

The blind man having entered, he was put to the test. He put his thumb and finger into the scoop, and without hesitation said: "That is sand". Everybody laughed but the grocer.

CUSTOMS' AND EXCISE RETURNS.

PORT.	May, '84	May, '83	Inc. or Dec.
Montreal customs...	\$664,773	\$643,112	21,661 I
" excise...	126,583	152,341	25,758 D
Toronto customs...	212,809	220,541	7,732 D
" excise...	68,043	105,386	37,343 D
Halifax customs...	141,928	136,382	5,546 I
" excise...	16,174	22,286	6,112 D
Hamilton customs...	69,393	63,196	6,197 I
" excise...	24,728	34,531	.....
St. John customs...	.....	85,067	.....
" excise...	17,820	32,154	.....
London customs...	30,259	28,891	1,368 I
" excise...	22,583	29,221	6,638 D
Ottawa customs...	.....	12,748	.....
" excise...	13,690	15,510	1,820 D
Kingston customs...	14,809	16,952	2,143 D
" excise...	12,520	23,683	11,163 D
St. Catharines cust.	10,273	9,906	367 I
" excise...	2,904	3,577	673 D
Belleville customs...	4,875	5,353	478 D
" excise...	11,991	12,391	400 D
Guelph customs...	5,388	6,861	473 D
" excise...	9,855	13,969	4,115 D
Brantford customs...	11,231	12,116	885 D
" excise...	5,895	10,365	4,470 D
Winnipeg customs...	.....	141,437	.....
" excise...	.....	18,684	.....
Victoria customs...	.....	.....	.....
do excise...	.....	.....	.....

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Hamilton, May 29th.—Two kitchens on McNab Street, set on fire by kerosene and destroyed.—Walkerton, 30th.—Sawmill and lumber at Pinkerton burned, loss \$5,000.—Paisley, —Munn & Webster's sawmill and 500,000 ft. lumber; building insured \$2,200, lumber not insured at all.—Exeter, —Heaman's rake and cradle factory; loss \$2,000 not insured.—Morrisburg, 31th.—Robt. Lyle's brick block levelled, he has insurance \$2,000 N. B. & M.; \$1,000 Imperial. Tenants were G. R. Harper, dry goods, \$1,500 Western; \$1,500 Royal; \$1,000 N. B. & M.; A. Lalonde, boots and shoes, \$2,000 N. B. & M.; H. E. Snyder, groceries, \$600 Royal; Masonic Hall, \$850 Royal Canadian. Fire spread to S. B. Fell, photographs, \$1,000 Royal Canadian, and S. Burris, shoes, loss \$1,000 no insurance.—Priceville, June 1st.—Wm. Watson & Son's, carriage works partly burned, loss \$2,000, partly insured.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Newcastle, N. B., May 27th.—W. S. Brown's dwelling burned; insured \$900 L. L. & G.; furniture in same and Western \$550.—Annapolis, N. S., 31st.—A. W. Corbett's establishment and dwelling destroyed; loss probably \$40,000, insured on buildings and stock:—Northern, \$3,000; B. A., \$3,000; F. I. A., \$3,000; Norwich, \$3,000; Phoenix, \$2,000; Western, \$2,000; and \$6,000 in other offices, making in all \$22,000. The dwelling was insured for \$800, and furniture \$1,000 Aetna.—St. John, N. B., June 2nd.—Wasson Hotel, at Lower Prince William destroyed; loss \$5,000, not insured.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, June 4, 1884.

STOCKS.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total Transaction in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Average Price like Date, 1883.
Montreal.....	187½	191½	1955	191	191½	197
" x.d.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ontario x.d.....	101	102½	260	1½	103	79
People's.....	561	.....	113	55	60	.....
Molson's.....	108	109	125	108½	110	.....
Toronto.....	171½	171½	77	172½	173½	185½
Jac. Cartier.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Merchants x.d.....	107½	108½	404	108	108½	121½
Commerce.....	120½	122½	903	122	122½	138
Eastern Tps.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hamilton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Exchange.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mon. Tel.....	110½	113	149	113	114	125
Dom. Tel.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rich.&O.....	56	59	1061	58½	58½	78½
City Pass.....	121	122½	475	122½	124	132½
Gas.....	175½	179½	2417	179½	179½	173½
" x.d.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
B. O. Ins. Co.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

An old British steward tells the N. Y. Tribune that the most famous line on the Atlantic cuts the provisions for first-class passengers down to five shillings threepence a day, or \$1.31. It formerly was nine shillings. This man believes cabin passenger rates will go up to \$100 and \$160 first cabin, as of old, for none of the lines are making money.

—It is discovered that Simon Silverman, who was supposed to have been drowned, is still alive at Helena, Ark., and that the supposed drowning was part of a scheme to defraud a life insurance company. A similar case has turned up in Texas, where a pretended suicide, on whose supposed death policies were paid by one or two life companies some years ago, has now been found alive and flourishing.

—The annual report of the Michigan Central Railway calls the results of the lease of the Canada Southern highly satisfactory. The traffic earnings of the combined system were \$14,009,766.69, an increase of 13.62 per cent; \$12,175,054.76; net earnings, \$1,834,711.93, of which the C. S. R. received one-third. The financial statement shows that the capital stock is \$18,738,204. The bonded debt is \$42,630,000, of which \$20,000,000 are in C. S. R. mortgage bonds. President Ledyard's report shows that there are 1,468 miles of road operated. About 10,000 tons of new steel rails have been laid between Kensington and Detroit and 6,000 between Windsor and Welland. The entire main line and all but 287 miles of branches are laid with steel rails. Seven bridges have been rebuilt. Fifty-one engines and 954 cars have been added to the rolling stock. The Canada Southern improvements include the building of the cantilever bridge at Niagara, the replacement of the Kettle Creek Bridge, the building of the Niagara river branch, 14 miles long, the purchase 12 cars and 36 engines, and the completion of an iron transfer boat carrying 21 freight cars. There are 396 locomotives, all coal burners except one, of which the C. S. R. owns 125. There are 269 passenger cars, and 11,544 freight cars. There were 5,197,278 tons of freight moved during the year, at an average rate of less than one cent per ton per mile; 2,909,232 passengers were hauled, at an average rate of a little over two cents a mile.

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