Sarnia, Nov. 27.—The propeller Colonist, of Montreal, bound from Milwaukee to Montreal, with a cargo consisting of nine thousand bushels of wheat and fifteen hundred barrels of flour, sprung a leak on Lake Huron, and sank twenty-five miles this side of the Straits of Mackinac. The propeller and cargo are a total loss. Partial insurance in Milwaukee. Crew all saved.

FIRE RECORD.—London Township, Ont., Nov. 26.—Barn of Wm. Smith, with contents, loss stated at $1,400; insurance $400. Believed to be the work of an incendiary, a girl has been arrested for the act.

Coaticook, P. Q., Nov. 26.—The hotel occupied by one Paré, with several buildings, including the dwelling house and barns of J. Cutting, Banfield's dwelling house, barns and sheds, and the new tinshop of C. P. Carr & Co. A. F. Adams' store, and the building belonging to R. Baldwin, occupied by Mr. Doherty, as a tailor shop, G. O. Doak, as a law office, and Damon & Baker as a drug store; also the dwelling house and milliner shop of Mr. Thomas, were damaged. Cause accidental.

Dummer Township, Ont., Nov.—House of Robt. Morrison with most of the contents; loss $1,500, insurance $700.

Matilda Township, Ont., Nov. 13.—The barns and sheds of B. McConkey, in the 3rd con., were entirely consumed by fire, with contents.

Williamsburgh Township, Ont., Nov. 20.—The Saw Mill owned by Messrs. Henry and Gordon Fetterly, 8th con., was burned to the ground. It was the work of some evil disposed person. Loss about $2,000 and no insurance.

VITAL STATISTICS.—There has been a great deal of discussion on this subject in the Montreal papers. A correspondent of the *Daily News* says:

The apparent average rate of mortality in Montreal during the 14 years ending with 1868, was about 3-6 per cent., or one in 28 of the living; but the average duration of life was only about 17 years! The explanation is exceedingly simple. A population with a high birth rate, must have a high death rate, and therefore a large number of deaths of infants, which reduces the general average duration of life. If the births and deaths were exactly equal, the birth rate would express the mean duration of life, there would be a low death rate. If we compare Montreal with Massachusetts, town and country, the result is, that a birth rate of less than 3 per cent., in Massachusetts, gave an average duration of life only 27 years, so that the proportionate term for Montreal with a birth rate of about 5.5 per cent. is less than 15 years. The average length of life, in Montreal, is 17 years', or two years longer than the proportionate average of Massachusetts, so that the health of Boston is "nowhere" in comparison with Montreal.

MARINE INSURANCE FRAUDS.—Attention has been directed by the London *Post* to the practice that prevails in Great Britain of sending unworthy ships to sea, and says it could name one port on the Northeast coast where a speculator, of originally small means, made a fortune by purchasing wrecks, patching them up with canvas, pitch and oakum, and sailing them till they went under, crew and all. The ships were insured to the owner.

COMPULSORY FIRE INSURANCE.—A law providing for obligatory insurance by the people of Schleswig-Holstein is likely to pass the provincial assembly of that State. In some of the German States, it has long been in existence, where the Government, being the insurers, reap a handsome profit from the premiums; and although they pay their losses with tolerable liberty, they keep a watchful eye upon incendiarism.

—All hopes for the safety of the schooner J. B. Martin are given up. She was lost, it is believed, on the 4th inst., while entering the straits of Mackinac, and had no time to get into Lake Huron before the gale struck her. She belonged to Milwaukee, and had ten persons of that place on board.

—A man by the name of Brooks has recently been operating in some of the eastern townships as an insurance agent, and after collecting several hundred dollars, has stepped across the lines.

—In a suit of Mrs. Slayter *vs.* the Queen Insurance Company, tried in the Supreme Court, St. John, N. B., the jury returned a verdict for plaintiff for $1,450, and interest. McDonald, Q. C., obtained a rule *nisi* to set the verdict aside.

—Mr. Cabbell having been appointed to a seat at the Board of the Scottish Provincial, in Glasgow, has been succeeded in the secretaryship by Mr. John T. Fyfe, from the head office of the Company.

—A writer in the Montreal *Daily News*, quotes authorities to show that gasoline is not explosive, though it is highly inflamable.

Financial.

MONTREAL STOCK MARKET.

Reported by Robert Moat, Broker.

MONTREAL, Nov. 30, 1869.

The Stock market during the past week has been extremely dull, and the transactions were of very limited extent. The amounts offering have not been large, but the demand is very small, and in most cases the prices are in favor of buyers. Money continues very abundant at last week's rates.

Banks.—A slight improvement is looked for on the payment of the dividends to-morrow, but to-day many of the stocks can be procured lower than in the beginning of the week, Merchants' being the principal exception, which has again advanced, closing firm at 109 buyers and 109½ sellers. Montreal sold at 162½ and 162¼, but is to-day offered at 162, with no buyers over 161½. City, sold at 90 to 90¼, and is still procurable at that. People's has declined to 106½, at which there are more sellers than buyers. Ontario was dealt in to some extent at 98 and 97½, closing rather weak at the latter price. Molson's is freely offered at 101½ to 102. There are buyers of Jacques Cartier at 106; Toronto at 127, Commerce at 111, Eastern Townships at 102, and Union at 107½.

Bonds.—There have been no Government Securities of any kind procurable during the past week. Montreal City Bonds sold at 97½ which would still be paid. Seignorial claims are offered at 95, and asked for at 94.

Sundries.—There has been a steady demand for all the fancy stocks and an advance on last weeks prices would be paid. There are buyers of Montreal Telegraph at 139. Gas at 140. Richelieu at 125. Canadian Navigation at 100.

Sterling Exchange.—declined to 8⅞ but has again advanced, closing firm and in demand at 9 to 9⅛ for Bankers 60 day bills.

TORONTO STOCK MARKET.

(Reported by Pellatt & Osler, Brokers.)

A very limited business has been done during the past week. The market has been almost entirely bare of favorite securities. The demand for Debentures and Building Society Stocks is very great.

Bank Stock.—Sales of Montreal, ex-dividend, were made at 161½ and 162, the market closed firm at the latter rate. British is in demand at 106½ and 107. A large sale of Ontario is reported at 98, still offering at this rate. No Toronto on market, would command 127. Royal Canadian has been freely dealt in at 65½ and 66, and continues in fair demand at the later rate. Commerce is asked for at 111 to 111½, none on market. Gore nominal, no sales. Merchants' has sold largely at 108¾ and 109. Quebec, books closed, no quotations ex-dividend. Buyers of Molson's at 101½, and sellers at 102. City would be taken at 89½ ex-dividend, sellers ask 90. Du Peuple has sold at 106¾ and 107, it is procurable at 106½. Nationale is nominal at 104 to 106. No Jacques Cartier on market; 105½ ex-dividend would be paid. Nothing doing in Mechanics'; 90 would be paid. No sales of Union in this market.

Debentures.—Canada Fives and Sixes are in demand at quotations Dominion Stock is saleable at 106½. Toronto are in demand to pay about 6¾ per cent, none on market. County are in demand at quotations, limited amounts offering.

Sundries.—No City Gas on market; 112 would be paid. Buyers offer 75½ for British America Assurance, no sellers under 80. Western Assurance is offered at 85 to 85½. No Canada Building Society on market this week, 127 would be paid. No sales to report of Western Canada Building Society, a small lot is on market at 122½. Freehold Building Society, books closed, no transactions ex-dividend. Buyers offer 114 for Huron and Erie Savings and Loan Society, a sale is reported to have taken place at 112 ex-dividend. Buyers of Montreal Telegraph at 139, and no sellers under 140. Small sales of Canada Landed Credit at 82. There is rather more demand for money on good mortgages at 8 per cent.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.—Course of the New York Stock Exchange, by telegraph, from Day & Morse, New York, to H. J. Morse & Co., Toronto.

	NOVEMBER.					
STOCK.	25th	26th	27th	29th	30th	Dec. 1st
Pacific Mail........	52⅝	52⅝	52¾	51½	51¼	47¼
West'n Union Tel.	35¾	35½	34⅛	34⅞	34¾	34⅞
N. Y. Central.....	182⅞	178¼	175¾	174½	169½	165½
Reading...........	99	99½	99⅛	98⅞	98¼	97⅞
Michigan South'n	88¼	88¼	87⅞	88¼	87	83⅞
Clev'd & Pittsb'g.	83¾	82½	81	79	80	80⅛
Rock Island........	103½	103½	104½	106½	105	104
North West Com.	74	75	74½	75½	74¼	71¼
Fort Wayne	87½	86⅝	87⅜	87¼	86¾	86½
Ster'g Exchange..	108⅞	109	109	109	109¼	109⅛
Gold..............	125⅜	124¾	124⅞	122	121¼	121⅜
5 20 Bonds, 62....	115⅛	114¼	114	113	112¾	112¾

BANK OF ENGLAND.—The return from the Bank of England for the week ending the 10th of Nov., gives the following results when compared with the previous week:—

Rest	£3,103,017..	Increase.....	£8,176
Public deposits....	3,515,892...	Increase ...	152,777
Other deposits.....	17,848,517.	Increase...	219,765

On the other side of the account:

Gov. securities...	£13,811,953...	Decrease...	200,000
Other securities...	16,090,129...	Increase ...	368,483
Notes unemployed..	8,740,010...	Decrease...	135,130

The amount of notes in circulation is £23,559,-180. being an increase of £496,610; and the stock of bullion in both departments is £18,273,257, showing a decrease of £313,801 when compared with the preceding return.

By telegram from London of November 24th, we learn that the official report of the Bank of England made on that day, shows that the amount of Specie in vault had decreased £161,000 since the last report.

SPECIE IN NEW YORK.—The following are the quotations for Specie, on the 26th Nov.:—American silver, 97½ to 98; Mexican dollars, 103½ to 104; English silver, 470 to 480; Five francs, 96 to 97; English sovereigns, 486 to 468; Twenty francs, 386 to 382; Thalers, 69 to 70; Spanish doubloons, 15 20 to 16 30; Mexican doubloons, 15 45 to 15 60.

EXPRESS.—At the meeting of Wells, Fargo & Co., held on the 26th, the stockholders voted to issue $5,000,000 of new stock, and to buy out the Pacific Express Company. Judge Cardozo granted an absolute injunction on the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, restricting the issue of the new stock.