

—The New York State Superintendent of Insurance, Mr. John F. Smyth, who was arraigned before the Senate of that state for misdemeanors connected with his office, was by that body exonerated from the charges made against him by some of the Life Insurance Companies, of charging them exorbitant and unlawful fees. Mr. Smyth in his defence, while admitting that he had broken the letter of the law, denied that the charges were excessive, claimed that his investigations into the affairs of the companies were necessary, while no proper legal provision had been made for meeting the needful expenses. Much needless and partizan bitterness has been displayed in the discussion of this matter by the press. Mr. Smyth has been denounced by some insurance papers, as vehemently as he was defended by others. It is now considered that "investigations" of companies are over with for some time to come, and that the investigator will be less expensive in his future efforts in that line.

—Mr. Edward Stark having resigned his position as Actuary and Interim Manager of the Citizens Insurance Company, to accept a position in New York, Mr. G. Hart, late of the Northern Assurance Company, was appointed Manager, at a meeting held on Wednesday last.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, April 23rd, 1878.

Navigation is open, but we have only had one arrival from sea viz., the "Venezia" from Halifax. Several vessels have been reported in the Gulf, and we expect more arrivals soon. The Quebec steamers have begun their regular trips. The weather has been spring like, which has benefitted all branches of wholesale trade; the activity which we noticed last week has continued, still business is not as active as is usual at this season. Breadstuffs market rather unsteady, but holders of flour, in view of the expected shipping demand, are inclined to be firm. Leather market weak. Groceries in moderate demand. Hardware steadily, improving at unchanged prices.

ASHES.—Pots.—The market shows a hardening tendency with a fair demand, an advance on the quotations of this day week has been established. Firsts selling at \$3.92½ to \$4.02½. Nothing doing in inferior sorts. *Pearls*, none coming in, and only a few barrels of firsts changed hands at about quotations \$5.75 to \$6.00; which are now nominal. Stocks in store are 3135 bbls; Pearl 403 bbls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Business has been quiet and confined to sorting up orders. Prices are without material change. Men's stoga boots \$1.75 to \$2.50; ditto kip boots \$2.50 to \$2.75; ditto French calf, \$3.25 to \$4.00; ditto buff congress, \$1.60 to \$2.20. Boys split brogans 95c; to \$1.00; ditto buff and pebbled congress, \$1.20 to \$1.60; women's buff and pebbled congress, \$1.20 to \$1.60; ditto Prunella ditto 60c to \$1.75; ditto congress 60c to \$1.50; Misses buff and pebble bals 75c to \$1.20; childrens buff and pebble bals 65c to \$1.00.

CATTLE.—Yesterday being Easter Monday,

there was very little doing in the cattle market; most of the butchers having bought sufficient last week for present requirements. Sales ranged from 4 to 5½c; the outside price for very fine animals. It was a subject of remark that the show of Easter beef in the retail markets was much inferior to previous years, the reason assigned is that all the choice cattle are bought up for shipment to the English market.

DRY GOODS.—Without much activity there has been a slightly improved demand for all classes of summer goods, chiefly for sorting up purposes, which will most likely increase with the mild weather with which we are now favoured. Remittances are rather slow of coming forward, but an improvement in this direction is looked for now that the holidays are over.

RAW FURS.—Skins are beginning to come in more freely, holders are realizing that since the result of the London sales is known and prices have been established there is no use in longer holding back their goods. Business quiet. A few changes in quotations this week in favour of sellers. We quote: *Beaver*, per lb., \$1.00 to 1.30; spring ditto \$1.50; *Otter*, \$4.00 to 5.00; *Fisher*, \$4.00 to 6.00; *Mink*, dark prime, \$1.25 to 1.50; ditto pale, 75; *Martin*, 75c Large black *Bear*, \$6 to 8; Small ditto, \$3.00; *Red Fox*, \$1.10; *Cross Fox*, \$1.50 to 2.50; *Silver Fox*, \$2.00; Spring *Muskrat*, 15c; *Lynx*, \$1.50 *Skunk*, dark prime, 30 to 60c; *Raccoon*, 30 to 60c.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the past week 15,109 bbls. Total receipts from 1st January to date 151,605 bbls, being an increase of 14,236 bbls, on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1877. Shipments during the week 15,418 bbls; Total shipments from 1st January to date 50,631 bbls, being an increase of 7250 bbls, on the shipment for the corresponding period of 1877. This having been Easter week there has been comparatively very little demand for flour, and transactions have been for small lots for local consumption. There has been little variation in prices; holders, in view of the shipping demand show more firmness. We quote: *Superior extra*, \$6.10 to 6.20; *Extra*, \$5.75 to \$5.80; *Fancy*, \$5.35 to 5.45; *Strong bakers flour*, \$5.30 to \$5.50; *Spring extra*, \$5.15 to \$5.20; *Super*, \$4.60 to 4.70; *Fine*, \$4.15 to 4.25; *Pollards*, \$3.15 to 3.40; *Middlings*, \$3.75 to 3.80; *Oatmeal* \$4.35 to 4.45.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—Receipts during the past week 1,700 bushels. Total receipts from 1st January to date 7,918 bushels, being an increase of 5,618 bushels, on the receipt, for the corresponding period of 1877. We hear of nothing doing in this grain, and prices are nominal. **Corn.**—Small sales at 55 to 60c. **Peas.**—For May delivery are offered 88 to 90c. **Oats.**—There have been some sales at 34 to 35c for delivery in May and June. *Harley* is nominal at 55 to 65c. *Timothy seed.*—1.75 to \$1.80. **Clover.**—7½ to 7¾c per lb.

GROCERIES.—Teas.—The market for Japans is not active but sales are always transpiring of low grades at from 23 to 30c; fine to choice 34 to 50c; choice greens meet with a limited demand at 22 to 50c; according to quality. Blacks are neglected. **Coffee.**—The market is moderately firm but quiet at quotations. Java 26½ to 29c; Maracaibo, 21 to 22½c; Singapore and Ceylon, 23½ to 26c; Mocha, 32 to 34c; **Sugar.**—The market has been rather unsteady this week but as stocks are low; no decided reduction in prices can be reported, still they have if anything been in favour of buyers. We quote yellows c. from 7½ to 9c; Granulated, 9½ to 10c; Dry crushed, 10½ to 10¾c. Nothing doing in raw sugars. **Molasses.**—Not much demand at present, market steady, Barbadoes, 42 to 45c; Trinidad, 38 to 40c. **Syrups** are unchanged. **Rice** is in moderate demand and firm at \$4.40 to \$4.60; sales reported within our range of quotations. **Spices.**—Market steady with moderate demand for small quantities within our range of quotations.

ions. Black pepper, 9½ to 10c; White pepper, 19 to 22c; Cassia, 15 to 19c; Cloves, 40 to 45; Mace 75 to 80c; Nutmegs, 65c to \$1.00 according to quality; Pimento, firm at 12 to 13c; Jamaica ginger, 18 to 21c. **Fruit.**—The fruit market is without particular change, Valencia Raisins are scarce, both here and in New York and full prices are obtained, say from 5½ to 5¾c; Layers \$1.50 to \$1.60; Sultanas, 6½ to 8½c; Currants 5 to 7c; firm. Figs 12 to 14c; Targona almonds 14 to 15c; Filberts 7½ to 9c; Walnuts 7 to 11c.

SALT.—There is not much doing, holders of coarse are asking a little more this week say from 65 to 65c; and for factory filled \$1.00 to \$1.10.

HIDES and PELTS.—The market was rather better supplied with green hides this week, but, there has been no change in quotations, buyers showed less disposition to buy, and prices remain the same as last week. No 1 hides \$7.00 No 2 ditto \$6.00 No. 3 ditto \$5.00. Lambskins 10 to 20c; calfskins, 8 to 10c.

HARDWARE.—Business is tolerably active in some lines, and a good many moderately sized orders are being taken in the country, but until navigation fairly opens very little increase in business need be looked for. Few orders for pig iron have been taken, and quotations this week are without change. We quote *Pig Iron.*—Per ton, Gartsherrie, \$19.50 to 20.00; Summerlee \$19.00 to 19.25; Langloan; \$19.00 to 20.00; Eglington, \$18.00 to 18.50; Clyde, \$17.50 and 18.00; Hematite, \$26.00 to 27.00. **Bars.**—Per 100 lbs., Scotch and Staffordshire, \$1.80 to 1.90; Best, ditto, \$2.00 to 2.50; Swedes and Norway, \$4.50 to 5.00; Lowmoor and Bowling, \$6.00 to 6.25. **Canada Plates.**—Per box, Glamorgan and Budd, \$3.40 to 3.60; Arrow, Penn and Garth, \$3.40 to 3.50; Hatton, \$3.20 to \$3.30, no demand for Canada plates: **Tin Plates.**—Per box, Charcoal, 1c; Bradley, \$6.50; to 6.75; ditto, other brands, \$5.75 to 6.00; Charcoal IX, \$7.75 to 8.00; Charcoal DC, \$4.75 to 5.00; Coke, 1c, \$5.00 to 5.25; **Tinned sheets.** No. 26, Charcoal, Cookley K, or Bradley, 11 to 11½c per lb.; ditto, Coke, 9½ to 10c; Galvanized sheets, 7½ to 8c. **Hoops and Bands** Per 100 lbs, \$2.40 to 2.50. **Sheets.**—Best brands, \$2.50 to 3.50. **Boiler Plates.**—\$2.50 to 3.00; **Russian Sheet Iron**, 9 to 10c; **Out nails.**—Per 100 lbs., 12 dy to 7 in., \$3.00; ditto, 5 dy to 10 dy, \$3.30; Shingle nails, \$3.80; Lath nails, \$4.60, **Lead**, Pig, per 100 \$5.00 to 5.25; **Sheet**, \$5.25 to 5.50; Bar, \$6.50 to 7.00; Shot \$6.25 to 6.75; **Steel**, cast, per lb., 12 to 15c; Spring, per 100 lbs., \$3.50 to 4.00; Tire per 100 lbs. \$3.00 to 3.50; **Sleigh shoe**, \$2.75 to 3.00; **Ingot Tin**, 18 to 20c; **Ingot Copper**, 19 to 20c; **Horse shoes**, per 100 lbs., \$3.37½ to 3.50.

LEATHER.—Sales continue light, cutters buying in full supply for present requirement. Stocks are in full supply and prices favour buyers. Hides are firm in price notwithstanding the depression in the leather market, and tanners have not yet found out that with the present prices of hides and leather they would make more money to close their tanneries and remain idle for a season. We quote *Hemlock Spanish sole*. No. 1; B. A., 23 to 24c; ditto, No. 2 B. A., 20 to 21c; *Zanzibar*, ordinary No. 1, 20 21c; ditto, No. 2, 18 to 19c; *Buffalo sole*, No. 1, 20 to 21c; ditto, No. 2, 18 to 19c; *Hemlock slaughter*, No. 1, 25 to 26c; *Waxed Upper*, light and medium, 34 to 38c; ditto, heavy 32 to 36c; *Grained*, 34 to 36c; *Splits*, large, 26 to 30c; ditto, small, 20 to 26c; *Calfskins*, 27 to 36 lbs., 55 to 65c; ditto, 18 to 26 lbs., 50 to 60c; *Sheepskin linings*, 20 to 28c; *Harness*, 25 to 30c; *Buffed cow*, 14 to 15½c; *Enamelled cow*, 16 to 18c; *Patent Cow* 15 to 18c; *Pebbled cow* 12 to 15c; *Rough* 23 to 24c.

OILS.—There is very little business to note in this branch of trade but the prices of fish oils may be reported firm in consequence of the un-