

who seems to know the territory thoroughly, tells me that the country, for hundreds of miles, is practically surrounded by beautiful water systems. Twelve miles away is the Amable du port, then there is the Montreal River, and then again the Boesfrind, not yet fully explored, which is in fact a series of small lakes running for many miles north and north-east and draining a vast area of country. All these waters eventually find their way to the Ottawa. According to the same authority there is a large tract of good farming land yielding thirty bushels of fall wheat to the acre and other crops in proportion. A road is now being constructed to these lands. Then the growth of timber is immense, and yields large supplies. White oak, four feet through, and cherry twenty inches diameter are common. There is timber enough in this district equal to the demands of many years to come. Silver mines have also been discovered; asbestos too, besides mica and other valuable minerals. Except in one instance, that of a silver mine, nothing has yet been done towards developing their resources.—T. G. O.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, July 28th, 1886.						
STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average &c.
Montreal .....	213½	211½	1819	213½	212½	198
Ontario .....	117½	116½	10	.....	117	109
Peoples .....	100	96	60	100	97½	.....
Molson's .....	140	131½	14	140	134	.....
Toronto .....	204	202½	200	203½	202½	186
Jac. Cartier .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Merchants .....	125½	124	364	125½	125	115
Commerce .....	121	120	1538	120½	120	127½
Union .....	105	86½	.....	105	90	70
Montreal Tel. ....	125	123½	1455	125	124	127
Rich. & Ont. ....	79½	77	897	79½	79½	59½
City Passenger ..	17	169½	1867	175	172	121½
Gas .....	203½	199	6680	203	202½	183
C. Pacific R. R. ....	66½	65½	2050	66½	65½	43
N. W. Land... ..	76	66½	1075	67½	66½	.....

A DEFINITION OF DARKNESS.

When an ignorant man is placed in a responsible position he sometimes makes odd mistakes. An instance is given by *Cassell's Magazine* of pretentious ignorance on the part of a member of a rural school board. A laboring man, illiterate and poverty-stricken, was elected to the post of trustee, and thought he must needs conduct an examination of the scholars on the following lines:

"Now, you lads, before you goes any farther with the reading of this chapter, let me just see if you knows the meanin' of the words you have read. It says somethin' here about 'gross darkness.' Now, what is that? What is gross darkness?"

A chorus of youthful voices makes answer, "Great darkness, sir."

The inquisitor shakes his head triumphantly—"No-o," he says, "not exactly. What's darkness, boys?"

A solitary, piping treble, ventures a highly original definition:

"Please, sir, it's what there is after the sun sets, and before the lamps are lit."

"Well, yes," said the trustee, as if condescendingly considering—"you're right. Now, what's a gross?"

The response comes from many voices with more assurance. This, at least, is solid ground of mathematical fact.

"Twelve dozen, sir."

"And how many is that?"

"A hundred and forty-four, sir."

"Right again. Now listen, you lads. 'Gross darkness' is darkness one hundred and forty-four times as great as that what the scholar over against the middle desk yonder described for us. Don't you forget what gross darkness is in future."

—The John Brown & Co., iron works, at Sheffield, pays a further dividend of 3l per share, less income tax payable on the 5th July next, making, with the interim dividend of 2l already paid, 5l per share for the year, being at the rate of 6l 13s. 4d. per cent. per annum.

A PROUD MOMENT.—It was in a Nebraska town. A farmer slapped down \$80 on the counter and proudly remarked, "That's the last dollar I owe on my farm, and I am now entitled to a deed."

"You must feel good," observed a Boston man who happened to be in the bank on business.

"I do."

"And you will now go ahead with a better spirit?"

"I will now take the deed and go over to the loan office and mortgage the durn land for what I can, and skip," was the reply.—*Wall Street News*.

—The directors of Jno. Crossley & Sons' English carpet works have declared an interim dividend for the past half-year of five shillings per share, less income tax, being at the rate of five per cent, per annum.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, July 28, 1886.

ASHES.—Business has been a little more active since the break in prices, some fair lots of pots having changed hands lately, the last at \$3.65 for standard tares of No. 1 pots, a few seconds have been bought at \$3.25 to \$3.30; a lot of 20 brls. of pearls was bought the other day at \$5.30 for shipment. Receipts have been freer last day or two but are not at all liberal, and the month shows a shortage on last July of about 150 brls.

CEMENTS, FIRECLAY, ETC.—There is a very fair movement in these lines, but prices remain unsatisfactory low to importers. We quote:—Portland cement \$2.40 to \$2.75 as to lot; Roman \$2.75; Canadian \$1.75; fireclay \$2.30 per; firebricks \$22.50 to \$25.00 per thousand.

CHEMICALS AND DRUGS.—Nothing of a novel character can be noted here, the movement is restricted to a moderate sorting business, and values remain as they were except that citric acid is a little firmer. We quote:—Sal Soda, \$1.00 to \$1.10 Bi-Carb Soda, \$2.50 to \$2.60; Soda Ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.65 to \$1.75; Bichromate of Potash, per 100 lbs., \$8.00 to \$9.00; Borax, refined, 9 to 10c.; Cream Tartar crystals, 31 to 33c.; do. ground, 35 to 36c.; Tartaric Acid crystals, 55 to 60c.; do. powder, 60 to 65c.; Citric Acid 90 to \$1.00; Caustic Soda, white \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11c.; Bleaching Powder, \$2.00 to \$2.50, according to lot; Alum, \$1.60 to \$1.75; Copperas, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; Flowers Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.75 to \$3.00; Roll Sulphur, \$2.00; Sulphate of Copper, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Epsom Salts \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre, \$9.00 to \$9.50; German Quinine, 75 to 80c.; American do., 80 to 85c.; Howard's quinine, 85c. to 95c.; Opium, \$3.25 to \$3.75; Morphia \$1.60 to \$1.75; Gum Arabic sorts, 50 to 60c.; White 75 to \$1.00; Carbolic acid, 45 to 55c.; Iodide Potassium, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per lb.; Iodine, \$5.00 to \$5.50; Iodoform, \$6.50 to \$7.50. Prices for essential oils are: Oil lemon \$2.75 to \$3.50; oil bergamot \$3.50 to \$4.; Orange, \$3.50 to \$4.00.

DRY GOODS.—Travellers are now pretty well through with their first autumn trip, and in a good many cases they are on their way homeward, orders continue, however, to come in fairly. Wholesale stocks are well forward, and deliveries of fall goods are general. Remittances are not so free as they were, accounted for by the fact that farmers are generally busy harvesting, and not coming in to trade. There is a disposition to concede, on all hands, that higher prices must rule for all classes of woollens; the tendency in Canadian manufactures is now towards firmness, with the single exception of flannels prices of which continue to be cut, and we hear of higher rates being exacted for repeat orders of certain makes of blankets. Cottons are steady, and mill men generally report orders to keep them running well into the fall.

FISH.—The only demand is for dry cod which is in fair supply at \$3 to \$3.25; herrings etc., not asked for and prices altogether nominal. Some small lots of new pickled salmon have arrived at Quebec, and have been taken up at fancy prices, but the bulk of the catch is yet to arrive.

GROCERIES.—Rather a brisker movement is apparent in this line; trade in the country is reported good, and travellers' orders are satisfactory on the whole, payments too are very fair. Sugars are active; the Canada refinery reports an average output of 1,800 brls. daily for last several weeks; granulated still 6½ for lots at the refinery, brights very scarce; very few raws moving. Molasses 29c. in 100 puncheon lots, 30 to 31c. is ordinary jobbing price; syrups dull and unchanged in price. Teas are dull at the movement and values are unaltered. Smith, Baker & Co's., circular under date Yokohama, July 1st, reports a continued active business: prices have fluctuated somewhat, a decline of \$2 a picul on grades below finest took place towards end June which has since been recovered partly. The bulk of business done has been in grades at \$20 and under second crop teas marketed so far have been some what disappointing in crop quality. Total shipments to date were 15,497,987 lbs., as against 11,452,324 lbs. to same date in 1885. Reports from fruit growing districts, indicate a good yield of raisins and currants; locally these are dull, some lots of currants have been bought for this market in London to relieve the dearth, and are quoted at 6½ to 7c. Eleme raisins 7 to 8c.; Valencia not wanted. Rice seems on the rise at home, but is unchanged here. Canned salmon is on the advance, and the pack on the Columbia River is short, as fish there are becoming scarce, and recourse is being had to British Columbia. The sardine catch on the French coast is reported very poor and French packers are turning their attention to the Portuguese coast.

LEATHER AND SHOES.—Boot and shoe orders are satisfactory, and in leather there is rather a better demand from manufacturers who are getting well into the fall cut; some good sales of splits are reported, and there is a fair movement in sole. Stocks are in good shape and values tend to firmness; green hides are steady at advance last noted. We quote:—Spanish sole B. A. No. 1, 24 to 26c.; do. No. 2, B. A. 21 to 23c.; No. 1 Ordinary Spanish, 23 to 24c.; No. 2 do. 21 to 22c.; No. 1 China, 22 to 23c.; No. 2, 21 to 22c.; ditto, Buffalo Sole, No. 1, 21 to 22c.; ditto, No. 2, 19½ to 21c.; Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1, 26 to 27c.; oak sole, 45 to 50c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 39c.; ditto, heavy, 32 to 36c.; Grained, 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained, 36 to 42c.; Splits large, 22 to 28c.; ditto, small, 16 to 21c.; Calf-splits, 28 to 32c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46lbs.), 70 to 80c.; Imitation French Calf, shins, 80 to 85c.; Russet Sheepskin Linings, 30 to 40c.; Harness, 24 to 33c.; Buffed Cow, 13 to 16c.; Pebbled Cow, 12 to 15½c.; Rough, 13 to 28c.; Russet and Bridle, 54 to 55c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Trade in these lines is quiet, and we hear of no lots moving. At home warrants are up threepence, but on other hand, makers' prices tend to easiness if anything; locally values are unchanged in any particular. Tin "at home" rules very firm at its recent high level; lead also rules strong; tin plates as before, there was some little activity in coke tins on packer's demand, but there has been a relapse to quietness again; Canada plates also dull. We quote as before:—Summerlee, \$17 to \$17.50; Gartsherrie, \$16.50; Langloan and Coltness, \$17 to \$17.50; Shotts, \$16.50 to \$17; Eglington and Dalmellington, \$15 to \$15.50; Calder, \$16.50 to \$17; Carnbroe, \$16; Hematite, \$18 to \$19; Siemens, No. 1, \$16.50 to \$17; Bar Iron, \$1.60 to \$1.65; Best Refined, \$1.85; Siemens Bar, \$2.10; Canada Plates, Blaina, \$2.25 to \$2.35; Penn &c. \$2.35 to \$2.40. Tin Plates, Bradley Charcoal, \$5.75 to \$6.00; Charcoal I.C., \$4.25 to \$4.75; do. I.X., \$5.50 to \$6.00; Coke I.C., \$3.75 to \$4; Galvanized sheets, No. 28, 5½ to 7c., according to brand; Tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6½c.; No. 26, 7c., the usual extra for large sizes. Hoops and Bands, per 100 lbs., \$2.00; Boiler Plate, per 100 lbs., —Staffordshire, \$2.25 to \$2.50; Common Sheet iron, \$2.00 to \$2.10; Steel Boiler Plate, \$2.50 to \$2.75; heads, \$4; Russian Sheet Iron, 10 to 11c. Lead, per 100 lbs.:—Pig, \$4 to \$4.25; Sheet, \$4.25 to \$4.50; Shot, \$6 to \$6.50; best cast steel, 11 to 13c. firm; Spring, \$2.75 to \$3.00; Tire, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Sleigh shoe, \$2 to \$2.25; Round Machinery Steel, 3 to 3½c. per lb.; Ingot tin, 25 to 27c.; Bar Tin, 28c.; Ingot Copper, 12 to 13c.; Sheet Zinc, \$4.25 to \$5.00; Spelter, \$4 to \$4.25;