

the International Bridge Company. The litigation was for the purpose of deciding the rate of compensation to be paid by the plaintiff for the use of the bridge of the defendant. The plaintiff claimed that a law of Congress of 1870 gave the judge of the district power to decide the rate of tolls to be paid, which was denied by the bridge company, who claim that even if Congress conferred that power it was unconstitutional. Judge Wallace, in an elaborate opinion, holds that, assuming that Congress intended to confer on the Court authority to prescribe the compensation which the bridge company might charge, no doubt is entertained of the constitutionality of the act, but, in his opinion, Congress did not intend to confer such power. He dismisses the petition of the railway company with costs. The effect of this decision is to allow the bridge company to fix its own rates of toll. The accumulated tolls due from the Canada Southern amount to about \$200,000.

GOOD EXCUSE FOR DISOBEYING ORDERS.—The other day John F. Wallack, superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph, related a bit of his experience. It occurred during one of the night storms so frequent last summer. The violence of the wind had detached the trunk quadruplex wire used for New York business, and the testing instrument located the break at the first pole west of Lewisville. Mr. Wallack called up the operator there, and ordered that the break be fixed. "Can't go out to-night—storm is too bad," was the reply. Storm or no storm the thing has got to be fixed." Well I've got no ladder." "Go out and climb the pole"—this somewhat testily. "I can't climb the pole." What's the reason you can't?—the manager's temper going fast. "I'm a woman." Mr. Wallack had forgotten, in the press of business, that Lewisville had a female operator, but when reminded of it he gave up the job and hired two boys to attend to it.

—Times are hard, money is scarce, business is dull, retrenchment is a duty; please stop my— "whisky? "O, no; times are not hard enough for that yet. But there is something else that costs me a large amount of money every year, which I wish to save; please stop my—" tobacco, cigars and snuff? "No, no, not these; but I must retrench somewhere; please stop my—" ribbons, jewels, ornaments, and trinkets? Not at all; pride must be fostered, if times are ever so hard, but I believe I can see a way to effect quite a saving in another direction; please stop my—" tea, coffee and needless and unhealthy luxuries? No, no, I not those. I cannot think of that sacrifice; I must think of something else. Ah! I have it now. My paper costs me four cents a week, two dollars a year, please stop my paper. That will carry me through the hard times easily.

—"Phat wud I do wid that?" exclaimed Patrick, when the hackman handed him the baggage check. "I gave yez good money, and yez try to put counterfeit enter me." "You mistake," said the hackman: "this is not money; it is only a check." "Go way wid yez," cried Pat, "isn't a check always writ on paper? Did yez take me for a greenhorn altogether?"—*Boston Transcript*

—The Suez Canal has had a very prosperous year, and it reports will be likely to aid M. de Lesseps' Panama Canal Company. The traffic increased 40 per cent., and a good dividend is to be paid. The canal has been considerably improved, and it is now proposed to light it by electricity, so that it may be used at night as well as by day.

—Dr. C. W. Siemens expressed in his lecture at Birmingham, Eng., an opinion that the electric light will displace gas, as gas half a century ago superseded oil; but he thinks that gas may be improved and turned to new purposes, such as heating. We have no doubt the gas companies will have to turn over a new leaf.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, July 26th, 1881.

Although this is one of the dull seasons of the year for the wholesale merchants, a very fair amount of business has been done in certain branches. In the Dry Goods line orders have been coming in very freely and generally for large quantities for immediate shipment, which looks as if stocks in the country were somewhat run down. Dry goods merchants here have been very busy receiving and taking into stock goods which were delayed in delivery in consequence of the ship labourers' strike, which is now happily over. Groceries are quiet, only a moderate distributive demand being experienced. Wool continues dull, but there appears to be more doing in the west, and more business is looked for here soon. The weather since this day week has been very wet and bad for the hog harvest. Reports say that grain crops in this region are also suffering from it.

ASHES.—*Pots.*—Since the date of our last report a considerable amount of business has been done in firsts at \$4.80 to 4.85; latterly the market has weakened and \$4.70 to 4.80 are the extremes. Receipts are liberal and stocks accumulating, *Pearls* have been in better demand and prices tend upward; as high as \$5.70 has been paid for desirable lots. Stocks at present in store are, *Pots*, 711 brls., *Pearls*, 121 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Fall orders continue to come in freely, and manufacturers are busy shipping. Payments are good; prices continue as under, although some of the smaller houses quote under these figures: *Men's Stoga Boots*, \$2.00 to 3.00; ditto *kip Boots*, \$2.50 to 3.25; ditto *French Calf*, \$3.25 to 3.75; ditto *Buff Congress*, \$2.00 to 2.25; ditto *Split Brogans*, \$1.00 to 1.10; *Boys' Split Brogans*, \$0.85 to 1.00; ditto *Buff and Pebbled Congress*, \$1.25 to 1.50; *Women's Buff and Pebble Balmorals*, \$1.10 to 1.50; ditto *Prunella Balmorals*, 50c to \$1.50; ditto *Prunella Congress*, 50c to \$1.60.

CATTLE.—The market was well supplied yesterday, and as butchers had not been buying very freely for some time past, there was an unusually good demand. Nearly all butchers cattle were readily bought up at from 3 to 4c. per lb. Shipping cattle were not so plentiful, but still in fair supply which found buyers at 4½ to 5½c. per lb. *Sheep* were plentiful, many which were fit for shipping were bought up at 4½c. per lb. *Lambs* sold from 2.75 to 3.75 each. There was a good request for *Hogs* which are dearer, numerous sales were made yesterday from 7 to 7½c. per lb.

DRY GOODS.—A number of buyers from a distance have been in the city during the past week, who, anticipating a large business next winter, have left good orders. Travellers' orders are coming in and as they are large, numerous and for immediate delivery, it looks as if stocks in the hands of retailers in the country, were pretty well run down. Cotton factories have their hands full of orders and are hard pushed to fill them. Remittances are hardly so good as lately reported. Retail trade has been good during the past week, the city being full of summer visitors, American and Canadian, who seem to be buying more freely.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The market has shown a little more strength this week, but as business has been quiet we cannot report any change in our price list. We quote:—*Bicarb soda* \$3.25 to 3.50; *Soda Ash* \$1.65 to 1.75; *Bichromate of Potash*, 13½ to 15c; *Borax*, refined, 16 to 18c; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 29 to 30, ditto *ground* 31½ to 33c; *Caustic Soda*, \$2.60 to 2.75; *Sugar of Lead*, 13 to 15c.; *Bleaching Powder*, \$1.50 to 1.75; *Alum*, \$1.75 to 2.00; *Copperas*, per cwt., 90c. to \$1.00; *Flour Sulphur*, \$2.90 to 3.20; *Roll Sul-*

phur, \$2.25 to 2.50; *Epsom Salts*, per 100 lbs., \$1.30 to 1.50; *Sal Soda*, per 100 lbs., \$1.00 to 1.10; *Saltpetre*, per keg, \$9.50 to 10.00; *Sulphate of Copper*, 5½ to 7c.; *Whiting*, per 100 lbs., 50 to 60c; *Sulphate of Quinine*, \$3.25 to 3.50; *Opium* \$6.75 to 7.50, *Castor oil* 10½ per lb.

FREIGHTS.—The market has been quiet, and last week's quotations were hardly maintained. Engagements have been made for heavy grain by steamers and iron clippers to Liverpool, 2/3 to 2/6; to Glasgow and London, 3/- to 3/6. There is no change in rates for flour, provisions, or ashes.

FISH.—There is a good demand for New Dry Cod at \$4.25 to 4.50, but as the article is still scarce, these prices are very firm.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the past week, 17,277 brls.; total receipts from 1st January to date, 423,746 brls., showing an increase of 142,838 brls. on the receipts for the same period of last year. Shipments during the week, 26,455 brls.; total shipments from 1st January to date, 266,670 brls., showing an increase of 25,269 brls. on the shipments for the same period of last year. Fine grades have been scarce, which caused a firmer feeling in these flours; the demand for flour generally has been moderate but not active till within the past two or three days when there was an active market, and some pretty large transactions are reported. To-day the market was very quiet and only a small business was reported. We quote: *Superior Extra* \$6.00 to 0.00; *Extra Superfine*, \$5.90 to 5.95; *Fancy*, \$5.80, nominal; *Spring Extra*, \$5.90 to 5.95; *Superfine*, \$5.50 to 5.60; *Strong Bakers' Flour*, \$6.00 to 6.50; *Fine*, \$4.85 to 5.10; *Middlings*, \$4.60 to 4.75; *Pollards*, \$4.25 to 4.35; *Ontario Bags* \$2.85 to 2.95; city bags delivered, \$3.20 to 3.25; *Oatmeal* (Ontario) \$4.75 to 4.80; *Cornmeal* \$3.05 to 3.15.

GRAIN.—*Wheat.*—The high prices in the west keeps back business, and although there have been a few small sales within the range of our quotations, they can hardly be accepted as otherwise than nominal. Until the "Corner" is over in Chicago we need not look for much business to be done here in this grain. We quote No. 2 Canada spring \$1.30; No. 1 white Michigan \$1.27 afloat; No. 2 Toledo red was offered at \$1.30 without finding a buyer. *Maize* is steady at 58c. in bond, but not much doing. *Peas* are quiet and firm at 90½c.; *Oats* are asked for at 42½c.

GROCERIES.—*Teas.*—Business has been dull but there is a marked firmness in the market both here and in New York. We learn by cable dated 25th inst. that settlements to that date are 5000 peculs less than those of the same period of last year. Prices at that date were for second crop good medium 21 to 23c. and for medium 18 to 20c. Sales here of old good medium are reported at 33 to 36c.; New crop ranges from 45 to 50c. New importations cannot compete with Teas already arrived. *Coffee.*—There has been a little doing in Mocha at 26½ to 33c., but the article is still scarce; Old Govt. Java is asked for at 22½ to 29c.; Other kinds are dull and unchanged. *Sugar.*—There has not been much demand for refined sugars this week except for granulated which we now quote, 1½ to 10½c.; Grocers A., 9½ to 9½c.; Montreal yellows unchanged at 7½ to 9c. *Raw Sugars* have only been dealt in to a small extent at easier prices, say, 7½ to 8c.; *Molasses* market is steady holders being very firm in their views, sales of Barbadoes at 55 to 57c. nothing doing in other kinds which are scarce. *Syrup* is in moderate request at 3½ to 4c. per lb. *Rice* is scarce and a little firmer we now quote: \$3.70 to 4.00 according to quality and size of lot. *Spices* are in fair jobbing demand, price of black pepper is maintained at 14 to 15c; white pepper 20 to 23c. Cloves are unsettled and have ranged from 31 to 40c. during the week. *Cassia* steady at 13 to 16c; nutmegs are selling from 95c. down to 50c.; Jamaica ginger is firm at 17