

ACCIDENT INSURANCE.—A case came recently before the Circuit Court of Illinois, in which the following facts appeared:—The defendant in error brought her action in the Court below on an accidental policy of insurance, issued by the Travellers' Ins. Co. for the life of her husband, to be paid to her. The defence was that the death of the insured was not the result of an accident, but had been caused by disease. The evidence showed that Moseley had fallen down a stairs leading to the yard, in the rear of his premises, and received a concussion of the brain from which he died in a few days after. The Court below admitted the declarations of the deceased at the time of the injury, and during his illness thereafter, as to the cause of his injuries and the nature of his sufferings. No one saw the fall, and there was consequently no other testimony on that point. The evidence received to establish the fact found by the jury, stated above, was objected to as hearsay, and inadmissible, and the objection being overruled, exception was taken, and the ruling brought here for review, the Insurance Company insisting on the point that it was hearsay evidence, and contending for the sufficiency of a clause in the policy requiring the proof to be satisfactory to the company and the right of the Company to reject it if not to them satisfactory. The defendant in error maintaining that the representations by a sick person, of the nature, symptoms and effects of the malady under which he is laboring, made at the time, are received as ordinary evidence; and that the principle is well settled.

TORONTO HOUSE BUILDING ASSOCIATION.—The persons incorporated under the above name are—Hon. W. McMaster, Angus Morrison, John Fiskien, James Michie, J. E. Smith, Jas. Austin, Robert Hay, Donald McKay, Wm. Thompson, G. Hooper, T. Charlesworth, J. S. Playfair, H. Bostwick, P. Paterson, J. Shedden, and Thomas Dick.

Commercial.

Toronto Market.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Business is rather quiet this week. The manufacturers are not pressing work; sales are dull and collections not as satisfactory as was looked for, owing, as is asserted, to the farmers holding back their grain, the present prices being below their expectations. Should sleighing come soon with the pressure that will be brought to bear on them for the payment of yearly accounts at this season of the year, they will have to sell.

PRODUCE.—Notwithstanding greater firmness in Liverpool, our market is quiet, and without improvement. Any advance of consequence is not anticipated for some time to come at least. The imports of wheat into Great Britain are heavy, much exceeding the figures of the two previous years; stocks are also accumulating in the principal American centres, so that the chances bear rather in the direction of still lower prices.

Wheat.—The amount changing hands in this market is very little; some small lots of fall sold at 88c., and some cars of spring at 80c. to 81c. **Barley.**—The week has been much more lively in consequence of the clearing away of the ice in the harbor permitting the egress of vessels; four cars sold at 55c., f. o. b., 4,300 bush. choice at 57c.; 1,000 bush. at 56c., and other lots on p.t. On the street 60c. to 61c. was paid. **Peas.**—dull and nominal, as quoted. **Oats.**—sold as low as 27c. on the cars; on the street 30c. to 31c. **Rye.**—in wagon loads, 48c. to 50c.

FLOUR.—Market quiet and steady, there is, however, a noticeable weakness in the common brands; sales of about 1,500 bbls. No. 1 Superfine at \$3.80 to \$3.85; fancy selling at \$3.90 to \$3.95.

PROVISIONS.—Stocks of *Butter* are large and freely offered; but buyers hold off and the tendency of prices is downward. *Cheese*—is firm; sale, 100 boxes at 12c. *Eggs*—are still scarce and high. *Pork*—dull and nominal. *Dressed Hogs*—with good receipts and advices of heavy

markets in the West, prices are lower about 50c. on the week; at the close a lot averaging 250 lbs. sold at \$8.50.

CATTLE.—The movement in cattle for the Christmas market is over, and prices are in consequence lower; quotations range from \$5 to \$7 for fair to good cattle.

FREIGHTS.—The schooner *J. G. Beard*, went to Oswego and returned; freight, 10c.

The winter tariff of the Grand Trunk came into force on the 8th Nov. The rates to Halifax now stand at \$1.10 for flour and 55c. for grain; and to St. John, at \$1.02 for flour and 51c. for grain. The rates to railway stations are: Flour to Kingston 35c., grain 18c.; flour to Prescott 43c., grain 22c.; flour to Montreal 50c., grain 25c.; flour to St. John, Quebec, 60c., grain 30c.; flour to Point Levis 50c., grain 40c.; flour to Portland 55c., grain 43c.; flour to Boston and New York 90c., grain 45c. gold.

Halifax Market.

BREADSTUFFS.—Decem'r 14.—The demand for flour and other descriptions of Breadstuffs continues active for local wants, without any speculative enquiry, stocks light, but sufficient for present wants. Stocks of No. 2's large, prices rather easier. We quote No. 1 \$5.50 to \$5.60; Fancy \$5.90 to \$6.00; Extra \$6.25 to \$6.40. No. 2 \$4.50 to \$4.75.

Imports from January 1st, to December 14th, 1868 and 1869:—

	Brls. Flour.	Brls. Cornmeal.
1869	145,799	22,753
1868	181,890	48,294

FISH.—is coming along freely, and prices continue firm, with a very active demand. We hear of sales No. 1 Mackerel this week at \$18, and \$13-56 for No. 2 large, city inspection. We quote from vessel No. 1 \$17.25 to 17.75; No. 2 Large, \$12.50 to 13.00; No. 2 Medium \$10.00 to 10.50; No. 3 Large, \$8.00. Codfish continue in good demand without change in price, except for large table fish, which are very scarce, and holders asking \$4.75 to 5.00 from store. Tal Qual, \$4.00 to 4.25; small hand cured \$4.25; Labrador \$3.30 to 3.40; and Bay fish about the same. Hard cured Haddock (Arichat) \$3.00; Western \$2.80; Hake \$2.00 to 2.25. Herring arriving freely and prices have fallen off for Labrador, which may be quoted at \$4.25. while good Shore Split sell at \$5.75; Round Shore a é not in good supply, and are readily taken at \$3 for good large Eastern Shore; St. George's Bay in small supply and command \$2.10; Salmon very scarce and late sales at \$14.50, \$12.50, and \$11 for No. 1's, 2's and 3's. Alewives scarce at \$3.50.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.—Cienfuegos Molasses 37½ to 38c. in bond; British Island 35c. in bond. Sugars—Vacuum Pan 8 to 8½c.; Port Rico 6½ to 6¾c. Barbadoes 6½ to 6¾c. Rum continues firm at 77½ to 80c. for Demerara; 66 to 67c. for St. Jago in bond.

FINANCIAL.—Bank drawing rates London 60 days 12½ per cent. prem. New York Gold Drafts at sight nominal, 3½ per cent. prem. Currency Drafts 15½ per cent. discount. Montreal sight drafts 3½ per cent. prem. New Brunswick sight drafts 3½ per cent. prem. Newfoundland sight drafts 5 per cent. prem. Private bills ¼ to 1 per cent. lower than Bank rates.—*Tobin & Cummings's Circular.*

Petroleum.

Exports of Petroleum from the United States from January 1 to December 14:—

	1869	1868.
From New York.....galls	64,028,449	51,266,763
Boston.....	2,048,702	2,338,220
Philadelphia.....	29,767,454	37,347,891
Baltimore.....	1,244,433	2,584,360
Portland.....		705,167
New Bedford.....		
Cleveland.....		270,060

Total Export for the U. S. 97,089,038 94,505,341
Same time 1867.....64,292,928
Same time 1866.....64,502,160

Important to the Petroleum Trade.

The National Convention of Petroleum Refiners held two sessions in New York a few days ago when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the standard gravity of crude petroleum in its natural state shall be 46 degrees, and on and after January 1, 1870, all contracts shall be made at and between 44 and 48 degrees gravity. That any such oil bearing gravity above 48 degrees is not merchantable and will not be received by the purchaser except in case of specified agreement as to the reduction beyond that which is provided for on oil up to 48 degrees. If the seller wishes to deliver crude oil of a lighter gravity than 46 degrees, and not over 48, he shall make a deduction of 3½ per cent. on the price paid per barrel or gallon for each degree or part of a degree above 46 degrees; and in the same manner if the seller shall deliver pure oil not adulterated below 46 degrees and not below 44, and then the buyer shall allow the same amount (3½ per cent) upon each and every degree.

Resolved, That a Committee of Three be appointed to have made accurate instruments for testing crude oil, and have them sent to the different petroleum associations throughout the country, and these shall be considered and accepted as the standard instruments.

The Convention, after refusing to adopt the following proposed resolution, adjourned *sine die*:

Resolved, That from and after the 1st day of January, 1870, we will not sell oil except by actual weight and tare, and that a committee be appointed to meet the exporters and arrange the mode and number of pounds per gallon of refined oil.

Lumber Trade of the River St. Maurice.

The manufacture of saw-logs on the St. Maurice has doubled within the last five years, and the probability is that it will increase for some time to come, as the firms who own limits on this river are getting better acquainted with the country and its peculiarities; and if the railway to the Grand Piles be constructed within a reasonable period, lumbering operations can be prosecuted with greater economy than heretofore. There are nearly 10,000 miles of timbered lands under license in this territory, and over \$80,000 revenue was collected at the Crown Timber Office in Montreal, for the season just closed. The number of saw-logs manufactured reaches nearly half a million, furnishing employment during the winter to about 1000 horses and 4000 men, and employing a capital of over three-quarters of a million dollars, aside from permanent investments in limits and improvements. Fears are entertained that our South American trade, which has come into existence through the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, will suffer from the difficulty of obtaining reasonable freights from the St. Lawrence, and one American firm is preparing wharves at Burlington, with the view of assorting its Canadian lumber there, intending to send on in bond for shipment from Boston that portion suited for the S. A. market. Manufacturers would do well to try and find a more remunerative market for their coarse pine than that offered by the United States. The shipments of lumber from Three Rivers last summer, are about as follows:—

G. Baptist, by ship to Europe.....	4,000,000 ft.
" " by canal boats to U. S.	11,000,000 ft.
J. K. Ward, by ship to South America, 5 cargoes	2,669,000 ft.
" " by canal boat to U. S.	3,593,000 ft.
Wm. Stoddard, deals to Quebec ..	1,000,000 ft.
" " plank and boards to U. S.	2,000,000 ft.
" " cargo to S. America.....	500,000 ft.

b. m. 24,762,000 ft.

Six cargoes have been sent from Three Rivers last summer to South America with over three million feet of lumber, one cargo from Quebec, and forty-one from Montreal, in all forty-eight cargoes, conveying seventeen million feet, board measure. The stock of sawed lumber remaining on hand this winter is estimated at 21,000,000 ft.