

## MONTREAL TRADE.

Whether the wholesale trade of Montreal, judged by the extent of sales made by importers to country traders, compares favorably or otherwise with that of previous years and there is diverse testimony as to this—the shipping trade of the port, which is now over for the season, has been clearly disappointing. "The season," says one authority, "has been one of extreme depression as regards freights of all kinds, many vessels taking portions of cargo at merely nominal rates. All shippers agree that so dull a year has not been experienced within their knowledge."

The decrease in number of inland vessels arriving at the port was marked, the figures being 4,473 as compared with 5,098 last year. The number of ocean-going arrivals was 448 as against 422 last season, but there was less for them to carry and poorer rates for carriage. Recent returns show that Montreal export lumber trade has been confined as heretofore to South America and Europe. The total exports to the former have been 24,366,778 feet; those to Europe 54,631,500 feet. The number of horned cattle that passed over the wharves from the opening of navigation to 30th October, was 43,420 head; sheep 37,100. Receipts of breadstuffs from 1st January to 29th Nov. this year and last were as under:—

	TOTAL RECEIPTS..	
	1884.	1883.
Grain.		
Wheat, bushels .....	5,019,476	5,845,530
Corn " .....	3,558,101	4,482,200
Pease " .....	1,824,032	1,539,098
Oats " .....	811,018	450,485
Barley " .....	212,531	216,240
Rye " .....	120,121	219,338
Flour, barrels .....	1,051,519	887,505
Oat and cornmeal, brls. ....	69,270	62,861

Shipments of flour for that period amounted to 782,946 barrels as compared with 721,589 last year; of oatmeal and cornmeal 80,238 barrels against 74,036, both showing an increase. More peas were exported, (1,711,550 bushels against 1,572,430) and more oats, (248,832 bushels against 149,570). But the decline in wheat shipment was almost one fourth—to 3,772,000 from 4,987,000 bushels—and that of corn one fifth—to 3,289,000 from 4,147,000. Barley and rye exports were both smaller.

As to provisions and other goods, receipts and shipments both show a decline in butter, pork, lard, beef, bacon, and leather, but an increase in the items of cheese, dressed hogs and tallow, according to the figures taken from Monday's *Gazette*, which differ slightly from a table of dairy produce exports found in the same journal of 21st inst. The quantity of cheese handled shows a steady and remarkable growth for a series of years, and the aggregate export for season 1884 is declared to be "the largest in the history of the trade." The following figures of butter and cheese shipped from Montreal in different years will be found of interest:

	Butter, pkgs.	Cheese, bxes.
To Nov. 22.		
Total to date.....	106,910	1,126,902
To same date 1883.....	101,825	896,718
" " 1882.....	68,208	714,485
" " 1881.....	132,970	547,107
" " 1880.....	196,610	541,396
" " 1879.....	180,363	515,360
" " 1878.....	101,596	455,449
" " 1877.....	87,245	398,138
" " 1876.....	168,048	466,660
" " 1875.....	115,417	507,062
" " 1874.....	80,206	359,252

## STEEL MAKING: A NEW PROCESS.

Experiments in the manufacture of steel by a new process, are being carried on upon an extensive scale in several of the American states. It is known as the Henderson process and is thus described by an American journal: The Henderson process is to produce what the inventor calls open hearth steel. He uses good Bessemer iron, steel and croppings, and converts it on an open hearth with the blast descending from the top, without using a converter, as in the Bessemer process. Henderson affirms that his process is in no way an infringement on the Bessemer patent.

Interested parties in this process exhibit pieces of rolled metal which have been bent on short turns with remarkable neatness, and without break or blemish. Its strength is greater than wrought iron. Nails cut from Henderson rolled steel are of very fine quality, can be readily bent obliquely and show well defined edges.

Experiments in the method are being carried on in Pennsylvania daily, and, so far as the steel itself is concerned, the experimenters profess to regard it as practically successful. The question now to be solved is whether the steel can be produced cheaply enough by this process to take the place of charcoal blooms. The ten firms interested in this new enterprise are: The Reading Iron Works, and William McIlvain & Sons, rolling mills, Reading; Marshal Brothers & Company, Hughes & Patterson, and A. Pardee, Jr., Philadelphia; Charles L. Bailey & Co., Harrisburg; Old Dominion Iron Works, Richmond, Va.; W. E. C. Cox, Montour Iron and Steel Company, and G. Francklyn, New York.

Steel ingots are manufactured by these firms and are sent out to the various firms who are interested and who own large iron mills, where the ingots are rolled into plate. In this way the various interested mill owners can see the practical operation of rolling the steel and testing their rolls with it. Thus far the reports received indicate that the steel is exceedingly dense, requiring heavy rolls.

## FIRE ALARM.

It begins to dawn upon the minds of our City Fathers, probably, that something really ought to be done to have the fire alarm system put in good order, to avert possible calamity. Within a few weeks Mr. Badger, superintendent of the Montreal Central Office system, and Mr. Finnegan, who holds a like office in Rochester and prefers the Repeating system, have examined and passed their opinion upon our Toronto alarm. Still more lately, a thorough electrician, Mr. B. B. Toye, of the Great North-western Telegraph, has given, through the *Mail*, his views upon the situation. He re-asserts what has been repeatedly urged before, namely that Toronto has outgrown the present appliances; that the circuits must be shortened and the number increased if efficiency is to be attained. With skilled management, Mr. Toye thinks, even the existing system could be made to work. A competent electrician, with proper assis-

stants, would test the boxes, see to the insulation of the wires, repair or replace faulty portions, which a person not trained to such work cannot do.

It will not take long for a telegraph line, stretched between towns, to become useless if pains be not taken to maintain it in good order. Lines and instruments in the country will go wrong if neglected, why not also in a city? Rotting posts, splintered insulators, imperfect connections—these must all be repaired; contact of trees, cobwebs, rust, chemical action—these must all be taken into account. And if a line be allowed to run down below a working point, it is unreliable. As well expect a steam engine to do its work when packing is faulty, parts out of line or oil wanting, as expect a telegraph system to be kept effective without skilled repairs. Efficiency and safety demand that the system shall at once be put in perfect order, the apparatus needed supplied, and that it be kept in order by some person or persons with electrical knowledge.

## TELEGRAPH FACILITIES.

Large as Canada is, and widely apart though her provinces are, we are yet wonderfully well supplied with means of interior communication: railways, canals, telegraphs, and postal routes. In these respects we need fear comparison with none. The Public Works Department has issued a statistical report for the years since Confederation, which contains interesting figures as to the comparative standing of this country with other countries in respect of telegraphic facilities. There are, it appears 2,259 telegraph offices in the Dominion, which gives an office to every 1,914 persons, placing Canada at the head of the list, while in the United States there is one office only to every 3,870 of the population; the total number being in the year 1882 say 12,917. Compared with England, or rather the United Kingdom, we are still farther ahead, for there they have only 5,747 telegraph offices, with a population nearly ten times ours, this represents one office to each 6,260 persons. Germany has one to each 4,300, but does not send nearly so many telegrams as England. According to the *Scientific American*, the following table gives the number of telegrams handled in various countries in 1882, we have added those of Canada:—

	No. offices.	No. telegrams.
United States.....	12,917	40,581,177
Great Britain.....	5,747	32,965,029
Germany.....	10,803	26,260,124
Russia.....	2,819	9,800,201
Canada.....	2,259	3,076,576
Austria.....	2,696	6,626,203
Italy.....	2,590	7,026,287
Switzerland.....	1,160	3,040,182
British India.....	1,025	2,032,605
Belgium.....	835	4,066,843
Spain.....	647	2,830,186

—A despatch from British Columbia states that the local Government has been officially informed that Coal Harbour, Burrard Islet, is to be the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway.