

	June 1883.	June 1882.
Cotton goods.....	\$ 79,661	\$ 82,510
Woolen ".....	87,696	75,562
Hats and bonnets.....	12,095	14,232
Silk goods.....	21,047	20,910
Fancy ".....	37,344	49,196
	\$ 237,843	\$ 242,410
Dry goods 6 mos. 1883.	\$ 742,197	\$ 693,155
January	1,027,165	1,327,754
February	748,183	972,526
March	419,907	402,451
April	252,306	294,582
May	287,843	242,410
June		
	\$3,437,501	\$3,932,878

It is of interest to compare the whole year's imports of dutiable goods of all kinds at this port, for the year just closed, with those of the previous fiscal year, and also the purchases of free goods for the same periods.

DUTIABLE GOODS.			
1882-3.		1881-2.	
1st quarter \$	5,209,665	1st quarter \$	5,470,902
2nd " "	3,255,764	2nd " "	3,113,765
3rd " "	4,522,854	3rd " "	5,205,631
4th " "	3,099,844	4th " "	3,052,098
Fiscal yr '83	\$16,688,127	Fiscal yr '82	\$16,842,396
FREE GOODS.			
1883.		1882.	
1st quarter \$	694,195	1st quarter \$	709,762
2nd " "	695,202	2nd " "	587,227
3rd " "	587,172	3rd " "	458,348
4th " "	606,712	4th " "	512,489
	\$2,583,281		\$2,267,828

While these figures show that the dutiable imports for the whole year are three-fourths of a million less than the year before, they also show that the imports of free goods, which includes the raw material for our manufactures, are nearly a quarter-million larger. The imports of free goods at Hamilton, an important manufacturing point, show a similar increase, and it would seem therefore that the recent changes in the tariff, making additions to the free list, are working in the right direction so far as the interest of our mills is concerned.

Value of dry goods imports at the port of Montreal, from Jany. to May 1883, inclusive, compared with same period of 1882:

	1882.	1883.
January	\$1,161,000	\$1,120,500
February	1,413,000	1,161,000
March	1,002,000	950,000
April	524,000	372,000
May	473,000	352,000
June		
	\$4,573,000	\$3,955,000

The decline in money value of imports at Montreal was thus \$618,000, or over 13 per cent., for this period of five months. We regret our inability to furnish the figures for the six months, because the totals were apparently not completed at the Montreal Custom House.

THE ENGLISH LOAN COMPANY.

The figures presented in a statement to the shareholders of the English Loan Co., held in London, one day last week, are no surprise to us. That the company should have floated so long is the greatest cause of wonder. Any one who knew what is requisite to the successful working of a company of this kind, and who was at all familiar with its history knew that in its early inception were sown seeds that would in time cause its ruin.

One cause of congratulation to the old management is that only \$31,200 is put down for losses on "assumed mortgages." Some years ago the managers of other companies were accustomed not unfrequently to remark that they were glad to get rid of another mortgage which had long been in arrears. The English was usually the fortunate purchaser.

The losses on mortgages made by the company were \$17,450; due the English Savings' Company \$15,100. These with other losses amount to \$68,128. The stock list stands thus: amount paid on the first issue \$156,000; on second issue, \$114,000 on third issue, \$16,000. The amount collected on the ten per cent. call during the past six months, was \$8,550.70. Number of shares supposed to be no good, 1,250; considered good and able to pay, 14,909; number of shares under ten per cent., 3,583; paid ten per cent. and over, 11,326; five per cent. and under ten per cent., 1,546; paid on these shares, \$10,125; due \$4,335; under five per cent., good, 1032, or \$7,644; under five per cent., doubtful, 1,255, or \$10,763.

A resolution to reduce the capital \$5 per share, was voted down. An amendment to this was proposed by Mr. Le Ruey, but ruled out of order. The same gentleman, who has a fertile brain, suggested that the company be re-organized under another name and proposed a scheme for so doing. The effect of this would be that a shareholder now holding \$1000 stock with \$100 paid up, would receive \$800 stock, with \$80 paid up; one with \$1,000 stock and \$200 paid up \$800 stock with \$160 paid up, and so forth, twenty per cent. being taken off the amount paid up, and twenty per cent. off the amount subscribed, but any shareholder could if he wished lessen the amount of his unpaid stock to any extent he might desire, and thereby reduce his liability correspondingly.

Mr. Wright remarked "you have a good many companies, and I suppose you would like some of them to absorb the English Loan Company," which soft impeachment Mr. Le Ruey denied.

A proposal from the Empire Investment Company, to purchase all the securities on a basis that would yield seven per cent., was submitted by Mr. Wright, but at this time Mr. Gibbons raised a point of order. He contended that it was a waste of time to discuss the different schemes before the meeting until the losses were apportioned to each shareholder. In order to have this done it was resolved that an appeal be made to the courts. The meeting then adjourned.

A SALUTARY EXAMPLE.

The authorities of Welland county are entitled to the thanks of the public for the firmness with which they have acted in dealing with a defaulting assessor. It appears that the gentleman in question while acting as assessor made false returns in reference to his own property, omitting certain assessable properties altogether, and very much undervaluing others. The proceedings against him in respect of this malfeasance of office have been pending for a long time and have been repeatedly delayed

under one pretext and another. It turns out, however, that justice, though not swift, is in this case sure. Recently the county judge, overruling all the plausible objections raised by the defendant's counsel passed a sentence of imprisonment for six months and a fine of \$200 for the offence complained of. In doing so his Honor expressed in the strongest terms his reprobation of the prisoner's conduct and his sense of the necessity of a public example being made to deter others from similar abuse of public positions. Were this course pursued more frequently, instead of defalcations being glossed over as they constantly are, the effect on the community at large would be most salutary. So long, however, as a large proportion of such wrongdoers entirely escape adequate punishment the temptations that place and power afford will continue to be succumbed to.

THE WINNIPEG FIRE AND EXPLOSION.

The fatal explosion of gunpowder during the recent fire in Mr. Ashdown's warehouse, Winnipeg, by which one man was killed and several wounded, shows the necessity of some precautionary inspection to compel compliance with by-laws formed for the protection of life. There is a by-law in Winnipeg, fixing the maximum of gunpowder that may be stored in a building on a business street, and that maximum was, in the store of Mr. Ashdown largely exceeded. To this cause, probably the grave nature of the accident is owing, but a by-law restricting the quantity of powder was not sufficient, it should have gone further and provided for the erection of a proper building, if not outside the city, in some distant part of the vacant prairie within the corporation limits. To this, we think, some provision for inspection should be added; so that violations of the law may be prevented and the public saved from the calamity of a repetition of this disastrous accident.

The coroner's jury ill performed its duty, in this case. It did not probe the matter to the bottom; it did not determine the remote cause of the accident or attempt to trace the responsibility to its source. Its example should be a warning to coroner's juries to perform their duties more efficiently; if the course taken in this case were generally followed, the usefulness of the coroner's jury would be gone.

Turning to another phase of the occurrence, there is much to command admiration in the attitude of the firemen and others who risked their lives in the face of a danger they knew to be impending. "Although well aware," says the *Winnipeg Free Press* of Monday, "of the fearful danger to which they were subjected in battling with the flames that were steadily advancing to the release of the deadly force pent within the doomed warehouse, not a man flinched or deserted his post, and through their heroic exertions much additional loss of life, to say nothing of destruction of property, was probably prevented."

There can be no truer test of courage than that of thus facing death in the performance of duty, and the firemen of Winnipeg have shown that they possess the strongest of the