Postal Reporm —At the meeting of the council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, on the 12th uff, the home-trade committee presented an elaborate report on postal reform, the recommendations of the committee being as follow. It Foreign and colonial postage, a uniform charge of 31, per 102, paid by stamps, or 64 if unpaid 2nd Local postage, id per 102, prepaid by stamps, 3rd Book, sample, and parcel equalised, at a charge of 1d, per 202 prepaid by stamps 4th Registration, a uniform charge of 2d 5th. Inland money orders to be charged ld per £ or part of a £. 6th. Colonial or foreign money orders, double the inland rates. After an interesting debate the report was adopted.

## ST. JOHN TRADE REPORT.

ST JOHN, N B , Dec 27, 1865. T the date of our last Report we had good sleigh-A ing, and the winter appeared to have fairly set in ; there is now scarcely a ve-tige of snow remaining, and the roads are completely broken up. This had an unfavorable effect on business in general, and that of the past week has been very dull for the season of the year The Nova Scotia business for this year is about over .-Shipbuilding is at a stand, a d for the next three months at all events, Trade must necessarily be very much of a local character. Proposals have been set affoat for the establishment of a Company for effecting Marine Insurances. It appears that the only mode of effecting insurances at present in use in St. John, is by out-door underwriting, and this can only be done on a very limited scale, quite inadequate to the requirements of commerce. As a necessary consequence. the great bulk of insurances are effected in Foreign Offices at considerable inconvenience and expense. It certainly does appear strange that a city like St. John, possessing such extensive and valuable shipping interests, should be without any properly organized system of Marine Insurance, and there can be little doubt that a well managed institution of the kind, possessing sufficient capital, could be made amply remunerative, besides affording great public benefit and convenience.

The Shipping arrivals of the week comprise the steamer "New England," (which has made two trips) and four schooners from Portland with Flour, a brigantline, the "George A. Coonan," from Liverpool, with general cargo, a vessel from Philadelphia with Coals, one vessel from New York, and one from Boston with general cargo, besides several in Ballast seeking Charters.

LUMBER.—Although recent advices from England have not been of a favorable character, but little change is observable in the state of the market here. The stock of Deals held is very small, and the season for manufacturing is nearly or quite over. The clearances for the week comprise four vessels with Deals for ports in Great Britain, six for West Indian ports with Scantling, Boards and Sugar Shooks, and one, the new bark "Burn Brae," owned by W. M. McLean, Esq., of this City, for Monte Video; she takes as carge 245,000 feet of Lumber, principally Boards, 156 boxes of Sewing Machines, 10 dozen Pails, 6 nests of Tubs, and 20 dozen Brooms.

Yesterday morning the Steam Saw Mill of Mr. Z. Adams, Carleton, St. John, was destroyed by fire Mr. A. was insured in the sum of \$12.0°, but his loca will largely exceed that amount. A large quantity of Pine Lumber and Shooks were also destroyed. The fire was accidental, having originated in the engine room.

FLOUR.-The quantity received during the week has again been quite large, and as the demand is now very limited. Stocks are fast accumulating. The advance in the New York and Montreal markets has not been followed by any corresponding movement here, and while such heavy importations continue, no improvement in prices can be expected to take place. The Stock on hand and for which advices have been received is probably amply sufficient for the requirements of the trade until Spring, and we would now take occasion to repeat the caution given some time since against overburdening this market with consignments. The time may come when St. John will become a port, from whence accumulated Stocks may be distributed to the West Indian or other markets, but at preset this is not the case, the demand is restricted to our own wants, and therefore large consignments at this season of the year, must either be dispose of at a loss, or held over until the Spring trade affords an opening. Quotations are nominally the same as those given in last week a report, but to effect any considerable sales, a reduction would have to be submitted to.

Strong Superfine	69.2 <del>3</del>	to \$8.25
Superfine	7.60	to \$7.50
Superfine No. 2	6.50	10 \$7.00

Return of Flour and Meal inspected at the port of St. John for the week ending Dec. 21st, 1896.—

Decrease ... 2,755 barrels

The above shar sa decrease from last week's Returns, bit it must be remembered that last week's was by far the largest of the season, and that the present is considerably over the average.

Provisions, &c. continue dult, and no change in prices has taken place worthy of notice since our last week's report.

Owing to the state of the roads the country market has been less liberally supplied with produce than for some time past, and some articles in special domaind for the Christmas festivities have commanded exceptional prices, but as a rule provisions are abundant and prices low. We subjoin a few items.—

Beef, per lb	to 7c
Mutton and Lamb, per lb	to 8
Pork, per lb , (very plentiful)	to 65
Turkeys, per lb 12	10 11
Geese, each	to 90
Fowl, per pair 45	10 50
Butter in rolls 18	10 29
Butter in firkins 16	to 18
Lard, per lb	to 15
Oats, per bushel 45	to 50

\$ 40,00 \$20,000 \$20,000	\$60,,000 \$60,000 \$60,000 \$60,000 \$60,000	D ('APITAL.
828 255 1-43,000 nH nH	11 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 1	BESNARD & CO.
\$ \$2 8 %	121 121 121 121 121 121 121 121 121 121	AINT
SUNDItY STOCKS.  st. John Manufacturing Co'y. 20 per cent. st. John (sas Company. 8 per cent. John Water Debentures, 6 per cent. suspension Bridge Company, 13 percent. Union Iron Works Company Added to Stock. Victoria Skating Rink 8 per cent.	Bank of New Brunswick, Sper cent. Itank of New Brunswick, Sper cent. Itank of B. N. America, Sper cent. Commorcial Bank, Sper cent. Peoples Bank, Frederickton, Sper cent. St. Stephen's Bank.	BESNARD & CO., Stock Brokers, &c., 22nd December, 1895, Paid or Share Name Dividend amount
29 per cent. 6 per cent. 7 per cent. 7 per cent. Added to Stock. 8 per cent.	S per cent. 6 per cent. 8 per cent.	T. cember, 1895.  Dividend per annum.
\$33 12 p c pr par \$15 \$22	\$276 \$47 89	l'rico per Share.

BANK RATES OF EXCHANGE.	
On London, 61 days 10 Do. nt sight 11	- **
N. Y. and Boston, sight, (gold) Do. do. do. (c. f.)24	discount
Montreal, sight 1	premium.
Halifax, do	

The Westmorland Bank have declared a half-yearly dividend of 3) per cent payable after the 19th January.

The "Bank of British North America" pay their usual Christmas dividend of 3 per cent, making 7 per cent for the year.

Brigantine" P. J. Nevins" from Havana to St. John. N. B., is ashore at Digby Gut and it is feared will be a total loss.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

St. John, N.B., Jan. 2, 1867.

USINESS generally very quiet. Large quantities of flour are continually arriving. The market is largely overstocked, and the demand very limited, sales being entirely of a retail character. Prices nominal, at \$7.75 to \$8 for strong superfine. There is no improvement in provisions, which are dull at last quotations.

Heavy gale on Thursday and Friday The Boston steamer was delayed in consequence. Several small ressels were driven ashore, but no loss of life occurred

## THE BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

Ames, Millard & Co. Brown & Childs, Hunter, Duffy & Johnson.

Linten & Cooper. Poptim, J. mas & Co. Smith & Cochrane

Tills branch of trade has shared in the general inactivity asual during holiday week. Very little business has been transacted, and no change in prices has taken place.

#### MONEY MARKET.

THE demand for money during the past week has been large, but no difficulty has been found in meeting it at previous rates, and the supply still continues abundant.

Sterling Exchange is steady at 1691 for 69 days Bank Drafts, the rate in York being 1001 for prime 60-day bills on London. Gold demand drafts on New York sell at par to 1 premium.

GOLD in New York has partly recovered the declino of last week, the closing quotation being 133, and the average of the week 133. The highest point touched was 135 yesterday, and the lowest 152.

SILVER is in better demand the improved country read-rendering the moving of grain and provisions more ca-y, a quantity of silver coin being used in paying for them. Buying rates are now 4½ to 4½, and selling, 4 per cent. discount.

### THE LEATHER TRADE.

Brown & Clubic. Thougail J. & Co. Hua & Richardson,

Seymour, C. E. Sermour, M. H.

PHERE is nothing new to be noticed in this branch of trade, sales being few and unimportant, and receipts of a limited character. Prices in the main are unchanged, their being no pressure either to buy or sell.

SPANISH Sole.—Prices are well maintained for Prime, of which the quantity in market at present is limited.

SLAUGHTER SOLE—Comes in but slowly, nor is there any immediate expectation of an improved supply. Prices consequently are very firm.

HARNESS.—The sales are but moderate, and almost equal to receipts, so that their is no giving way in quotations.

WAXED UPPER-Has little or no inquiry, but we do not change quotations, which are, however, nearly nominal.

BUFF AND PENBLED.—The stock of both kinds especially of best makers, is very light, and there is an improving demand, especially for desirable sorts,

PATENT AND ENAMILED—Have been in somewhat better demand at quotations.

CALFSKINS.—There is a deficiency of Prime stock, but without any special inquiry. SPLITS—Have sold readily at fair prices, though

their is no great activity to be noticed.

SHEEPSKINS. The supply is small, with receipts barely enough to fill the existing demand.

HIDES.—Under the influence of the active demand and a poorly supplied market, imports have considerably increased, but prices continue firm.

# THE GROCERY TRADE.

H. H. U. U.

Raldrin, C. H., & Co.
Cailda, George, & Lo.
Concerne, Colon, & Lamb.
Davie, Clark, & Clayton,
Furpattick & Noore.
Forest, & Clayton,
Furpattick & Noore.
Forest, & Co.
Guiterple, Mofatt & Co.
Gear, Heart J.
Hutchina L., & Co.
Jeffers, Ruthers & Co.
Kingen & Kinkech.
Leoning, Thomas & Co.
Maitland, &, Tyles & Co.
Mattheway, J. A. & H.
Mitchell, Kinnery & Co.

Noad, James S. & Co. Chapman H., & Co. Chapman H., & Co. Pretain, Storight & Co. Pretain, Storight & Co. Pretain, Storight & Co. Pretain, As Beattle, Education, David, & Co. Sinciair, Jack & Fo. Trifin, Jon. & Sona, Thomison, Sturran & Co. Ur. uhart, Alex., & Co. Ur. uhart, Alex., & Co. Wind & Helland, Withers, Jor & Co. Winning, Hill & Ware.

THE past week having been the regular annual holidays, the amount of business transacted has been very limited, either by the wholesale dealers or the jobbers. Our city retailers, of course, have done a large business, which in all probability has been the case throughout the Province, and this will tend to create a brisker trade after the holidays are fairly over.