

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"ESSAY," PICTOU.—We have not heard; enquire of some one in Halifax. The Exchange Bank of Yarmouth declared $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. last half, while we learn from a telegram that the Bank of Yarmouth paid its usual dividend.

"W. J. M.," MARKDALE.—See to-day's issue; we shall try and keep you and other country subscribers "posted" on the subject.

SUBSCRIBER, Glasgow, Scotland.—The rate of interest now paid by Canadian banks upon deposits is four per cent. The banks having their headquarters in Ontario agreed almost unanimously two months ago, to adopt that reduced rate, but the banks of Quebec province did not come into the arrangement at that time. The Quebec Bank boldly reduced to three per cent., and lost none of its Quebec deposits; its Ontario agencies, however, did not fare quite so well. Now, at last, the banks of Quebec generally have fallen in with the proposal to reduce to four per cent., and have notified depositors that such will in future be the rate. We believe no sum draws interest for a shorter period than three months. The building and loan societies which formerly paid six per cent. upon deposits, have reduced the rate of interest upon those already held, to five per cent. For new deposits, the rate paid by the leading societies does not exceed four per cent.; in one case it is four on call, and five at notice. Smaller societies continue meantime to pay five, but more than that is very exceptional. The price of money being universally reduced, and its earnings lessened, our institutions are only taking a wise precaution in thus lowering the rate they pay to better proportion to what they earn.

THE CENTAL SYSTEM.—The proposal was made about 1867 by the New York Produce Exchange, to adopt a central system, and abolish the many incongruous modes of measuring grain, but it was not adopted. Again, in May 1879, a thorough discussion of the question was had by that board and a committee reported in favor of the change. Out of over 700 members nearly 400 voted in favor of the pound and central system instead of the bushel. Asking the Produce Exchanges elsewhere to co-operate, encouraging replies or unqualified endorsements of the movement were received from other Exchanges and Boards of Trade in Philadelphia, Boston, St. Louis, San Francisco, New Orleans, Baltimore, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Kansas City, and other trade centres. Chicago, while not opposed to the change preferred to await Congressional action on the subject. The Toledo Produce Exchange alone declined to co-operate, and assigned no reason why. With such unanimity of feeling, however, there seemed to be no doubt of the result. The 1st of October, 1879, was fixed as the date of putting the central system in operation, rules regulating the branches of trade affected were regulated accordingly. As the time drew near, at the solicitation of the grain trade, the date was postponed until January 1, 1880, but at that date, on

account of the fears of some who were unwilling to suffer temporary inconvenience, the time was indefinitely postponed. There appears to be no other reason than this fear of temporary inconvenience why the 100 lbs. standard should not be adopted throughout the United States. It is admittedly simple and convenient, and, moreover, has been legalized in Great Britain. American merchants do not generally permit "old use and wont" to stand in the way of a needed reform.

—The project of telegraphic connection with the islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, so long and so energetically urged by Dr. Fortin, M.P., is shortly to be put, in part at least, in successful operation. Mr. Gisborne, who lately reached Ottawa from London, has left, we understand, for Anticosti &c., to select sites and make preparation to land cables and erect land lines. The Government steamer *Newfield*, is being fitted up as a permanent cable laying and repairing ship, with the latest improvements in paying out machinery, electric lights, &c. She is now in the Thames, and is to leave for Gaspé about the 10th September, having in her tanks the Anticosti, Magdalen Island and Grand Manan cables, all of which, it is expected will be laid about the end of September next. We learn also that the submarine cable, which is to connect Vancouver's Island with the mainland of British Columbia, via, Nanaimo and Point Gray (26 miles) was shipped in a water-tight iron tank, per Hudson Bay packet *Princess Royal*, on the 25th ult., and should arrive at Victoria in time to be submerged about the 1st December next.

—From the valuable tables of grain movement, found regularly in the pages of the *Railroad Gazette*, we learn that up to the close of July, the receipts of grain at north-western U. S. ports this year, have been 27 per cent. larger than in 1879, 34 per cent. larger than in 1878, and 111 per cent. larger than in 1877. North-western shipments have been 26 per cent. more than in 1879, 39 per cent. more than in 1878, and 111 per cent. than in 1877. Receipts at Atlantic ports have been 15 per cent. more than in 1879, 29 per cent. more than in 1878, and 148 per cent. more than in 1877. The excess of Atlantic receipts over the shipments of the seven leading north-western markets has been as follows:

1880.	1879.	1878.
38,230,254	43,380,006	36,533,827

The tendency for some years has been toward an increase of this difference, indicating an increase in shipments made directly from local intermediate points in the grain-producing districts to the Atlantic ports, but this year this tendency seems to have been arrested. The enormous extent of the grain-shipping trade is indicated by the figures for one week's grain traffic, that ending July last, as follow. Receipts and shipments of grain of all kinds at the eight reporting north-western markets and receipts at the seven Atlantic ports have been, in bushels, for the past seven years:

Year.	Northwestern Receipts	P. c Shipped by rail.	Atlantic Receipts
1874	3,399,797	23.2	3,489,977
1875	2,587,841	15.8	3,085,919
1876	2,854,462	38.5	3,895,979
1877	3,591,829	11.4	2,474,729
1878	5,352,269	30.8	5,949,508
1879	6,702,732	34.8	7,816,554
1880	9,393,826	29.2	8,945,548

These receipts are the largest ever known in one week. Of the immense quantity thus poured into north-western markets, Chicago had 68.6 per cent., although it had not yet begun to receive wheat largely; St. Louis had 18.9 per cent. Toledo 15.6, Peoria 6, Cleveland 2.8, Milwaukee 2.6, Detroit 1.2, and Duluth 1 per cent. About 54 per cent. of the total receipts was corn, and 37 per cent. wheat. Of the receipts at the Atlantic ports New York had 49.8 per cent. Baltimore 22.2, Philadelphia 8.1, Boston 8, Montreal 6.4, New Orleans 4.7, and Portland 0.8 per cent. Baltimore receipts were larger the previous week, but never before, we believe; Philadelphia's receipts are comparatively small.

—"SHAREHOLDER" writes thus from Rothery. He grows ironical when upon the subject of interest on deposits:

"Subscriber's" letter, in your issue of 30th ult. regarding interest reserved by banks on deposit receipts, will no doubt be read with considerable interest by your subscribers; and your remarks regarding the workings of this item, will be received with much satisfaction by all who are interested in our banks. "Subscriber" is evidently laboring under the hallucination, that the banks in Ontario allow only four per cent. on deposits. He will be astonished, perhaps delighted, to learn that five per cent., is generally allowed to depositors, and if our cousins in N.B. are content to take four per cent., for their deposits, they are behind the age. It is a well known fact that depositors can get six per cent. for their money in one of the banks in Guelph, which our N.B. friend would do well to make note of, and perhaps he might be induced to transfer his "little pile" from our old foggy, conservative bankers of that part of the Dominion, to our more liberal and go a-head bankers of Ontario."

—A call has been issued for an American convention of representatives of business organizations to meet in New York on Wednesday, Aug. 25, next, when it is expected a satisfactory bankruptcy law will be agreed upon to present to Congress at its next session. It was because of the disagreements between the New York Chamber of Commerce, the Boston Board of Trade, and other commercial associations, that the desire of the eastern mercantile community to have a new national bankruptcy law was not met by Congress last session. The want of such a measure is being felt as a serious embarrassment by many United States merchants, as well as by our own. The New York *Shipping List* of Monday last says: "Our Canadian neighbors, like our own people, are laboring under the disadvantages of the absence of any law to deal promptly with fraudulent debtors. There, as