

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

Toronto, March 16, 1858.

We have to record a continued dullness in the general business of the country, and the same scarcity of Money in commercial circles that we have had to contend against for so many months. There is abundance of money, however, seeking permanent investment at from 10 to 12 per cent. per annum, which cannot fail to have a beneficial influence on the market.

In the Produce Market, prices, generally, have advanced since the date of our last, but "Supplies," says Matthews and Maclean's Circular, "have fallen off, owing to the want of good sleighing, thaws, and the strength of the sun having wasted the snow off our roads on the front. The back Townships have yet good roads, and it is hoped the Farmers there will turn out as much as they possibly can to the Millers in their respective districts, although a large majority of the latter have not the wherewithal to buy, on account of the tight grasp held by our Banks on their Safes. The weather is mild, and if it continues, our Ports will, before long, be open. Steamboat stock will be a drug this coming season, on account of the want of trade, or rather the facilities afforded by our Railroads, which now extend round Lake Ontario, and which are determined to run low. The best Lake Stock for the future will be good fore-and-aft-Schooners, well found and manned. Freight will open low. Offers have already been made by Freight Agents, &c., for first open water at 3c to Oswego, 3½c. to Ogdensburgh, per bushel, for Wheat, and other ports in proportion.

The dullness that pervades every branch of trade is strikingly shown by the returns of the Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railroad, published in our present as number, compared with the earnings for the same period last year, a statement of which we subjoin:—

	1857.	1858.
January.....	\$19,345 65	\$12,574 64
February.....	22,234 60	12,266 72
Total for the two Months.....	\$41,580 25	\$24,841 36
Decrease in 1858.....		\$16,738 89

We notice from a Circular issued by W. B. S. Moor, Consul-General of the United States, for the British North American Provinces, that all dutiable goods, and goods claiming exemption from duty under the Reciprocity Act, exported to the United States, must be accompanied with Invoices and certified to by the Consular Officers appointed for that purpose.

We trust these regulations will be enforced, as we have heretofore found it impossible to obtain accurate statements of exports from Canada, particularly of free goods. The large amount heretofore put down as "estimated short returns from Inland Ports," being pure guess work, and altogether unreliable as indicating the true state of trade between the two countries.

For our review of the Produce Market we are indebted to the *Toronto Globe*:—

WHEAT.—The receipts from farmers' waggons, during the week, have been small, generally less than one thousand bushels per day. The total receipts by rail and teams are, however, slightly over seventeen thousand bushels. The prices paid have been materially the same as during the past two weeks, although, if there is a movement, it is towards improvement. For ordinary to good samples, 90c to 95c (4s 6d to 4s 9d) has been paid pretty freely; while for prime descriptions, from 95c to \$1 (4s 9d to 5s) has been realized frequently. The latter figure, and even as high as 5s 1½d, is of course paid only for the choicest lots, free from blemish. Inferior wheat, for distilling purposes, is not worth more than 80c. (4s.) per bushel.