

selling at a fearful loss. In fact they could not be sold at all, unless under the auctioneer's mallet. Indeed, before the experiment was tried a month or six weeks ago, it was a matter of considerable discussion whether any large quantity of any class of goods could be placed at all at any price.

#### AUSTRALIAN WOOL MARKET.

Sydney, N. S. W., June 30, 1876.

To the Editor of the U. S. Economist:

In this our winter season all is quietness in the Wool market, and while transactions are of themselves unimportant, there is not sufficient known either of the likely course of prices at home or of the condition and state of the coming clip to establish any marked feeling in the Colonial markets.

Rain has been generally abundant, though as a rule too late to have much influence on the supply of winter feed, and even in those districts which are currently reported to have suffered so much from the late disastrous drought, those more directly interested are the most reticent as to their losses. Lambing will soon commence, but the prospects are very variously estimated, and it would only be guess-work to hazard any statement as to what will probably be the general result. Still we cannot but think that such a season as we have passed through cannot fail to leave an unpleasant mark behind, and that we may find deficiencies in growth of Wool as well as gaps in number of flocks, and consequently that the late increasing production may receive a check, for this year at least.

Our exports for the season now stand at 129,939 bales, showing an excess of 14,561 bales over our total shipments last season.

Departures from Sydney to London: June 2, "Cynosure," 2,221 bales; June 21, "Alexander Duthie," 1,904 bales; June 28, "Strathdon," 1,115 bales.

Loading for London: "Andrew Reid," "Martin Luther," "Kosciusko."

Shipments from Oct. 1, 1875, to June 30, 1876.....	129,939
Shipments from Oct. 1, 1874, to June 30, 1875.....	110,653
Total shipments from Oct. 1, 1872, to 30, 1873.....	105,415
Total shipments Corresponding period, 1873-4.....	113,924
Total shipments Corresponding period 1874-5.....	115,378

GIFFINIS & Co.

**THE REACTION IN THE PRICE OF SILVER.**—The improvement in the silver market is caused by the fact that the German Government estimates that the amount of silver likely to be disposed of by it will not exceed £7,500,000, and that it is being sold at the rate of but two or three millions sterling per annum. This announcement has, no doubt, contributed materially to the late improvement in the market value of silver.

**THE FISHERIES.**—Several vessels which arrived on Saturday and yesterday, from North Bay and the Grand Banks, report codfish very scarce.

Most of the vessels in the North Bay will return with hardly half fares, and others nearly empty. A great many more vessels than usual have been fitted out for the fisheries this season, and the fleet in North Bay was augmented by many vessels, which were making poor fares on the Grand Banks and Western Banks, and proceeded to the Bay.—*Halifax Chronicle.*

#### RAILWAY RETURNS.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY OF CANADA.**—The traffic receipts for week ending 31st July, 1876.—Passengers, \$8,099.58; Freight, \$11,643.36; Mails and Sundries, \$2,458.95; Total receipts for current week, 1876, \$22,201.89. Corresponding week of 1875, \$21,355.70. Increase, \$846.19. Total traffic to date, 1876, \$459,424.24. Total

traffic to date, 1875, \$422,286.98. Increase, \$37,137.26.

THOS. HAMILTON,  
Secretary.

Toronto, Aug. 10, 1876.

**GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.**—Traffic return week ending August 5th, 1876, \$162,564; week ending August 7, 1875, \$161,562. Increase, \$1,002.

#### IMPORTS.

Comparative statement of Imports at the Port of Montreal from 1st January to 17th August, 1875 and 1876:

	1875.	1876.
Ashes.....	12,058	9,998
Bacon.....	19	211
Barley.....	26,044	67,626
Butter.....	34,667	26,886
Cheese.....	240,643	142,866
Corn.....	956,415	1,661,616
Flour.....	577,575	511,433
Lard.....	281	22,893
Oats.....	92,073	1,732,290
Peas.....	725,856	538,845
Pork.....	15,992	7,818
Wheat.....	4,832,400	3,957,841

#### REMARKS.

Ashes.—Receipts for the week, 239 brls. Pot. 49 brls. Pearl. Decrease, 2,660 brls.

Bacon.—Receipts, box. Increase, 192 boxes.

Barley.—Receipts, 52 bush. Increase, 41,582 bush.

Butter.—Receipts, 1,793 brls. Decrease, 7,781 brls.

Cheese.—Receipts, 17,260 boxes. Decrease, 97,777 boxes.

Corn.—Receipts, 209,414 bush. Increase, 705,201 bush.

Flour.—Receipts, 19,887 brls. Decrease, 66,142 brls.

Lard.—Receipts, 1,000 brls. Increase, 22,612 brls.

Oats.—Receipts, 64,999 bush. Increase, 1,640,217 bush.

Peas.—Receipts, 800 bush. Decrease, 187,011 bush.

Pork.—Receipts, brls. Decrease, 8,174 brls.

Wheat.—Receipts, 243,504 bush. Decrease, 874,559 bush.

#### EXPORTS.

Comparative statement of Exports of leading articles at the Port of Montreal, from the 1st January to 17th August, 1875 and 1876.

	1875.	1876.
Ashes.....	8,961	6,672
Bacon.....	12,681	29,904
Barley.....	186	545
Butter.....	32,017	32,998
Corn.....	704,179	1,474,480
Cheese.....	235,379	237,860
Flour.....	232,033	198,123
Lard.....	16,675	35,359
Oats.....	150,910	2,190,408
Peas.....	1,197,085	856,029
Pork.....	4,948	6,352
Wheat.....	4,289,998	3,517,438

#### REMARKS.

Ashes.—Exports for the week, 131 brls. Pot. brls. Pearls. Decrease, 2,289 brls.

Bacon.—Exports, boxes. Increase, 17,223 boxes.

Barley.—Exports, bush. Increase, 359 bush.

Butter.—Exports, 1,127 brls. Increase, 981 brls.

Cheese.—Exports, 18,258 boxes. Increase, 2,481 boxes.

Corn.—Exports, 71,199 bush. Increase, 770,301 bush.

Flour.—Exports, 6,457 brls. Decrease, 33,916 brls.

Lard.—Exports, 92 brls. Increase, 18,684 brls.

Oats.—Exports, 193,489 bush. Increase, 1,039,468 bush.

Peas.—Exports, 37,776 bush. Decrease, 341,056 bush.

Pork.—Exports, 94 brls. Increase, 1,434 brls.

Wheat.—Exports, 91,765 bush. Decrease, 772,560 bush.

#### Insurance.

**NIAGARA DISTRICT**  
*Mutual Fire Insurance*  
COMPANY,  
ST. CATHERINES, ONT.,  
ESTABLISHED 1835.

#### Economy in Fire Insurance.

By care and prudence in this business, this Company find that losses and current expenses may be nearly always met by the receipt of three quarters of the ordinary premium. They are prepared to effect insurance on this principle in all cases where the expense is considerable, that is, when the payment required from \$10 and upwards. The party insuring instead of paying \$10 to a Stock Insurance Co. for one year's insurance, would pay \$7.50 in this Mutual Co., and be liable to \$2.50 more in case of a prevalence of fires rendering it necessary.

This system applies to yearly insurance only.

**HASTINGS**  
*Mutual Fire Insurance*  
COMPANY,

Guarantee Capital, \$100,000.00.

President—MACKENZIE BOWELL, M.P.  
Secretary.—JAMES H. PECK, Esq.

A. DE LAET, Manager

for both Companies, for the Province of Quebec  
Offices.—BARRON'S BLOCK, MONTREAL  
Chambers 5 and 6, entrance 49 St. John Street  
Reliable Agents wanted in every unoccupied point in the Province of Quebec

**LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE.**

DIVIDEND No. 82.

The Stockholders of La Banque du Peuple are hereby notified that a SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND of

THREE PER CENT.,

for the current six months, has been declared on the Capital Stock, and will be payable at the Office of the Bank on and after

MONDAY, the 4th Day of Sept. next.

The TRANSFER BOOKS will be closed from the FIFTEENTH to THIRTY-FIRST of August, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board of Directors.

A. A. TROTTER,  
Cashier.

Montreal, 31st July, 1876.

**GRAIN ELEVATING.**

*Monopoly vs. Fair Competition.*

As the Directors of the MONTREAL FLOATING ELEVATOR COMPANY have been pleased to threaten their customers with loss of Discount, if they employ the ST. LAWRENCE GRAIN CO'S ELEVATOR,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
THAT THE

**ST. LAWRENCE GRAIN COMPANY**

Will allow a separate and additional

DISCOUNT of TWENTY p. CENT.

from the accounts of any of their employers who may be condemned to pay this Trades-Union penalty.