

—It is stated that Mr Walter Shanly has been appointed to examine the work upon the dock at Quebec, and make a report upon it to the Ottawa Government. The Government, it is understood, will take over the work of construction, both of the dock and the harbor improvements, at an early day. And these, when completed, are to be entrusted to the Quebec Harbor Commission for management simply.

—From May 1st to Nov. 24th, this year, 541,366 boxes of cheese were shipped from Montreal against 515,350 last year. Of butter 196,610 packages, against 180,932 last year, and of apples 161,981 barrels, against only 61,524 last year.

—A Branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada has been opened in Winnipeg, Manitoba, under the management of Mr. R. H. Hunter, who has been a resident of that place for the past twelve years.

—It has been calculated that about \$900,000 of dividends become payable on the first of the month in Montreal.

A manufacturing firm sends us a document, which they deem worthy of publication, as "illustrative of a phase of business, showing the need of some kind of an Insolvent Act." We subjoin the letter and accompanying statement:

Peterboro, 1st Dec., 1880.
GENTS.—I beg leave to state that my father has foreclosed a chattel mortgage held by him on my stock and furniture, it being for an advance made by him to start me in business. He has taken full possession of the stock and trade I herewith submit a statement of liabilities and assets, as near as I can ascertain. I am at present entirely out of the business, owing to this trouble.

Your ob'dt. servant,

STATEMENT.

Amount of Liabilities.

Amount of chattel mortgage, Geo. M. \$100 00
Business debts (supposed) 2403 00
\$3503 00

Amount of Assets.

Amount of stock as taken by
bailiff under chattel mortgage \$600 00
Amount of book debts do 560 00
1160 00

Deficiency \$2343 00

OIL MATTERS IN PETROLIA.

PETROLIA, Dec. 6, 1880.

The Crude oil market continues very quiet. Transactions are not numerous. The average price may be quoted as \$2.00 in tank. The question of crude stock is engaging attention. It is well known that the country is not, by any means, stocked with Refined, that there is no stock of anything but Crude in refiners hands, and that is all held in Petrolia. As there do not exist any facilities for arriving at all the stocks by actual measurement, the figures can only be approximate. These figures range, by various estimates, from 180,000 to 225,000 bbls. I think the truth is to be found mid way, and that the stock here now is 200,000 barrels. By the first day of January, the stock will be at a

lower point than it has been for years. The consumption of the season so far has been ahead of production; there seems to be no reason to doubt then, that Crude price, although it may relax when the immediate pumping exceeds the immediate demand, will not be materially reduced unless some large strike is made.

The market for Refined oil is fairly active. It will be governed by the condition of Crude. The published quotation for the refined article is still 23c. per gallon.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 8th, 1880.

STOCKS.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total Transac'ns in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Average Price, like Date 1879.
Montreal	162	167	1744	166	167	143
Ontario	97	99	1713	99	100	72
People's	91	94	140	92	94	62
Molson's	101	106	546	107	107	77
Toronto	138	143	175	140	142	118
Jac. Cartier	98	98	35	97	99	60
Merchants	114	118	595	116	118	90
Commerce	138	142	2113	141	142	119
Eastern Tps. Union			12	115	117	
Hamilton Exchange	62	65	95	65	67	40
Mon. Tel.	132	137	3348	136	137	97
Dom. Tel.	90	92	465	91	92	
Rich. & O. Nav.	61	64	976	62	63	43
City Pass.	118	119	160	118	120	
Gas.	150	154	1243	153	154	119
R. C. Ins. Co. Commerce &c.	135	138	2030	138	138	

FEDERAL BANK OF CANADA.—The following half-yearly statement, up to 30th ult., is published:—Balance at credit, profit and loss account, 31st May, 1880, \$7,182.75; Net profits for the half-year ending 30th Nov., 1880, \$73,807.57; total, \$80,990.32. Dividend No. 12, payable 1st Dec., 1880, (3½ per cent.) \$35,000.00; Carried to Rest account for the half-year, \$30,000.00; Balance of profits carried forward, \$15,990.32; total \$80,990.32. The general statement shows liabilities as follow:—Capital stock paid up, \$1,000,000; Rest account, \$250,000.00; Dividend No. 12, payable 1st December, (3½ per cent.) \$35,000.00; Former Dividends unclaimed, \$45.26; Reserved for interest, &c., \$21,904.86; Balance of profits carried forward, \$15,990.32; total, \$1,322,940.44. Notes of the Bank in circulation, \$992,359.00; Deposits payable on demand, \$2,883,315.33; Deposits payable after notice, or on a fixed day, \$1,938,297.48; Balance due to Banks in Canada, \$21,099.50; total, \$7,158,011.75. The assets are hereafter stated: Gold and silver coin current, \$243,473.35; Government demand notes (legal tenders) 416,962.00; Notes of, and cheques on other banks, 318,980.73; Balances due from other banks in Canada, 271,384.31; do. from banks in foreign countries, 27,706.35; do. from banks in the United Kingdom, 382,027.82; \$1,661,534.46; Loans, discounts or advances on current accounts to corporations, \$139,983.79; Notes and bills discounted current (including call loans), \$5,209,383.21; ditto overdue and not specially secured (estimated loss provided for.) \$15,720.46; ditto discounted overdue secured by mortgage on real estate, \$500; Real estate (other than the bank premises), \$7,800; Bank premises, including safes and office furniture, \$123,089.83; Total, \$7,158,011.75.

MIXED LIQUORS.—Consternation reigns among the mixers and dealers in "queer" brands of liquors in Montreal. A regular crusade has been initiated by Messrs. Gillespie Moffatt & Co., agents in Canada for the Hennessy brandy, against all parties in whose hands any of the imitation Hennessy may be found. They have

employed the staff of the Dominion Detective Agency to ferret out the counterfeiters, and armed with search warrants a descent was made last week upon two different premises. The visitation had been in some measure anticipated as in one place several men were busily employed in scraping labels off bottles &c., and in the second case it was only after close scrutiny that a large quantity of counterfeit labels, capsules, corks &c., was found secreted in the garret. Both the parties were retail grocers, and are held under bail to appear in court. It is suspected that there is more of the spurious than the genuine article held in stock by liquor dealers, and Messrs Hennessy have instructed that no pains be spared to discover and punish all and every one handling the counterfeit. It is hinted that the detectives have their eye upon several jobbers suspected of being implicated in the fraud. Certain it is, however that speedy and severe punishment will be invoked against all transgressors, and in so doing, the agents of Messrs. Hennessy will not only be protecting their own interests, but those of the public as well. So far four different parties have been proceeded against, and there will be no relaxation of purpose until the evil be effectually redressed.

FIRE BY CONCUSSION.—Engineer Whittemore has in his office at Milwaukee proofs of a remarkable effect of concussion. They consist of parts of the head of a green Norway pine pile which was burned completely off while subjected to the blows of a Nasmyth steam hammer. The heads of two of the piles were so burned at a point about four inches below the ring. Mr. Whittemore never before witnessed or heard of any such result. The phenomenon occurred while driving supports for the new bridge at Sabula.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 7th December, 1880.

Dry goods houses are now sending out travellers with Spring samples. Hardware business continues good, and in sympathy with the English markets we again note a considerable advance in the price of Pig Iron. Groceries are dull, and little improvement is looked for till winter roads are in a better state, sleighing being poor. Breadstuffs are quiet, and prices of flour easier than this day week. We note the stocks of Flour and Wheat in store on the 1st inst. under their respective captions. Ashes are scarce and higher.

ASHES.—Pots—Stocks are very low, receipts are light, and the demand continues good. Prices are if anything better, \$5.15 to 5.20 being now current rates. Pearls are still scarce, some sales early in the week were made at \$5.75 to 6.00, which nearly cleared out stocks, the stocks at present in the stores being only 69 bbls Pots and 20 bbls Pearls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Business is quiet, as the trade generally is stock taking. Prices are firm and remittances continue good. Prospects for spring trade are considered encouraging. We quote: Men's Sp it Boots, \$1.90 to 2.25; ditto Cowhide Boots, \$2.50 to 3.50; ditto Kip Boots, \$2.75 to 3.25; ditto French Calf Boots, \$3.75; ditto Split rogans, \$1.00 to 1.10; ditto Split Lace Boots, \$1.50 to 1.75; Boys' Long Boots, \$1.75 to 2.20; Women's Split Ba s, 85c to \$1.10; ditto Buff Bals, \$1.25 to 1.50; ditto Pebble Bals, \$1.25 to 1.50; Misses Split Bal, 85c and \$1.00; ditto Buff and Pebble Balmora s, \$1.10 to 1.15.

CATTLE.—The market was well stocked yesterday with good butcher's cattle, which met with a ready sale at 3½ to 4½c per lb., the outside price being for a few choice heifers. Common grass-fed cattle sold from 3 to 3½c per lb. Sheep were scarce, butchers having supplied themselves previously with their winter's store. Live Hogs were in fair supply, but buyers and sellers were