

wide apart from one another, and therefore completely differentiated in themselves, the necessity for a polariscope test is scarcely apparent. Second, to allow no fares for damaged goods. This will work well and prevent frauds, except in the single case of foreign fruits, where the damage cannot be estimated in advance, nor insured against with any certainty. Third, to tax dress silk according to weight, in order to force French manufacturers to send more silk and less gum in their exports of this article to us. Fourth, to dispense with ad-valorem duties on gloves, and to fix specific duties corresponding to the material, size, number of buttons, and so forth. The last proposed amendment is undoubtedly suggested by the experience of the Government in the long contest with firms in trying to establish by appraisement a different value for kid gloves from that at which they were invoiced. It is virtually a confession on the part of the treasury department of the insecurity and inadequacy of ad-valorem duties—a confession which was made a year or two ago in the matter of still wines.—*N. Y. Shipping List.*

### CANNED FRUIT.

The home and foreign demand for canned fruits and vegetables is said by prominent dealers to be on the increase. Last year a Delaware establishment undertook to put up a small quantity of preserved blackberries and huckleberries as the latest experiment in canned fruits, and a successful one.

Nearly every kind of fruit is now preserved by the canning process. Canned apples, strawberries, whortleberries, cherries, grapes, peaches and pineapples are largely exported to England. So, also, are asparagus, peas, corn and tomatoes, in the vegetable line. A large number of American canners had specimens of their products at the Paris Exposition, as a result of which several sample orders have been received from different parts of the continent. There is also an active foreign demand for canned soft crabs, shrimps and salmon.

The trade in "fruit butter" in America is nearly doubling itself every year. They now make butter out of peaches, plums, apples, quinces and pears. The consumers of this are mostly to be found among the poorer classes, the prices being from 15 to 20 cents per pound.

### STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

3:15 o'clock, Dec. 11, 1878.

Stocks.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total Transacted in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.
Montreal.....	13½	144½	975	139	139½
Ontario.....	69	72½	1746	68½	69
Consolidated.....	6½	68	246	61½	62½
Peoples.....	57	58	332	57½	57½
Molson's.....	83	84½	95	80	83
Toronto.....	119	40	117	119½	
Jacques Cartier.....	34	36	375	33	34
Merchants.....	80½	85	725	80	80½
Commerce.....	104	110	1285	104½	104½
Unio.....					
Hamilton.....					
Exchange.....	69½	71	111	69½	70½
Mon. Tel.....	107½	111	389½	107½	108
Dominion Telegraph.....					
Richeieu & Ont. Nav.....	50	53½	570		50½
City Pass.....				75	82
Gas.....	18	110½	187	106½	108
R.C. Insurance.....				82	83½
Sterling Exchange.....					
Gold.....					
Commerce & Div.....	100½	105	620	100½	101

**CRANBERRIES BY TELEGRAPH.**—She was a big anxious-looking colored woman, and after looking up at the building of the Western Union

Telegraph Company in St. John, N. B. she entered the business department on the street flat. Mr. Betts was not there, but the other popular clerk, Mr. George Smith, was in charge.

"Dis de 'spatch offis'?"

"Yes, madame."

"Dis de plas dey sends de stuff on de wire?"

"It is, madame."

"Can you sen' by 'spatch stuff to Sussex?"

"Yes, madame."

She put her hand under her shawl and produced quite a large sized bundle. Throwing it down in front of George, she said:

"Dem's cranberries, dem is; send them by 'spatch to Sussex."

Being told they were too busy to send them just then, and as she was in a hurry, she said, "Den I'll go to the odder telegraphy offis up de street." And off she started, being heard to say, "Dem telegraphy offises is well enuff, but dem's mighty disbleging."

—Hon. Horatio Seymour, of New York, says in a recent magazine article: "The social, political and business evils which affect our country are not to be cured by political strategy, nor by any tricks of statesmanship."

The track of the Midland Railway at Port Hope is being raised seven inches, preparatory to erecting an iron bridge on Ontario Street higher than the old one which the freshet carried away last fall. The town council and the railway authorities have had an understanding upon the matter.

It is stated by the Chicago *Inter Ocean*, that the grain capacity laid up in Chicago harbour this winter is very small, comparatively, and the same may be said of Milwaukee. In the former city there are twenty-seven vessels, and at the latter (and all other west shore ports) seventeen.

A CURIOSITY in the shape of a combination steam-boat and grist mill is being built at Manitoulin Island. The machinery of a steam wheel propeller will be connected by belts with mill-stones and flouring gear situate in the forward part of the boat, the intermediate part of the hull being used for freight. She can grind as she goes from port to port, and in winter, when laid up, she is a full-fledged grist-mill.

### Commercial.

#### MONTREAL MARKETS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Montreal, 10th Dec., 1878.

The wholesale trade in all branches in the city, seems to be at a standstill, and there is little to report beyond the supply of local wants.

Imports of tea at Montreal for November were 429,933 lbs. showing an increase of 231,950 pounds as compared with the same month of 1877. Hardware shows a decrease in value in imports for the month this year of \$21,703. Cottons imported this last month are valued at \$41,041, against \$40,871 last year. Silks and velvets show an increase in value for the month of November this year of \$5,162.

The weather has been frosty but not very cold up till last night, when heavy snow fell, followed by a deluge of rain which has continued to fall all day, rendering the streets and roads almost impassable. The retail trade report doing very little, and remittances from the country are the subject of general complaint.

**ASHES.—POTS.**—The market has again advanced, but as receipts have been very light, there has not been much business reported. Firsts sold from \$3.90 to 4.00 according to tares. Nothing doing in inferiors, market closes steady

at quotations. *Pearls* have also participated in the advance and sold in the early part of the week at \$5.55, but at the close \$5.80 was asked but no sales at that figure reported. Stocks at present in store are Pots 1,130 brls., Pearls 230 brls.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—We have nothing to report in this branch of the wholesale trade, business is very dull, a few sorting up orders are coming in, but no activity is anticipated till after the Christmas holidays.

**CATTLE.**—The supply of cattle on the St. Gabriel market yesterday was somewhat small, while the demand for common stock was good and late quotations were well maintained, prices ranged from 2 to 4½c. per lb. according to quality. *Hogs* were in fair supply and sold from 4 to 4½c. per pound. *Dressed Hogs* are scarce and firm and sales are reported at \$4.50 to 4.75.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—There has been about the usual jobbing demand and prices do not exhibit much change, but are, if anything, in favor of holders. We quote: *Bi Carb Soda* \$3.10 to \$3.25 per 112 lb keg, *Soda Ash*, \$1.40 to 1.45 per 100 lbs, *Cudbear*, 10 to 18c per lb.; *Arrow root*, 11 to 15c per lb.; *Borax*, 10 to 12½c per lb.; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 25½ to 26½ per lb.; *do Ground*, 29 to 30; *Caustic Soda*, 2.45 to \$2.50 per 100 lbs. *East India Senna*, 12 to 13c per lb.; *Sugar of Lead*, 11 to 12c per lb.; *Bleaching Powder*, \$1.25 to \$1.40 per 100 lbs.; *Madder*, 8 to 9c per lb.; *Alum* \$1.75 2.00 per 100 lbs.; *Copperas*, 90c to \$1.00 per lb.; *Sulphur*, 3 to 3½c per lb.; *Brimstone* 2 to 2½c. *Epsom Salts*, \$1.50 to 1.75 per 100 lbs., *Sal Soda*, \$1.25 to 1.40 per 100 lbs.; *Saltpetre* \$7.50 to 8.00 per 112 lb. keg, *Blue Vitriol* 5 to 6c.

**FURS.**—We have little change to note in this market. The weather is much against business, and we would not wonder to see a considerable fall in prices if the present unseasonable weather continues. We quote: *Mink*, prime dark, \$1.00 to 1.50; *Martin*, 75c to \$1.00; *Beaver*, prime dark, \$1.25 to 1.50; *Beaver*, \$2.00 to 8.00, according to size; *Red Fox*, \$1.00 to 1.25; *Lynx*, \$1.00 to 1.50; *Raccoon*, 40 to 60c; *Fisher*, \$6.00 to 7.00; *Otter*, \$6.00 to 8.00; *Muskkrat*, fall, large, 10c; do, small, 6c; ditto kits 2 to 3c; *Skunk*, prime dark, 40 to 50c.

**FISH.**—There has been very little demand for fish of any kind, and prices are rather lower than this day week. We quote: *Dry Cod*, \$4.00 to \$4.50; *Green Cod*, \$4.00 to 4.50; and *Labrador Herring*, \$4 to 4.50. *Salmon* is unchanged at \$10, \$9 and \$8 for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

**FREIGHTS.**—The rates asked for goods by the G. T. R. from Portland to Liverpool, are 8/- per heavy grain, 6/- for oats, and 4/- for flour, ashes, pots 50/-, pearls 60/-, and butter and cheese 60/- per ton.

**FLOUR.**—Receipts during the week were 7,323 brls; total receipts from 1st January to date, 872,114 brls, being an increase of 82,856 brls, on receipts of same period of 1877, shipments during the week 2,998 brls; Total shipments since 1st January 704,091 brls, being a decrease of 34,295 brls on the shipments for the corresponding period of 1877. Since this day week business has been very fair for the season of the year, little however having been done beyond the supply of local wants. The market closes quiet with little change except in the higher grades which are a shade dearer. We quote: *Superior Extra* \$4.45 to \$4.50; *Extra*, \$4.30 to 4.35; *Fancy*, \$4.10 to \$4.15 *Spring Extra* \$4.00 to \$4.05; *Superfine*, \$3.70 to \$3.75; *Strong Baker's Flour*, \$4.20 to \$4.50; *Fine*, \$3.15 to 3.25; *Middlings*, \$2.85 to \$3.00; *Pollards*, \$2.50 to \$2.70; *Ontario Bags* \$2.00 to 2.05 *Oatmeal*, \$3.75 to 4.00; *Cornmeal*, kiln dried, \$2.25 to \$2.35.

**GRAIN.**—*Wheat.*—Receipts during the week 800 bush, total receipts from 1st January to date