

MARITIME MARINE ITEMS.

A handsome new Nova Scotia barque loaded with copper ore from Betts Cove, Newfoundland, has been lost near St. Johns, Nfld; value of ship and cargo \$60,000. The captain of the 'Alice Myrick,' arrested for casting away his vessel and thereby attempting to defraud the Ocean Marine Insurance Co. of Halifax has been acquitted. The ship "Proteus", timber laden from St. John, struck rocks off the Nova Scotia coast and now lies water-logged in Halifax harbour. The steamer Ontario, the second Dominion liner visiting Halifax discharged a heavy cargo there last Friday. A fine ship of 1000 tons was launched at Horton on 2nd instant. Another large ship is being built in the same yard and by the same builder J. B. North. The ice boat Northern Light has broken down through some defect in her condensing apparatus. Only one hour was lost by the "Peruvian" entering and leaving Halifax harbour in taking the first through mail for Britain from that port. St. John harbour held last Saturday 4 ships, 6 barques, 3 brigs, 5 brigantines with a total tonnage of 13,164 tons. There were 40 schooners in addition. Lower Province ship owners rejoice in the bettering of freights as grain charters are offering at 6/9 which is a paying figure.

ERIE.—This railway company, on the 15th inst., for the first time in a number of years, commenced paying the employees promptly for the previous month. The company is now squarely up with the employees. The paymaster of the Eastern division disbursed \$424,000 to employees between October 30th and November 11th.—*R. R. World.*

—A writ of attachment has been issued by James & Henry Tandy against the Canada Lead Mining and Smelting Co of Lyndhurst Ont. This company has been operating at intervals for some time they had, it is said a capital of £35,000 stg. a good portion of which has been invested in steam pumps, smelting works, dwellings &c. but they appear never to have worked to much advantage. The directors and shareholders are mainly English capitalists.

—In the lower house of the Vermont Legislature on the 25th ult. the bill to incorporate the second mortgage bondholders of the Vermont Central Railroad, was reported adversely and refused a third reading. The bill to allow the Vermont and Canada Railroad Company to purchase the Vermont Central Railway was also refused a third reading.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

MONTREAL, Dec. 12, 1876.

The movements in all branches of the wholesale trade during the week have been small, indeed much more so than was at one time looked for, and until we have winter roads very little activity need be looked for. The long continued open weather has prevented country merchants reducing their stocks, now that the cold weather has set in, there will be more doing. Although there is so little business transacting at present, prices in almost every branch of trade are firm with strong inclination to advance, and from all appearance, on the opening of trade after the holidays we may expect an advance all round on our present quotations.

Winter has come on us in earnest now. On Saturday a light snow commenced to fall accompanied with high wind, which increased to a perfect hurricane at night; there was not sufficient snow to cover the ground and what did fall was all drifted off the roads. During Saturday night the Thermometer fell to 12° below

zero and yesterday to 25° below. To-day it is much milder and snow fell to the depth of about 4 inches which however has drifted too much to make good sleighing.

ASHES.—*Pots*—Ashes are arriving pretty freely by rail which find buyers at rather better prices than these prevailing during the previous week firsts have been selling at \$4.25. 4.30 market closing steady at these quotations, nothing in second or thirds. *Pearls*.—Receipts continue very light and sales are few, during the week only firsts changing hands at our late quotations of \$5.00 to 5.10, at the close of market \$5.50 was paid for some tares. The stocks at present in store are Pots 2712 brls; Pearls 727 brls.

Boots and Shoes.—Wholesale houses are still busily engaged in stock taking. Business is very quiet and when the spring trade opens there is no doubt the prices will be considerably advanced, meantime there is no change in quotations.

CATTLE.—The market yesterday was well supplied, and extra cattle brought rather higher prices than on the previous Monday. The range of prices was from \$3. to 5.50 per 100 lbs. Hogs not very plentiful, sales were made at \$5.50 per 100 lbs live weight a car load of Dressed Hogs were placed at \$6.90 to 7.00 per 100, the closing quotation to day being \$6.75 to 1.00.

DRY GOODS.—The want of winter roads tells against this business, sorting up orders coming in are few, the stocks held by country dealers have not been much reduced owing to the mildness of the season. Stocks held here are fair but not heavier than the prospective demand warrants. Remittances are on the whole satisfactory. The retail trade of the city has been very quiet but as the holiday season advances more activity is looked for.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—We have nothing of consequence to note in this branch of the wholesale trade, transactions have been very small, and quotations are without change since our last. *Bi Carb* is firm and held at our quotations. The market closes dull at the quotations of last week. We quote: *Bi Carb* \$3.75 to 4.00; *Sal Soda* firm at \$1.37½ to 1.50; *Caustic Soda* \$3.25 to 3.50; *Soda Ash* 2 to 2½; *Copperas* 1½; *Alum* 2 to 2½; *Epsom Salts* 2c; *Salt-petre* \$8.00 to 8.50; *Brimstone* \$2.75 *Sulphur* \$3.50; *Bleaching Powder* 2 to 2½; *Blue Vitriol* firm at 6½ to 7½; *Cream Tartar* ground 30c; *Cream Tartar Crystals* 26c; *Borax* 14 to 16c; *Madder* 9 to 12c.

RAW FURS.—Furs are not coming in very freely, no large lots have as yet been offered. The want of winter roads may to some extent account for this, but the general opinion is that trappers are holding back their stocks in expectation of an advance in prices, in which from all appearance they will be disappointed. The local demand has not been so heavy as usual. Quotations are nominally unchanged. We quote *Beaver* \$1.75 to 2.00. *Bear* large \$8.00 to 10.00; ditto small \$4.00 to 7.00; *Fisher* \$6.00 to 8.00; *Silver Fox* \$25.00 to 60.00; *Cross Fox* \$2.00 to 5.00 *Red Fox* \$1.25 to 1.50; *Lynx* \$1.50 to 1.75; *Martin* dark Lab \$7.00 to 8.00; ditto pale \$1.25 to 1.50; *Mink* dark prime \$2.00 to 2.50; ditto dark 2nd \$1.00 to 1.50; *Otter* find dark \$6.00 to 8.00; *Fall Muskrat* 12 to 15c; *Raccoon* 25 to 60c; *Skunk* 20 to 40c.

FREIGHTS.—The rates of freight for grain flour and ashes from Montreal via Portland to Liverpool are without change since this day week.

FISH.—There has hardly been any demand this week for fish, and last weeks quotations continue to rule, little activity is looked for till the Lenten demand begins. We quote *Dry Cod* \$5.00 to 5.25; *Green Cod* \$5.00 to 7.00; *Labrador Herrings* \$6.00 to 6.50; *Salmon* \$12, \$11, & \$10 for Nos. 1, 2, & 3 respectively.

FLOUR.—Receipts by railway during the past week 8,829 brls.; total receipts from 1st January to date 838,632 brls. being a decrease of 109,817 brls. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1875. Since the close of the market this day week, flour has been dull and inactive, the demand being confined to small lots to local dealers; holders are very strong in their views, and to-day although no change in prices was reported, not a single transaction in flour took place on the Corn Exchange. We quote: *Superior Extra*, \$6.25 to 6.35; *Extra*, \$5.95 to 6.05; *Fancy* \$5.70 to 5.75; *Spring Extra* \$5.35 to 5.40; *Superfine*, \$5.00 to 5.10; *Strong Bakers' Flour*, \$5.50 to 5.65; *Fine*, \$4.50 to 4.55; *Middlings*, \$3.75 to 4.00; *Pollards*, \$3.25 to 3.50; *Oatmeal*, \$5.20 to 5.50; *Cornmeal*, \$2.75 to 3.00.

GRAIN.—*Wheat*.—Receipts during the past week by rail were 2,400 bush.; total receipts from 1st January to date 6,386,130 bush. being a decrease of 2,213,308 bush. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1875. Nothing doing in this grain and prices are entirely nominal. *Maize* since last week is unchanged at 57 to 58c. *Peas* no sales transpiring since our last at 85c; *Oats* last reported sale was at 37 to 40c; *Barley* nominal at 60 to 65c.

GROCERIES.—*Tea*.—There is no wholesale demand at present for Japans, some jobbing transactions of the inferior grades have taken place at easier prices, but the finer grades maintain their values. Cheap Greens are occasionally asked for, but there is nothing doing in Black Teas. We quote Japans 25 to 60c according to grade; Young Hyson 27½ to 66c.

Coffee.—Although transactions have been limited there is a stronger feeling in the market, with rather more enquiry; we quote Java 28 to 32c, at which it is held; some inferior samples of this kind have been selling from 3 to 6c under our quotations; Maracaibo 20 to 22c; Rio is firm at 22 to 24c; Jamaica 21½ to 22½. *Sugar*.—The weakness in the market noticed last week has continued. The demand, however, has been restricted to small lots to the trade for the supply of immediate wants, and have generally been at our closing quotations of last week; round lots could be bought for less; Scotch refined 9½ to 10½; Dry crushed 11½; American granulated 11 to 11½; Raw sugars are firm and scarce, holders ask from 10½ to 11½. *Rice* has been in improved demand and sales are readily made from \$3.85 to 4.00. *Molasses*.—Very little doing in this article, but as stocks are light prices are well sustained. Barbadoes 49 to 52½; Sugar House 28 to 32c; *Spices*.—There have been moderate jobbing transactions, prices generally ruling firm, black pepper is held at 11 to 11½; white pepper 20 to 20½; cloves 45 to 48c; Cassia 15 to 17c; nutmegs 60 to 90c; Jamiata ginger 20 to 23; pimento 10 to 11c; mace 75 to 90c. *Fruit*.—Up to this part of the season the sales have been unusually light, but little change is reported on the prices ruling last week. Layer raisins \$1.55 to 1.70 according to lot; valencias 7 to 8c; seedless raisins 6½ to 7½; sultanias 10 to 10½; currants have met with a better demand at 6c; figs 10½ to 12½; prunes are in large supply holders are pressing sales 5½ to 6½; Almonds are quiet and unchanged; Filberts 8½; walnuts 6 to 12c.

HIDES AND PELTS.—There is a heavy demand by local dealers; the market is very firm and holders are now asking and obtaining an advance of 50c. We now quote No. 1 hides \$7.00; No. 2 ditto \$6.00; No. 3 ditto \$5.00. *Sheepskins* \$1.00.

HARDWARE.—There are very few orders coming in; but prices in sympathy with the English market are firm. Pig iron is scarce and other goods though in fair supply are held at last quotations. We do not make any change on our price list this week. The wholesale trade are still a busy stock taking.