of things. There is a common legend, that the French Canadian farmers are in the habit of taking a "spree" on Shrove Tuesday, and certainly, if their absence from the markets to-day is any evidence, the story holds good. With the exception of a few loads of oats, which were offered at 70c to 75c per bushel by the load, and at 78c to 80c by the single bag, Jacques Cartier Square, there was no quotable quantity of any kind of produce on the markets. A few small lots of inferior quality of beef was offering at previous prices. Two or three baskets of fresh prairie butter were sold at 25c to 30c, and for one or two of low-laid eggs, 30c per doz. were paid. Vegetables, poultry, fish and meats unchanged.

The following are the prices, corrected up to date:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Rows: Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots, Choice onions.

and are generally reported about up to the average for this season.

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FURS.—There are very few fur furs coming to market now, and there is very little business doing in them. The large London spring sales will take place at Mincing Lane to the 20th inst., nearly one month earlier than usual. These sales always regulate prices here for the spring and summer trade, and no change in prices or activity in the trade will likely be witnessed until after the above-named date.

GROCERIES.—Trade is uniformly dull, and the market is practically unchanged from its position at our last reference. The month of January is usually a dull period in this line, and this year it has been especially so. Travellers report that country dealers are merely "buying from hand to mouth," and they have seldom experienced business on the road so dull as during the past month. The prospects for an improvement towards spring, however, are fairly good. Tea.—The demand is inactive, and the market during the past week has been easier; sales were lighter. Japan may be quoted from 1c to 2c lower for nearly all grades; prices range from 30c to 55c; some round lots of medium Japan have changed hands within the last couple of days, but the prices have not transpired. Black teas are quoted at 29c to 35c for low grades, and 37c to 65c for good to extra choice. For Sugars the market is also shade easier; prices show a decline of probably 3/4c as compared with those of last Tuesday. Granulated is quoted at 10c to 10 1/2c; yellows at 8c to 9 1/2c; and raw at 7c to 8 1/2c. Sales are slow and generally for small lots. Fruits are dull and unchanged; Valencia raisins are scarce, and held at 7 1/2c to 8 1/2c; the inside figure being for round lots, and the outside rate for small parcels. Malaga and layers are dull and unchanged. Currants steady; almonds steady and firm. Molasses.—There is some little enquiry, and prices are fairly firm. We quote Barbadoes at 35c to 39c, and Trinidad at 30c to 34c. Syrup the dull; prices range from 4 1/2c to 6c. Rice there is not much movement; prices range from 4 1/2c to 5 1/2c. Spices dull and unchanged; pepper, 10c to 11 1/2c; cloves, 17c to 47c; nutmegs, ginger, and cassia unchanged. Coffee are dull, without change in prices. Java, 26c to 30c; Mocha, 30c to 34c; and Jamaica, 19c to 21c. Remittances are reported fair.

EARDWARE AND IRON.—Trade has continued active in this market; there is a fair demand for all kinds of hardware, and prices, since our last reference, have remained firm, but unchanged. There was a slight decline for pig iron, in the English market, a few days ago, but the market has since more than recovered the decline, and is now very firm for all kinds. Remittances are reported good.

Pig Iron, per ton: Garsberris, 33.00; Summerlee, 33.00; Langs, best brands, 35.00; Eglington, 35.00; Calder No. 1, 35.00; Carnaroe, 35.00; Best, 35.00.

BAR, per 100 lbs: Scotch and Staffordshire, 2.75; Sweden and Norway, 3.00; Lowmoor and Bowling, 2.75; CANADA PLATES, per box: Galt, 5.50; Garth & Penn, 5.51; E. W. & Arrow, 5.50; Elliot, 5.50.

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DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business in this branch has continued generally quiet. Orders from country dealers for general drugs are being received by our wholesale houses pretty freely, but the time of year, but in heavy chemicals there is not much movement reported, and prices are nominally unchanged. The feeling among English manufacturers remains very firm.

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GROCERIES.—Trade is uniformly dull, and the market is practically unchanged from its position at our last reference. The month of January is usually a dull period in this line, and this year it has been especially so. Travellers report that country dealers are merely "buying from hand to mouth," and they have seldom experienced business on the road so dull as during the past month. The prospects for an improvement towards spring, however, are fairly good. Tea.—The demand is inactive, and the market during the past week has been easier; sales were lighter. Japan may be quoted from 1c to 2c lower for nearly all grades; prices range from 30c to 55c; some round lots of medium Japan have changed hands within the last couple of days, but the prices have not transpired. Black teas are quoted at 29c to 35c for low grades, and 37c to 65c for good to extra choice. For Sugars the market is also shade easier; prices show a decline of probably 3/4c as compared with those of last Tuesday. Granulated is quoted at 10c to 10 1/2c; yellows at 8c to 9 1/2c; and raw at 7c to 8 1/2c. Sales are slow and generally for small lots. Fruits are dull and unchanged; Valencia raisins are scarce, and held at 7 1/2c to 8 1/2c; the inside figure being for round lots, and the outside rate for small parcels. Malaga and layers are dull and unchanged. Currants steady; almonds steady and firm. Molasses.—There is some little enquiry, and prices are fairly firm. We quote Barbadoes at 35c to 39c, and Trinidad at 30c to 34c. Syrup the dull; prices range from 4 1/2c to 6c. Rice there is not much movement; prices range from 4 1/2c to 5 1/2c. Spices dull and unchanged; pepper, 10c to 11 1/2c; cloves, 17c to 47c; nutmegs, ginger, and cassia unchanged. Coffee are dull, without change in prices. Java, 26c to 30c; Mocha, 30c to 34c; and Jamaica, 19c to 21c. Remittances are reported fair.