

Allen's new block and brick building owned by J. Hawse. The fire brigade were soon on hand, and through their exertions the fire was closely confined to the building where it started, although at one time it was feared the buildings adjoining were in danger, corners on either side being several times on fire, but were put out. Building burned was owned by the Dolphin Manufacturing Co., and worth about \$3,000 to \$4,000; Urry & Cook stock, \$1,000, on which they had insurance of \$7,000. Mr. Urry, who slept on the premises, had a very narrow escape for his life, being nearly suffocated before being aware of the danger, the knowledge of which was given him by a policeman.

CHATHAM, Aug. 30th.—Yesterday a.m., about 5 o'clock, a fire broke out in Currier's blacksmith shop at the foot of Fifth street bridge, North Chatham, and was entirely consumed with all Mr. Currier's tools. The Prince Edward hotel adjoining took fire, and was considerably damaged on the roof and west end before extinguished. Mr. Paddy, the occupant of the hotel, sustained a loss by removal of furniture. Loss about \$25,000, the hotel only was covered by insurance.

MOUNT FOREST, ONT., Sept. 2nd.—At 11 o'clock to-day a fire broke out in the Enterprise Woollen factory, owned by Messrs. Tanner & Harris of this place, the buildings and machinery were totally destroyed. Loss estimated at about 10,000 dollars, insurance small.

COOKSTOWN, ONT. Sept. 1.—A fire this afternoon in Clover Hill, two miles from here, completely destroyed the house and furniture of Mr. Agnew; also the dwelling and contents, workshop, &c., belonging to Mr. J. Stephens; loss, about \$3,500. Mr. Stephens is insured for \$500 on the house.

BERLIN, Sept. 1st.—A fire broke out here to-day about noon in Wenver's Royal Hotel stables, and soon caught to the hotel, bowman's livery and sale stables and Cowpers' blacksmith shop, all of which are entirely consumed. The fire started in the Royal Hotel stables, where a cigar was thrown into a stall. Our two engines were soon on the spot, and the Waterloo engine came to our rescue, but for the efforts of firemen and citizens the best part of the town would have been destroyed. Total loss about \$10,000, the greater part of which was covered by insurance. The losses and insurance are: Dr. Wright, Royal Hotel building, \$3,500, insured for \$2,000; S. S. Weaver, hotel furniture, loss \$2,000, insured for \$1,200; D. L. Bowan, livery stable keeper, who saved nearly everything, loss about \$500, covered by insurance; G. C. Clemens, livery, buildings and blacksmith shop, loss \$3,000, insurance \$1,400; W. W. Cowan, blacksmith's tools, etc., loss about \$800, insurance \$400; Mr. Pilborn, proprietor of the Commercial Hotel, had the greater part of his furniture removed; the loss is not known, but is covered by insurance.

### Correspondence.

Correspondence containing information of interest to the business community is desired; but as our space is limited, facts briefly stated are all we can insert, and for such we shall be thankful. It must not be inferred, however, that we endorse the opinions of correspondents any more than we do all the opinions contained in the extracts we make from the leading papers of the day. If mistakes occur, we wish it to be understood that our columns are always freely opened for corrections.

### THE REGISTRATION OFFICE.

To the Editor of the Journal of Commerce.

Sir,—Every now and again we have newspaper articles on the Registry Office of our city; such as appears in your issue of the 27th. In the year 1866 a very largely signed requisition was sent asking the Governor General to issue

a commission of inquiry. Mr. George Putvoye was sent to hold an investigation, but it did no result in a great deal, the Registrar evidently then having the favor of the ruling Powers, and the inquiry being held in his own office, parties naturally felt a delicacy in giving unfriendly evidence.

Is there another instance on the Continent of such delay as we have? The old story—the one-book system—will no doubt be told us; but "where there's a will there's a way," and if things can sometimes be expedited as you hint, why not always?  
Montreal, Aug. 31st, 1875. MERCHANT.

### THE DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS.

The great work, in the estimation of vast numbers in America, to be accomplished in connection with forests is to get them cleared off as speedily as possible. Forests have been too generally looked upon as nuisances, and the only thing to be thought of was to have them taken out of the way. The time will come when these forests will have to be regarded in a very different light, and when their preservation and renewal will have to be as much a matter of public policy as of private advantage. Wherever a country is denuded to a great extent, or altogether, of its timber it is found that its fertility is greatly impaired, nay, in many cases, altogether destroyed. The moisture is diminished, and the very anxiety to get the largest amount of land under cultivation defeats itself when it deprives the crops both of the needed shelter and showers. The wholesale sweeping away of the forest introduces a series of extremes of drought and flood, instead of any equable and continued amount of moisture. The land is either parched or drowned, and the result is its permanent deterioration, issuing at last in absolute barrenness. In the States the preservation of the forests has become a matter of national importance, and every encouragement is given to creating plantations and their judicious distribution all over the country. It is found to be a great mistake to imagine that a farm will yield more when put entirely under cultivation, and when all the trees have been removed to make way for the plough, for the twenty or thirty acres in every hundred saved in timber for the supply of fuel give increased fertility to the rest. It is full time that we in Canada were directing our serious attention to this matter. It may be said that we have still any quantity of timber lands. This is very true, but in our older districts the forest is almost entirely swept away; and the evils recognized and deplored in the States are in these quarters also issuing in decreased moisture and impoverished lands, in destructive floods and equally destructive droughts. It may be that all our present forests must come down. If so, it is more than time that proprietors were preparing for their disappearance by planting others, which, both for ornament and use, would speedily repay the expense thereby incurred. Wherever the forests are cleared entirely it is not the springs only which suffer. The soil is actually swept into the rivers, and large districts are entirely denuded. The creeks and rivers are left low for the rest of the season, and the land is baked with lengthened and unbroken droughts. In some of the western States where the planting has been carried on extensively for some years, the beneficial effects are already abundantly manifest, and will be still more unmistakably when the new plantations have advanced more towards maturity. If our Canadian farmers are wise, they will be warned by the painful experience of our neighbours. Hundreds of thousands of acres are every year being cleared of their timber throughout the Dominion, and this will speedily tell. It would be a curious commentary on the boasted intelligence of the present day and its enlightened zeal in "subduing" the earth for the purpose of securing the greatest possible productiveness, if the very eagerness with which this object is pursued should issue in extensive districts being reduced to deserts, and in others being rendered less suitable for maintaining a large, prosperous, and healthy population.

### Commercial.

#### MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Sept. 2nd, 1875.

Since the date of our last review, the general course of trade has not developed any specially new features. Wholesale business has slightly improved in some departments; but dullness for the most part prevails. The volume of commerce up to a corresponding period last year, and in former seasons, has undoubtedly proved larger by twenty-five to fifty per cent., according to the trade affected, than in the present one. Money does not seem much, if any, easier obtained from buyers throughout the country. Harvesting operations have thus far proved generally successful; but whether this will suffice to bring about a healthy order of things remains to be seen; but it is considered doubtful that the harvest will do all that is required in this direction. Smaller profits and smaller sales, with less disposition to press business, will need to be adopted as the only safe and satisfactory way of prosecuting legitimate trade. In many branches, a great source of trouble has been found in the practice of "dating ahead," which certainly ought to be abandoned. It is well known that, with some houses, transactions are made to extend over eighteen and twenty months. Goods are purchased in England in the Spring for next winter's use; these arrive during the summer months; are sold at six months and probably "dated ahead" two or three months; then comes "renewal" when the note falls due, sometimes repeated until the original transaction seems never to end. This habit lies at the doors of many firms who now find themselves very "hard up" or who have already been compelled to call a meeting of creditors.

ASHES.—There was an improved demand for Pot Ashes this week, while sales of firsts brought \$5.00 to 5.15 for light, to good shipping tins, with a few seconds at \$4.10 to 4.15. Thirds are nominal, with none offering. Prices close steady. Pearls are in little request, and saleable at about \$5.50. The shipments for the week include 516 bbls. Pots, and 30 bbls. Pearls to Liverpool and Glasgow. Receipts at inspection stores from 2nd January to 2nd September, 11,201 bbls. Pots, and 1626 bbls.; Pearls, deliveries during same period. Pots 9324. bbls.; Pearls 1436 bbls. Stocks in store this evening,—Pots, 2268 bbls.; Pearls, 1183 bbls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—In this branch of industry there seems to be some signs of improvement, as orders are coming in a little better. Manufacturers have not all resumed full time yet, but are making preparations looking to a moderately good business. We note no change in prices, which are as follows:—

Men's kip boots, \$2.85 to 3.30; ditto French calf, \$3.00 to 3.75; ditto buff congress, \$1.75 to 2.25; ditto split brogans, \$1.10 to 1.25; ditto kip brogans, \$1.40 to 1.50; boys' split brogans, 90c. to \$1.00; ditto buff and pebbled congress \$1.40 to \$1.50; women's buff and pebbled balmorals \$1.20 to \$1.40; ditto prunella balmorals 75c. to \$1.75; ditto congress 75c. to \$1.75; misses buff and pebbled balmorals 90c. to \$1.15; ditto prunella balmorals and congress 70c. to \$1.25; children's ditto ditto 60c. to \$1.00; ditto pebbled and buff balmorals 75c. to 85c.

CATTLE.—There have been sales of beef cattle at \$3.75c. to \$5.25 per 100 lbs., with good appearing beasts at intermediate rates. Grass-fed were somewhat duller, with no real good stock on the market. Milch cows have brought at \$50 to \$55 for first class quality for second class the price ranged from \$30 to \$40, and for third class \$20 to \$30. Some distillery fed hogs sold at \$9.50 per 100 lbs. dressed weight, while \$7.50 for 100 lbs. live weight was paid for a car of hard hogs. Sheep and spring lambs were in good supply.

DRY GOODS.—The reports of many firms in this trade bespeak continued dullness, while a few houses are somewhat busier than last week, in supplying orders received from travellers. There have also been a larger number of Western and country buyers in town this week, although they seem much slower in