

Mineral Phosphate.

Messrs. Cowan and Robinson have mined 400 tons of apatite in the Township of Burgess during the summer, and have sent it to their chemical works in Brockville, where 360 tons converted into superphosphate of lime. This manure is worth \$40 a ton at the works. The greater part of it was sent to the United States, where it commands a ready sale. A small quantity only was sold in Ontario and Quebec, where its value is not yet sufficiently appreciated, and about 40 tons were sent to England.

Two beds of apatite were opened by Mr. Samuel Poole in the south-west corner of the Township of South Crosby last Autumn, and 100 tons of the mineral taken out.

Several gentlemen from England have visited the deposits of mineral phosphate in Elmsley, and other places in the neighborhood of Perth, and are said to have made arrangements for mining them extensively during the present year.

Gypsum.

This mineral continues to be worked at various points along the Grand River, all the way from Paris to Dunville, but we have not the data for estimating the whole amount produced during the year. Mr. Alexander Taylor raised about 3,300 tons at York, and Mr. John Brown of Thorold, about 1,700 at the Grand River Plaster Beds, near Dunnville. This mineral, being obtained conveniently at many places in the Western States and in the Maritime Provinces, is sent across Lakes Erie and Ontario into Upper Canada and brought up the St. Lawrence to supply the Province of Quebec. In Montreal, 1,500 tons of Nova Scotia plaster were ground last year by Mr. John A. Converse, and about 1,000 tons by Messrs. Lymans, Clare & Co. There is also a plaster mill at Quebec, supplied with the raw material from the Lower Provinces.

Slate.

The Rockland Quarry, seven miles south-east of Melbourne village, has been worked during the whole year with an average of about 30 men. The depth of the quarry is now over 80 feet, and the quality of the slate continues to improve, and is considered equal to any in the world. The slates are dressed by small machines, which are found to be a great improvement on the old method of hand-dressing.

At the Melbourne Quarry, which is three or four miles south of the village of the same name, the steam dressing machines have fallen into disuse, and the slates are again dressed by hand. About 25 men are employed. The Company have been preparing the quarry for the more extended and systematic working, so that the production of the year has not been equal to that of 1869. The united production of these two quarries will not exceed 5,000 squares for the year.

Some of the old proprietors of the Granby Red Slate Quarry have paid off its liabilities, and are about to resume operations. The slate of this quarry has been found very suitable for the manufacturer of jambs and mantles, and a considerable number were marbled and sold in the Province a year or two ago.

The Danville School Slate Quarry has changed hands, and only a limited amount of work has been done. The slates from this quarry have been introduced into the market by Mr. Robert Miller, of Montreal, and found to be well adapted for school purposes.

Peat.

The largest business has been done by the Canada Peat Fuel Company. During the summer months they have employed, at their three bogs, at Lapigeoniere, St. Hurbert, and St. Brigide, about 600 hands, and produced 16,000 tons of peat, worth \$3 a ton on the ground. The peat is used by the Grand Trunk Railway, and is coming into favor for domestic use in Montreal.

The Champlain Bog, worked by Mr. R. Graham, of Montreal, has supplied a largely increased quantity of fuel to the Montreal Market.

The Valleyfield Peat Coal Company, besides making extensive preparation for the manufacture of solid peat in the coming summer, produced and sold a quantity of fuel last season.

Peat is worked to a small extent near Vaudreuil, St. Ours, Fern's Point and Riviere Ouelle. Almost inexhaustible supplies of this fuel exist in various parts of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, and they will in future be turned to valuable account, when our forests shall have been exhausted. There is a peat bog in Anticosti which is believed to have a greater area than the largest bog in Ireland.

—The contract of the Toronto Post Office is awarded to Mr. John Elliott, of Brantford. The cost of the building will be between \$60,000 and \$70,000.

—The lake underwriters held a meeting at Cleveland on the 13th ult., for the purpose of forming a board which should confine itself to classifying risks, without interfering with rating. A committee was appointed to obtain the signature of the lake underwriters, after which the meeting adjourned to be called together again by the Chairman when the signatures are obtained. The next meeting will be held in Toledo.

Commercial.**OIL MATTERS AT PETROLIA.**

(From our Own Correspondent)

PETROLIA, Feb. 27, 1871.

Crude is rather flat, with a decided downward tendency; refined is also very flat. The Parsons well is still doing first-rate. Messrs. Jones & Russell have a splendid well on the McMillan property, said to be fully 100 barrels per day. The Walker well, on the Shoemaker lot, is about the same. The Hesse and Drader wells are also still doing first-rate. The production for the past week is fully equal to 1,000 barrels per day, and the shipments about the same. For the week ending the 16th, we sent off 6,089 barrels crude, 384 barrels refined, and 840 barrels distillate. In the meantime, Mr. H. Prince, Mr. McMillan and Mr. John C. Hyde are putting down wells near the large one.

The export firms are doing a steady business, and the other refiners are getting ready for spring operations.

Messrs. Kimball & Langhead's rig was burnt down on Thursday night, caused by gas.

Crude, per brl. \$1 30 to \$1 40
Refined, per gal. 0 18½ 0 19

MONTREAL MARKET.

MONTREAL, Feb. 28, 1871.

The weather for the past week has been very mild and the thaws have been very rapid cutting up the roads in many places, and rendering walking in the city anything but pleasant; last night and this morning were cold with the thermometer at 10°.

Trade in most departments has been satisfactory. Dry goods are arriving freely and stocks are well assorted. The flour market has been rather unsteady all week owing to advices from foreign markets, closing dull. Provisions are fairly active, ashes steady, stocks are not very active but prices are firm, sterling exchange firm at 9½.

ASHES.—Pots—The principal business done during the week was at \$6.00, but there has been

sales at \$5.85 and \$5.95, market closing at the later price. Seconds in fair request at \$5.10 to \$5.15; thirds \$4.55. Pearls—Are steady and unchanged in price, \$6.65 having been obtained for all offering, the receipts of this ash have been very small. The stocks at present in store are pots, 639 bls., pearls, 532 bls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The prices of all kinds are unchanged, but as the leather market has a strong upward tendency, an advance is looked for at an early date, manufacturers are busy filling spring orders.

COALS.—The very mild weather which has prevented all work has caused a considerable dullness in this branch of business, but there has been no change to note in prices, stocks are not large but sufficient for all wants till the opening of navigation.

CATTLE.—The market has been overstocked, and the demand nothing like equal to the supply, and the drovers have been compelled to ship a good many fine cattle to the United States. The current prices for the week for 1st quality dressed \$6.50 to \$7.00; 2nd and 3rd quality \$5.75 to \$6.25; Milk cows \$35 to \$50, nothing doing in sheep or Lambs traders being well supplied with frozen carcasses held over since the beginning of winter.

DRESSED HOGS.—The demand has been fair, but owing to the mild weather hardly so brisk as usual, and the supply has somewhat fallen off. Offerings are light, and the prices have given way a little since last week \$8.25 to \$8.75, the outside price being only obtained for desirable weights.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There has been a fair healthy business done in most articles. Bleaching Powder in round lots sold at 3c. to 3½c; Saltpetre continues nominal at \$12. Some sales of Epsom salts were reported at \$2.00; Alum 2c.; very little doing in Caustic soda which is nominal at 4c. to 4½c.; Bi Carb. is unchanged in price \$3.17½ to \$3.30, but is held firm at these rates; Soda ash scarce, 2½c. to 2¾c. at which prices it is now held; Sal soda is steady at \$1.42½ to \$1.50, according to the size of the lot; Cream Tartar crystals 22c. to 23c.; ditto ground 25c. to 27c.; Copperas \$1.00 to \$1.10.

FISH.—As usual at this season the market has been active, and prices are well maintained. Salmon is scarce, and very little green Cod in the market, the following are to-day's quotations which are firm, really choice parcels would probably command rather higher figures. Salmon in tins \$23.50; Labrador Herrings \$6.25 to \$6.50; Dry Cod \$5.75 to \$6.00; Green Cod in brls. \$5.50 to \$6.00; Canso Herrings \$6.00 to \$6.25.

FURS.—A good trade has been doing in raw furs, but prices, although firm, are unchanged. We continue to quote Canada martins \$1.50 to \$1.75; muskrat, fall, 8c. to 12c.; do. winter, 14c.; lynx, \$1 to \$1.25; red fox, \$1.50; mink, No. 1, dark, \$4; fisher skins, \$5 to \$6; bear, \$4 to \$12; beaver, \$1.50; raccoon, 20c. to 60c.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the past week, 9,547 brls.; total receipts from Jan. 1 to date, 48,812 brls., against 50,466 brls. in corresponding period of 1870, being a decrease of 1,654 brls. In the early part of the week the downward tendency of the Liverpool market had a depressing effect here, but later advices have stiffened the market, although buyers are not disposed to meet sellers' views, which restricts business to local wants. The following are to-day's quotations: superior extra, \$7.20 to \$7.30; extra, \$6.90 to \$7; fancy, \$6.70 to \$6.80; fresh supers, Canada wheat, \$6.30 to \$6.35; Western States supers, free, \$6.25 to \$6.30; medium strong supers, \$6.40 to \$6.50; strong bakers', \$6.50 to \$6.60; Welland Canal flour in bond, \$6.10 to \$6.20; Canada super, No. 2, \$5.90 to \$6; fine, \$5.50; middlings, \$5 to \$5.25; Pol-