

tion the usual rights and legal status. The year that has closed is memorable for being the first of our mortuary scheme—a fund which has increased greatly the value of membership by providing, in addition to other advantages, a certain sum of money at death for the families or designees of deceased members. Although the association has been in existence for five years, yet by the yearly increase of members the aggregate claims on the fund does not exceed an average rate of two and one-half years.

On the representation of your directors the rates on the Eastern Extension railway were reduced to the scale charged on the I. C. railway, and baggage of our members, which heretofore had to be re-checked at New Glasgow, can now be checked from Halifax or Truro to any station on the line direct. Your directors also obtained from the owners of the steamer City of St. John a concession of 25 per cent. from tariff rates in favor of our members. The report of the committee on hotels shows that the association has been of great benefit to the members in improving accommodation throughout the Maritime Provinces. The proprietors of hotels must now find their own interests best promoted by affording the traveling, and especially the commercial public, the greatest possible comforts and conveniences. May we hope to see our hotels become in time all that a poet of the last century said and sung of them, and that wherever our stages and railways may take us may we still find

"Our warmest welcome at an inn."

Two small claims, amounting to only \$40, for accident indemnity, have been made during the year. It is with sincere regret that your directors record the loss of two members by death, viz., John A. Stevens and Donald G. Keith. This is the first inroad made in our ranks. The following officers retire from the directorate, but are eligible for re-election:—Adam Burns, president; Wm. J. Stewart, Thomas C. Allan, J. Walter Allison, James W. Fraser, W. S. Fisher, Charles Masters, Arthur Everett and George McAvity, vice-presidents; Frank C. Simson, James Wallace and John A. Stevens (deceased)."

The statement of the Secretary for the year 1886 showed that \$1,530 had been received for certificates, at \$10 each, and two duplicates at \$2 each, the total receipts being \$2,556.15. Of the expenditure, \$555 was for insurance premiums and \$25 for accident indemnity, \$275 for salaries of secretaries, \$147 for printing, advertising and stationery. It was decided to hold the annual dinner at the Queen's hotel, Halifax, on the 30th inst. The officers elected for the ensuing year were:—

President—William M. Doull, of Doull & Miller, Halifax.

Vice-Presidents—For Nova Scotia: Wm. J. Stewart, Thomas C. Allen, James Fraser and J. Walter Allison. For New Brunswick: W. S. Fisher, Charles Masters, Arthur Everett, George McAvity.

Directors—John Redford, F. C. Simson, Edward Stairs, James Wallace, James R. Cragg and G. A. Woodill.

Treasurer—Wm. Robertson.

Auditors—F. J. Cragg and Thomas Brown. A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Adam Burns, the retiring president, to whom the association is much indebted for his able and thoughtful management during the past three years.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Petrolia, Dec. 6th.—The engine and boiler house of Woodward & Isbister, totally destroyed, loss \$1,000; partially insured. —St. Thomas, 10th.—A frame house owned by A. Hamilton, partly destroyed, loss \$300; no insurance. —Belleville, 10th.—O. B. Spencer's barn in Huntingdon burned, loss heavy; partially insured. —St. Catharines, 11th.—Bishoprics' soap works consumed. —Colborne, 12th.—The Colborne cheese factory destroyed; insured in Com'l Union, \$1,500. —Belleville, 13th.—The Willard house owned by Samuel Kyle and occupied by Mr. Taylor, burned; Kyle insured \$3,700; Taylor losses \$2,500; insurance \$1,500. —St. Thomas, 13th.—T. Nichol's barn and contents burned, loss \$1,200; insured in Mercantile, \$800. —Thornbury, 13th.—The Delphi hotel destroyed; partly insured.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Bergerville, Que., Dec. 9th.—The residences of Charles Early and D. Flanning destroyed; partly insured. —Mont-

real, 10th.—Leonard's fur store damaged \$5,000; insured \$2,000 in Citizens. Madame Brazier's millinery store adjoining, badly damaged; no insurance. —St. Andrew's, Q., 10th.—The barn, stables, etc., belonging to Duncan Macmartin, and occupied by A. Lapointe, destroyed, loss \$1,200; no insurance. —Portage la Prairie, Man., 12th.—Doidge's block gutted, about a dozen stores and offices destroyed, loss about \$25,000. —Pugwash, N.S.—The post office and buildings owned by Levi Borden, the Central house, and a building belonging to A. Wilson, destroyed; Borden fully insured; Wilson insured \$1,400. —Tignish, N.S.—S. P. Perry's dwelling house, warehouse and stable destroyed, loss about \$8,000; no insurance.

—A Chicago pork-packer, who had once run for Congress, was at the Ebbitt the other day, and a friend met him. "You are out of politics, I believe?" he said, interrogatively. "Yes, I've gone back to my legitimate business." "What's that for?" "Well, I tried both, and I find it so much more to my taste to canvas a ham than to canvas a district that I went back to ham."

—Messrs. Carrier, Laine & Co., of Quebec, deny the rumor that their Point Levis establishment has been sold to the Federal Government.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, December 15th, 1886.

ASHES.—Receipts are still light, and prices are as last reported, No. pots selling at \$4 to \$4.10, some few sales of seconds have been made at \$3.50 to \$3.55. Two or three small lots of pearls have been received lately, but we do not hear of any transactions, and it is hard to name a price; probably \$7.00 would be as close a nominal figure as could be made. Shipments since close of navigation have been only thirty brls.

DRY GOODS.—Reports from most quarters in the country show that a very fair amount of trading is in progress, and that fall stocks are moving off in a satisfactory manner. In the city wholesale trade is on the whole quiet, though some travellers are still out, and deliveries of spring domestic goods are already being made in some cases. The majority of buyers are back from Europe, and the preparation of spring samples will now be *en regle* for the road. Values in all lines, particularly woollens are reported as being very firmly held on the other side, with no signs of any give. In domestic goods the same remarks hold good, and an advance in checked shirtings of one quarter cent a yard has to be reported. Remittances are slightly improved.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business continues fair for the season, and orders though generally small are still coming in pretty freely. Values show no material change, but most lines in which we have noted an advance of late are firmly held. Peppermint has also taken a step forward. We quote:—Sal Soda, 90 to \$1.00 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 to \$10.00; Borax, refined, 9 to 10c.; Cream Tartar crystals, 31 to 33c.; do. ground, 35 to 36c.; Tartaric Acid crystals, 58 to 63c.; do. powder, 60 to 65c.; Citric Acid, 75 to 80; Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11c.; Bleaching Powder, \$2.50 to \$2.75, according to lot; Alum, \$1.60 to \$1.75; Copperas, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; Flowers Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.50 to \$3; Roll Sulphur, \$2.00 to \$2.25; Sulphate of Copper, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Epsom Salts, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre, \$9.00 to \$9.50; American Quinine, 70 to 75c.; Howard's quinine, 85 to 90c.; Opium, \$3.25 to \$3.75; Morphia, \$1.50 to \$1.70; Gum Arabic sorts, 70 to 80c.; White \$1 to \$1.25; Carbolio acid, 45 to 60c.; Iodide Potassium, \$3.50 to \$4.00 per lb.; Iodine, \$5.00 to \$5.50; Iodoform, \$6.00 to \$7.00. Prices for essential oils are: Oil Lemon \$2.50 to \$3.00; oil bergamot \$3.25 to \$3.75; Orange, \$3.50.

FISH.—Salt fish does not enter very largely into holiday bills of fare, and matters in this line are quiet and likely to remain so for several weeks; the principal demand

is for green cod at quotations. We quote:—Genuine Labrador herrings \$5.50 to \$5.75; inferior brands so-called Labradors \$5 to \$5.50; Cape Breton \$5.25 to \$5.50; dry cod \$3.00; green ditto, \$4.00 to \$4.25 for No. 1; No. 2 \$3.00 to \$3.25; mackerel scarce at \$6.50; North Shore salmon No. 1 \$15.00 to \$16.00; British Columbia do. \$14.00; lake trout \$3.75.

FURS.—Receipts of bear, otter, beaver, skunk and muskrat, have been fairly liberal of late; some lots of fox have also come to hand and will continue to come in from this out more freely. European advices note a falling off in the price of beaver and otter, and as local wants will soon be filled, country dealers should avail themselves of the present prices immediately. We quote:—Beaver \$3.50 to \$4.00; bear \$12 to \$15; cub do. \$5 to \$6; fisher \$5 to \$6; fox, red, \$1 to \$1.10; fox cross, \$2.00; lynx, \$3 to \$4; marten 90c. to \$1.00; mink, \$1 to \$1.25; muskrat, 10 to 12c.; raccoon 40 to 60c.; skunk 40 to 80c. as to quality; otter, \$8 to \$11.

GROCERIES.—Business while not active shows a rather better movement than usual for the season, and a fair amount of orders is being received, though none of them large. Payments are fair. Sugars may be called a shade firmer, the effort made by one refinery to advance granulated has not, however, met with much success, though yellows are higher an eighth, 4½c., being lowest figure for these; granulated 6c. in lots at refinery. Syrups firm at advance and hard to get; molasses occupies a strong position, and principal holder asks 35c. for Barbadoes. Teas rule higher again in New York for all grades, the local market, has not moved, but under freer enquiry after the turn of the year prices here will likely advance. Dried fruits about as before. At a trade auction of old and damaged Valencias held the other day, prices ranged from seven and a half cents a box for some '84 fruit to 4½ to 5c. for damaged '86 fruit; the lowest price for ordinary fruit in wholesale lots is 5½c.; Malaga fruit same; Elemes not moving; currants 5½ to 7c. in a jobbing way as to quality; evaporated apples have made a decided advance, and ten cents is now asked for them at the factory. Stocks of all lines of canned vegetables are very small; mackerel is difficult to get, and several packers are to be sued for short deliveries. Tobacco, rice and spices unchanged.

LEATHER AND SHOES.—Boot and shoe orders are coming in pretty well, but there will not be any great amount of manufacturing until after the holidays, and leather matters are quiet. Prices however rule steady, and stocks are not excessive in any line. A large purchase of American sole is reported as having been made for this market. We quote:—Spanish sole B. A. No. 1, 24 to 26c.; do. No. 2, B. A., 20 to 23c.; No. 1 Ordinary Spanish, 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; 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, 25 to 27c.; oak sole, 40 to 48c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 38c.; ditto, heavy, 32 to 36c.; Grained, 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained, 36 to 40c.; Splits large, 22 to 28c.; ditto, small, 16 to 24c.; Calf-splits, 28 to 32c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46 lbs.), 70 to 80c.; Imitation French (alf, skins 80 to 85; Russet Sheepskin Linings, 80 to 40c.; Harness, 24 to 33c.; Buffed Cow, 13 to 16c.; Pebbled Cow, 11 to 15c.; Rough 23 to 28c.; Russet and Bridle, 54 to 55c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Business is pretty much confined to small sorting orders in these lines, and is not likely to show any increased movement till after the holidays. The feature of the moment is the sharp advance in Scotch warrants, which have steadily advanced from day to day till now they are cabled at 43/2d; makers' prices are also cabled as sixpence higher for Summerlee, 1/6d. higher for Coltness; a shilling for Gartsherrie and Eglinton; Langloan ninepence; Carnbroe sixpence. Local prices not altered, but firm. Tin plate market firm at home, and tin and copper slightly advanced. We quote:—Summerlee, \$18.00; Gartsherrie, \$17.50 to \$18.00; Langloan and Coltness, \$18.00; Shott, \$17.50 to \$18.00; Eglinton and Dalmellington, \$16 to \$16.50; Calder, \$17 to \$17.50; Carnbroe, \$16.50 to \$17.00; Hematite, \$20; Siemens, No. 1, \$18.00; Bar Iron, \$1.60 to \$1.65; Best Refined, \$1.85; Siemens Bar, \$2.10; Canada Plates, Blaina, \$2.35 to \$2.40; Penn and Pontpool, \$2.50. Tin Plates,