

MONEY AND STOCK MARKET.

The prominent feature of the week has been Bank of Montreal stock. The speculation on the rate of the December dividend, having assumed such gigantic proportions, has most probably been the cause of the Directors announcing the division of profits for the current half year some two weeks earlier than has hitherto been the practice. As noticed last week, a party of large holders commenced realizing, and since Friday over three thousand shares have been reported on 'Change as having changed hands. The price opened about 188½, and sold down to 187½, shorts covering being the principal buyers. On Thursday, however, the price hardened again to 189 amid considerable excitement, some of the brokers having information that the dividend would be decided that day, and also a slight inking as to the result; but there was evidently no certainty, as at times up to twelve o'clock the dividend was offered below 7 per cent. without being taken. After morning board (12 o'clock) knots of brokers might have been seen standing in St. Francois Xavier street, discussing probabilities and waiting for views. The first rumor which found its way down was to the effect that the general manager favored a reduction to 6 per cent but wished to leave it to the directors to decide. The directors were divided, but the majority inclined to maintain 7 per cent. Nothing more was heard till an official communication was handed to the president of the Stock Exchange declaring the dividend to be 7 per cent. There seems to be no doubt that a difference of opinion did at first exist among the members of the board as to the advisability of paying the larger rate.

The question of drawing on the reserves for the equalization of dividends is one which demands the careful attention of all bankers. Contingent on this point, and equally important and difficult of solution, comes the question of, to what extent should a bank draw on its reserves before reducing its dividends? The object of a "rest account" is, undoubtedly, to make provision against any reverses and for the equalization of dividends; otherwise shareholders might with justice demand full division of profits in prosperous years, (keeping a small "rest account.") if, their dividends are reduced when an adverse year comes. This allowed, comes the question: "If maintained at the expense of the reserve account, shall the minimum dividends be at the rate of 12 per cent. or 14 per cent. per annum?" The directors of the Bank of Toronto, had this question under consideration some six months ago, and the conclusion arrived at was that the best interests of the shareholders were conserved by keeping the dividend steady at 12 per cent., using, if necessary, the reserves, to a certain extent, in times of depression and some of the other modes of division of profits in times of prosperity. We are informed that the general manager of the Bank of Montreal holds similar views on this question.

The balance of the stock market was inclined to be heavy, being to a great extent neglected in favor of Bank of Montreal. Money remains easy at former rates, but with improved demand

ASSIGNMENTS IN ONTARIO.

John Fox, dry goods, Belleville.
Hogarth & Douglass, general store, Pembroke.
Edward O'Callaghan, general store, Cornwall
Thomas Hoskins, grocer, Oshawa.

WRITS OF ATTACHMENT ISSUED *vs.*

Fischer & Son., glue manufacturers, Berlin.
Wm. Borbridge, harness, Ottawa.
Bean & Bro., store, Walkerton.
A. W. Ruper, trader, Toronto.
Alex. Chapman, general store, Chapman.

ASSIGNMENTS IN PROVINCE OF QUEBEC FOR THE

LAST TWO WEEKS.

Elisee Lemay, general store, Warwick.
Ferd. Naubert, store, Maddy Branch.
Simeon Simonson, tobacconist, Quebec.
Gerard & Barbeau, paints, Montreal.
Narcisse Jean, general store, Trois Pistoles.
Walter Bonnell, leather, Montreal.
A. A. Roy, general store, Messisville.
Pierre Charette, lumber, Gattineau Point.
Thompson, Whitehead & Co., saddlery hardware, Montreal.
Heath & Northey, leather, Montreal

WRITS OF ATTACHMENT ISSUED *vs.*

Hagle & Con stable, carriages, &c., Westbury.
Magloire Tanguay, trader, Quebec.
A. E. Talbot, inn, St. Louis de Kamouraska.
Mrs J. C. H. Craig, store, Three Rivers.
J. B. Parent, trader, Montreal.
Watson & Mayrand, tailors, Montreal.
Saml. Racine, shoes, Quebec.
Thomas Bean, roofer, St. Gabriel.
Victor Côté, St. Hyacinthe.

Correspondence.

Correspondence containing information of interest to the business community is desired; but as our space is limited, facts briefly stated are all we can insert, and for such we shall be thankful. Where mistakes occur, and opinions differ, we wish it to be understood that our columns are always freely open for corrections and for the views of the other side.

THE STADACONA INSURANCE CO.

To the Editor of the *Journal of Commerce*.

Sir,—The statement published in yours of the 22nd inst. by the Stadacona Fire Insurance Company, over the signature of its President, is no doubt put forward to allay the feeling in the minds of the public as to its ability to meet its engagements. With reference to this I offer no opinion, but when Mr. Renand gives figures, namely \$2,300,000, as subscribed capital, he no doubt intends that it shall be inferred that all calls have been paid.

I beg to refer to Blue Book, pages Nos. 368 to 313, inclusive, of the Superintendent of Insurance's Report for June, 1876, where it will be found that over three hundred stockholders have either refused or been unable to pay the calls made upon them, and that this amount comes up to 10 per cent. in a quarter million of the amount stated by the President as *bona fide* stock actually paid up. Should he decline to amend his statement, I shall give him an opportunity to inform the public whether the fund from which he states losses have been paid is not in reality money borrowed on the individual responsibility of the Directors of the Stadacona Insurance Company, and whether its capital is not impaired to the extent of 75 per cent., not including losses unadjusted and, consequently, not paid. As the Stadacona Insurance Company looks to the public for a share of its patronage, the public, no doubt, desires that nothing should be stated or published contrary to the facts.

Yours,

P.

Montreal, Sept. 25th, 1876.

PETROLEUM OIL.

Petrolia, Ont., Oct. 9th, 1876.

To the Editor of the *Journal of Commerce*.

Sir,—Permit me to congratulate you on your very excellent leader on the above subject in your impression of last week. Its tenor, from beginning to end, not only evidenced the knowing pen of a ready writer, but the information

throughout manifested a relevant contemporary rectitude that could only emanate from one perfectly at home on the subject. You stated just issues and present dependencies, truly and succinctly, and you would oblige me much, if you would permit me to use your columns, explanatory of "why" we in the West possess that confidence in the future which is now giving such immediate and prospective vitality to this long neglected product.

We believe, as alluded to in the *Journal*, that our refineries can now-a-days turn out a quality of burning oil of so very much superior a description to what they formerly exported, that European consumers will no fail to appreciate it equally with that of the best American. The innumerable *pros* and *cons*, too voluminous to explain here, which used to be misunderstood and misconstrued in former years by both exporters and importers, analysts and synthetisers, are now completely understood and facilitated by the more lengthy practical experience gained, and all the disjointed ramifications so satisfactorily dovetailed, that harmonious relations based upon actual merit can alone result.

But another point of marked value is now patent to Canadian refiners and oil producers. You, sir, are well aware of what most Canadians are perfectly ignorant, namely, that the paraffine or wax, eliminated from petroleum, is the most valuable derivative it yields. The illuminating oil, for instance, is only worth five cents a pound, but the wax, equally well refined, is worth fifteen cents a pound! Now, the production of wax, under certain conditions, is a sequence of cold; just as oil, under certain conditions, is a sequence of heat. The more excessive the cold, the greater the quantity and the better the quality of wax produced. Canadian petroleum contains fifty to one hundred per cent. more wax than the American; besides which, King Zero's cold reign is ever so much more permanent and consequently ever so much more congealating—nature's wax process—in Canada than in any other petroleum climate in the world; so that, we thus not only have the inherent basis of wax, but that temperature necessary to produce a maximum, and give it stability. Oil men of the West are therefore naturally sanguine over a discrimination which was wanting in the past, and fully believe that future cosmopolitan wants will enable them to keep their hands to the plough.

Yours respectfully,

Editor *Advertiser*,
PETROLIA, ONT.

INSURANCE AND EXTRADITION.

Toronto, Oct. 10th, 1876.

To the Editor of the *Journal of Commerce*.

Sir,—Referring to your excellent article on the necessity of an amended and renewed extradition treaty, I would suggest that the new treaty should be so framed that it would include every species of crime except those of a political character, and be so comprehensive that parties could be extradited by a very simple process of law, so that legal gentlemen on either side of the line could not defeat justice by legal technicalities. With reference to your allusion to losses by insurance companies, arising from their representatives running across the lines with premiums collected in Canada, I regret to say that more of this sort of embezzlement is carried on than the public are at all aware of, and it is high time that steps should be taken for its prevention. I know of many cases where general agents have been robbed by their representatives, who seemed to wait only for a sufficiency of the funds of the company to make it worth their while to run away, leaving the general agents no recourse whatever against them. These defalcations have been going on for a number of years, to the detriment of insurance business. Applicants for agencies are unwilling to give security, and feel insulted at being called upon to do so, and the too-confiding general agent makes the appointment, and finds, when it is too late, that a large amount of the company's funds is