

ON THE 26th ult. a number of merchants, farmers, &c., met in the Court House, Annapolis, N.S., to devise a scheme for building steamer to connect with the United Kingdom, where a company was formed, and 25 per cent. of the stock subscribed. Some \$65,000 to \$100,000 is required. It is proposed to build wooden vessels (spruce) there, and run them direct to England, with the view of making up for the loss of the local sailing fleet, out of which the bottom is said to be falling fast.

BUSINESS of all kinds is improving at Ottawa. Merchants find sales easier and cash more plentiful. The revival of the lumber trade of which Ottawa may be said to be the centre accounts for the improvement in the times, as hundreds of men who have been comparatively idle for the past few years are now employed at wages that approach the high rates prevailing before 1874.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "The Royal hotel, Annapolis, N.S., recently kept by Mrs. Hamilton, is vacant, the proprietress having gone to the United States. The "Rat-Tut-Ta" will no more be heard in its halls, and the young gentlemen from Montreal will have to seek other quarters. A military life is full of changes."

"No doubt a tariff may aggravate or may mitigate such a condition of commercial depression as periodically visits a state of society like that of England, but it does not produce it." "Ship money, the most patriotic and popular tax that ever was devised by man. The non-conformists thought themselves so wise in resisting it, and they have got the naval estimates instead."—*Endymion*.

OWING to irregularities in the conduct of his office—discovered by Judge McMahon, the commissioner appointed by the Ontario Government to investigate the affairs of the sheriff's office at Ottawa—Mr. W. F. Powell has been obliged to retire from the Shrievalty. Dr. Sweetland of that city has been appointed to the office, which is the second in amount of remuneration in Ontario. The new appointment appears to give general satisfaction.

TWO of the leading characters in *Endymion*, Lord Beaconsfield's new work of fiction, are young ladies of from 20 to 30 who teach many of the other characters, young and old, the theory of government, economics, &c. We ought to be more than thankful for anything that a Lord condescends to dish up for us; but it is questionable whether the public will be taken in as they were with stupid "Lothair."

THE CLOSING of navigation has a marked effect on the importations of foreign goods at this port, those for last week amounting in value to \$5,743,239, against nearly \$10,000,000 for the week previous. The large decrease is attributed to the non-arrival of several overdue steamers, carrying large cargoes.

THE RECENT cold snap caught thousands of barrels of apples in transit, and the result will be the destruction of a great portion. At all the stations west of Brantford, Ont., the freight houses are filled with fruit, frozen as hard as stones. Some 2000 bags of frosted potatoes from Prince Edward Island changed hands in this city last Wednesday at 18c. to 35c. per bag.

THE MIDLAND Railway Company has paid the town of Lindsay, Ont., a debt of nearly \$4,000, which at one time was looked upon as a very doubtful asset.

THE COMMERCIAL community deeply regret the death of Mr. Thomas Beddall, of Beddall & Co., the well-known shipping merchants of this city, who fell a victim to droupy on Saturday evening last.

THE LUMBER cut at Ottawa for the present year has been estimated at 235 million feet. The export will reach 150,000,000 feet, leaving 85 millions to be wintered, which is a somewhat smaller amount than usual.

THE CHEESE factory at Glencoe, Ont., has turned over \$25,000 worth of cheese this season.

#### CUSTOMS STATISTICS.

THE Customs receipts at this port for November, ult., amounted to \$510,776.89 against \$333,279.56 for November, 1879, an increase of \$174,497.33 for last month.

AT Toronto the Customs returns for the month just ended were \$177,076.28; for November of last year \$144,237.71, showing an increase for November, 1880, of \$26,838.57.

AT St. John, N.B., the Customs receipts for November, ult., amounted to \$72,031.39, against \$47,112.46 for the corresponding month of last year.

THE receipts at the Halifax Custom House during November amounted to \$73,719, an increase over the corresponding month last year of \$19,204.

THE Inland revenue returns at Montreal for November amount to \$126,220.94, against \$83,602.32 for the like period of last year, showing an increase of \$42,618.62 for November this year.

AT London, Ont., the returns of the same department show an increase of \$5,457.71 over the amount for the corresponding month of last year.

THE Inland Revenue receipts at Halifax during November amounted to \$24,985, an increase, compared with the corresponding month of 1879, of \$7,700.

#### FIRE RECORD.

##### ONTARIO.

Markham, Nov. 25.—The Franklin House, and Town Hall adjoining totally consumed, together with most of the contents. The hotel was owned by Hamilton Hall and occupied by W. H. Hall. Total loss about \$5,000; insured for \$1,600 on buildings, and \$1,500 on furniture. Millbank, 25.—Residence of John Kincaide destroyed, together with contents. St. Catharines, 26.—A frame building occupied by Mr. Vanderburgh as a meat shop destroyed. Loss \$700. Ingersoll, 26.—A fire occurred here this morning in J. H. Berry's tailor shop. The building and adjoining one was totally destroyed. The loss is estimated as follows:—J. H. Berry, merchant tailor, stock, \$4,000, insurance \$2,800; Mrs. A. Curtis, fancy goods and millinery, stock \$4,000, insurance \$2,000; M. Joiner, barber, \$200, covered by insurance; E. Barker, boots and shoes, \$500, insurance \$300; J. McDonald, building, \$400, no insurance; M. Tripp, building \$1,500, insured for \$1,000. 27.—An unoccupied frame house owned by W. Thompson destroyed. Belleville, 29.—The Methodist Church on Blecker street destroyed. Loss \$3,000; insured in the Sovereign for \$1,800. Sarnia, 29.—Dwelling of J. Ogden destroyed with contents. Loss about \$500; insured in the Commercial Union for \$500. Weston, 30.—The Shoddy Mills of Wilby & Co. totally destroyed, together with the machinery. Total loss estimated at \$90,000. The following is a list of the insurances:—On building, British American, \$5,000; Western, \$1,000; Aetna, \$2,000; total, \$8,000. On machinery—Western, \$4,000; Aetna, \$5,000; Citizens, \$1,000; Queen, \$3,000; Canada Fire and Marine, \$1,000; Queen City, \$5,500; Standard, \$2,000; Union, \$2,000; Royal Canadian, \$750; Dominion, \$3,000; Royal, \$500; Hartford, \$4,300; Mercantile, \$1,650; Lancashire, \$1,500; Sovereign, \$1,500; total, \$38,700. On stocks—Royal Canadian, \$2,000; Royal, \$2,000; Hartford, \$2,500; Quebec, \$3,000; Northern, \$2,000; Lancashire, \$1,600; total, \$13,100. Grand total, \$59,800.

##### NEW BRUNSWICK.

St. Stephen, Nov. 26.—The coal shed of the New Brunswick and Canada Railway destroyed, together with about 100 tons of soft coal. Sussex, 26.—Barn of J. G. Patterson destroyed, together with a large number of cattle and farm produce. Loss heavy; no insurance.

##### MANITOBA.

Winnipeg, Nov. 28.—A two-storey building owned by Geo. Firistine destroyed. Loss \$1,500, no insurance. The upper part was occupied by Dr. Good. Loss \$600; no insurance. An adjoining store owned by Ex-Governor Morris and occupied by Geo. Wanhart also destroyed. The building was insured for \$1,200 in the Commercial Union and stock for \$2,000 in the Sovereign.

#### Financial and Commercial.

##### MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

THURSDAY, Dec. 2nd, 1880.

Business is more brisk than usual at this season, notwithstanding the early advent of cold weather and the premature close of inland navigation, the principal effect of which has been to retard exports. The consequence is that our leading railroad companies have more freight just now than they can carry; for want of sufficient rolling stock the Occidental Railway Company ceased to receive freight last Saturday, but they have been relieved this week. A few complaints are heard against the Grand Trunk's winter rates being too high to facilitate trade between Montreal and the west. The snow-storm of Wednesday came none too early to benefit the roads throughout the country, and consequently trade as well. The month has opened with an easy money market. In New York a temporary stringency in money has been developed, but this has had no material effect here. Call loans on stocks can be negotiated at 4 per cent. on call and 5 per cent. on time, and commercial paper is readily discounted at 6 to 7 per cent., as to name and date. Sterling exchange is nominal, in consequence of the demoralization of the New York market; rates quoted at 8½ to 8¼ prem. for round amounts and 8½ cash over counter. Drafts on New York drawn at ½ to ¼ prem. The stock market was characterized during the closing days of last week by strength and activity, but, since Monday last, values have fluctuated considerably, and on the whole were easier; with another "break" in the market yesterday, prices are considerably lower for both bank and miscellaneous securities than at the date of our last issue. It was estimated that on Wednesday about \$90,000 was paid out in dividends in this city.

Sales on Change to-day:—Morning Board—50 Montreal at 163½; 25 do at 163½; 125 Ontario at 99½; 70 do at 99½; 37 Molsons at 106½; 25 Toronto at 143½; 141 Commerce at 140; 150 do ex-div. at 137; 50 Montreal Telegraph at 135; 50 do at 131½; 250 do at 134; 260 Dominion Telegraph at 62; 150 City Gas at 153; 75 do at 152½; and \$4,700 worth of Graphic bonds at 80. Afternoon Board—70 Montreal at 162½; 52 do at 163; 350 Ontario at 99; 46 Peoples' at 92; 25 Toronto at 141; 25 Merchants at 117; 25 do at 116½; 50 do at 116½; 25 Commerce at 139½; 25 do at 139; 150 Montreal Telegraph at 33½; 50 do at 33½; 60