

ced by members through the use of the Imperial standard in this country and the Winchester in Oswego. From the discussion it appeared that the chief trouble resulted from the testers used by the different inspectors. In a couple of cargoes shipped from Toronto to Oswego there was found a difference of two pounds to the bushel, being altogether too much, as the actual difference between the two measures is only one and a half pounds, the Imperial is the larger of the two. The following resolution was adopted:—"That in view of the difference which exists in the inspection of barley between Toronto and Oswego, this Association is of opinion that it would be in the best interests of its members to instruct their agents in Oswego not to allow their barley to be inspected in that port until some satisfactory understanding is arrived at between the two cities as to grading barley; and the Association also hopes that all dealers throughout the country will pursue the same course." Some dealers spoke in favor of a standard which should be tested entirely by sample. As the grain handled at Oswego is almost exclusively Canadian, it is to be hoped an amicable and satisfactory arrangement will be arrived at with dealers there.

OUR HARBOR TRADE.—At the monthly meeting of the Montreal Harbor Commissioners, held last week, Hon. John Young presided, and gave a historical retrospect of the expansion of the business of the harbor between 1830, when there were no wharves and only eleven feet depth of water, up to the present time, when the largest class of vessels can come in. He referred also to the figures of revenue which show that the business of the harbor, under very nearly the same schedule of dues, has more than doubled every ten years since 1830. When it is considered that the great St. Lawrence route from the upper lakes has so far only succeeded in attracting to its ocean ports from 12 to 15 per cent. of the business passing through the Erie Canal to New York and the Eastern States, and when it is also considered that we are only beginning to open up a Canadian territory to the North-west larger than the whole of the United States east of the Mississippi, there is every reason to believe that the business of the port will go on increasing. Everything has been going on satisfactorily on the works on Lake St. Peter and the river as well as in the harbor.

The number of sea-going vessels which arrived in the port of Montreal up to October 1st in the several years mentioned is as follows:—

1874.....	500, or 347,916 tons.
1875.....	504, or 309,147 tons.
1876.....	484, or 315,328 tons.

Number of inland vessels arrived:—

1874.....	5,090
1875.....	4,511
1876.....	4,441

The revenue of 1875 and 1876 up to date is \$177,933 and \$172,280. There is a deficiency for last month, as compared with the same period last year, of \$9,793. The deficiency for September compared with the same time last year is \$1,563. The Commissioners, however, express themselves sanguine that this deficiency would be made up before the close of the season; at any rate it is not extraordinary considering the business character of the present season.

The following is the statement of revenue and expenditure on account of the Consolidated Fund of the Dominion of Canada for the month ended 30th Sept., 1876, omitting cents:—

REVENUE.	
Customs.....	\$1,187,371
Excise.....	398,657
Post Office.....	73,740
Public Works, including Railways...	122,447
Bill Stamps.....	18,996
Miscellaneous.....	46,721
	\$1,847,935

Revenue to 31st August, 1876..... \$3,128,131

Total..... \$4,976,066

EXPENDITURE.	
Expenditure.....	\$1,013,584
Expenditure to 31st August, 1876.....	\$3,827,392

Total..... \$4,840,976

THE SMITH ORGAN CO.—We learn that the Smith Organ Co., of Brome, Que., is in a flourishing condition, despite the general business depression, and in this respect they only receive their deserts as they manufacture a fine class of instruments, which we do not hesitate to say, are equal to the product of the celebrated factories of Mason & Hamlin or Estys. Mr. Joseph Gould, who is unexcelled as a connoisseur in musical merchandise, has lately accepted the general agency for the Company in this city. We are glad to note the progress of any of our home manufactures, and we wish we could chronicle the success of more of them.

THE MUTUALS.—The Stanstead and Sherbrooke Mutual Insurance Co., of Sherbrooke, held their Annual Meeting last Wednesday, and the Report shews their losses largely in excess of those of former years. After a spirited discussion pro and con as to the rate of assessment to be levied on premium notes, it was decided to lay a direct assessment of 7 per cent. and a special assessment of 3 per cent., in all 10 per cent., on the notes. This is about double the rate which the company have levied for several years past. It is plainly evident from the report that the company have been carrying their risks for less than actual cost for the purpose of conducting a successful competition with Stock companies for the Eastern Townships business. This is grossly wrong, and can only be practised with one result—loss to the company. We trust the Company now see the necessity of pursuing a wiser and more conservative course in conducting their business and will advance their rates sufficiently to place and keep the company on a sound footing.

ENTERPRISE.—A gentleman just returned from a visit to the "Centennial," informs us that he entered Rowell's advertising Pavilion, where all the papers of the world are supposed to be kept on file for the use of visitors. He thinks it a poor tribute to the enterprise and foresight of Montreal newspaper men, when, in answer to a request for papers of this city, the only complete file produced was of the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE; while one copy of an evening sheet was produced—and it was a month past date!

—The business done by the Canadian and English insurance companies in the United States during the first half of this year does not appear to be as satisfactory as was expected, if we may judge of their experience

in the State of New York. In comparison with the first half of last year, the only companies which show an increase in premium receipts on the underwriting in that State are the Royal, the British American and the Royal Canadian. The premium receipts, taking a return made for assessment purposes in accordance with an Act of the Legislature, were as follows for the first six months in each year:—

	1875.	1876.	Decrease
N. British & Merc.....	31,395	27,293	3,102
Liv., Lond., & Globe.....	165,800	118,833	48,928
Guardian.....	26,246	21,879	4,367
Royal.....	43,901	45,499	increase
Queen.....	46,851	42,278	4,573
Imperial.....	26,052	14,141	11,911
Northern.....	no ret'n	15,360
Commercial Union.....	89,398	34,429	4,864
Lancashire.....	31,310	22,666	8,644
London Assurance.....	25,693	22,106	3,487
Scottish Commercial.....	19,678	16,698	2,580
Western of Toronto.....	14,311	11,806	2,505
British Am., Toronto.....	15,340	18,896	increase
Royal Canadian.....	12,845	21,667	increase

LATEST TORONTO MARKETS.

In Boots and Shoes business continues to be of a cheering nature, and manufacturers are well engaged on sorting up orders. The Bacon market remains steady at late prices, and Butter remains in much the same condition as last week. Most of what the Cheese factories held has apparently been sold, and the market is somewhat improved. The receipts of Eggs are scarcely sufficient for the wants of the City, and prices have advanced. The Fish and Fruit market is pretty active, and Flour has ruled fairly steady all week; sales are limited as stocks are small. Wheat, Barley and Oats have decreased the last few days. The activity noted in Hardware for the past two or three weeks is well sustained. The supply of Hides is increasing, and sheepskins have advanced another 5c. Hops are steady; transactions confined to a few bales. In Leather, trade is fair and prices well sustained. Dry Crushed Sugar sells at 10c. to 10½c.; Spices are steady and unchanged at 24c. to 25c. Tea, Coffee and Drugs remain unchanged.

FIRE RECORD.

Orillia, Oct. 7.—The saw-mills of Joseph Budd were totally destroyed by fire, together with a boarding house for the men, and 400,000 feet of lumber. The fire is, no doubt, the work of an incendiary. Mr. Budd's loss is about \$9,000. No insurance.

Montreal, Oct. 8.—A fire broke out about 9 o'clock in the hay loft of Mr. George Cooke, 221 Canning street. Five horses were burned to death, and one badly injured. It is not as yet ascertained whether the premises are insured.

Quebec, Oct. 10.—Two brick and five wooden buildings and some wooden outhouses were burnt down at Levis. The value of the property is about \$20,000; the insurances are: Royal of England, \$2,100; North British and Mercantile, \$2,300; Western, \$900; Stadacona, \$200 and Quebec, \$200.

Halifax, Oct. 10.—Two barns, a large quantity of farm produce, horse and farming utensils, property of George Ourry of Newport. No insurance.

Maxwell, Ont., Oct. 10.—Barn and stable of John Kerton, jun., containing 700 bushels of grain and 3 horses. No insurance.

Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 11.—Barge owned by W. H. Easton. Loss \$1,500.

Arnprior, Ont., Oct. 11.—Unoccupied house belonging to Mr. W. C. Middleton. This is the fourth attempt that has been made to burn this house. Insurance on the building \$1,200.