to more than $5,000,000,000. In 1870, the supervision vested in the department covers 274 companies, with $10,000,000,000 at risk, their new business for the year 1869 alone amounting to nearly $6,000,000,000.

In view of the important exigencies we have here indicated, it would seem that the least possible measure of relief, provided the legislature should be indisposed to divide the work of the department into life and fire bureaus, with a Commissioner for each, would be the appointment under statute authority, of a Deputy Commissioner, with an adequate compensation, in addition to a chief clerk as now provided.

FIRE RECORD.—Aboyne, Oct. 10.—Henneberry & Co.'s grist and oatmeal mill at Aboyne was totally destroyed on the forenoon of the 8th. The fire originated by the explosion of the kiln. Stock, total loss, estimated at $1,500 and uninsured. The mill is insured for $6,000 in the Liverpool London, and Globe. The total loss cannot be estimated, but the company are very heavy losers.

Ottawa, Oct. 6.—The loss by fire at Eddy's Match Factory, in Hull, was about $10,000. The insurance is said to be about $8,000, in the following companies: Ætna, Commercial Union, Western, Liverpool London and Globe, Provincial and Home. There was 15,000 pails and 15,000 cases of matches in the building at the time of the fire.

Toronto, Oct. 9.—A fire broke out in some straw near the stable in the rear of St. Michael's college, St. Joseph Street. The flames communicated to the stable but were extinguished; loss trifling and insured.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKET.

Following the close of the Provincial Exhibition, there was some decrease in the activity which the advent of so many buyers had previously created in the wholesale trade of this city; but there is still a large business being transacted by the leading importing houses. The weather has been generally fine, but some rain has fallen. The temperature has been steadily high for this season of the year, even the nights being free from chilliness.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There are few buyers now in town, but manufacturers are still fully occupied in filling the orders taken last week, buyers having then purchased largely. There is consequently no accumulation of stock, and some classes of goods, especially heavy goods, are already scarce. There is no change to note in prices.

DRY GOODS—Trade continues active, goods of all kinds selling freely, numerous buyers constantly making their appearance. Stocks, though very considerably lessened by the sales of the past two or three weeks, are still very well assorted, new importations coming forward every week to supply any deficiencies. There are now some complaints that remittances are not being made as promptly as they ought, attributed partly to the fact that farmers are backward in settling their accounts, preferring to hold over their grain to selling, at what they have came to consider a low price. This is undoubtedly an unwise proceeding, but the high prices of recent seasons have spoiled the farmer for the more moderate profits realized at present.

DRUGS.—Since the Exhibition, trade has been a little slacker, but a good many orders are still being received by mail, not heavy in individual amounts, but footing up pretty well. Prices are without change. *Opium*—is slightly easier, but quotations are not altered at present.

GROCERIES.—There has been a moderate business transacted during the week in general goods, but the trade has been principally of a sorting up character, buyers proposing to make another visit to this market next month to lay their winter stocks. *Coffee*—is in very moderate request, and prices are without change. *Fish*—no Herrings in market. Whitefish and Trout have considerable demand, but are in poor supply. Stocks of Dry Cod have improved somewhat, but sales are still being made freely at quotations. *Fruit*—old is in light request, but stocks not being large, prices are maintained. *Molasses*—little doing and at unchanged rates. Refined syrups have advanced 2c. per gallon, and are now quoted ot 50c. to 52c. for standard, and 54c. to 55c. for golden, with a moderate enquiry. *Rice*—is without change both as to price and demand. *Spices*—sell at quotations to a small extent, there being no special enquiry. *Sugars*—A fair business has been done in raws, but principally in lots of comparatively retail amount. There is no pressure to sell on the part of holders, who, in view of the recent advance in the New York market, are anticipating higher prices here. Latest advices from New York quote an advance from ⅛ to ¼ on duty paid goods, with a very firm market and stocks lower than usual at this season of the year. In Cuba, stocks of desirable sugars are low, while very low grades are in large supply and relatively cheap. Refined sugar in this market is in moderate demand. The Montreal refineries have advanced their list prices ¼c on yellow and whites, but holders here cannot as yet command more than ⅛ over previous selling prices. *Teas*—There have been some few arrivals of new teas, principally low grade Young Hysons and Blacks, for which there is but limited demand. The finer grades of Young Hysons are still nearly unobtainable here, being very scarce and dear in both the New York and London markets. Sales here have almost entirely been of limited amounts, to meet present wants. *Tobacco*—sells slowly at unchanged prices.

HARDWARE.—There is only a moderate trade being done in heavy goods, but shelf and general hardware sells very freely. Prices are altogether without change.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Receipts of domestic *Hides* are again light and inadequate to the wants of the trade, but prices though firm are without change. No change to note in *Calfskins* or *Sheepskins*.

LEATHER.—There has been a tolerably active business done during the past week. *Spanish Sole* is in request and firm at quotations. *Upper* and *Harness* are in large stock in Montreal, and while there is no accumulation at this point, the market is less firm, although there is no further change in quotations. Canadian *Calf* is still in in request, and *Russetts* are also wanted.

LUMBER.—The market is becoming a little dull and although shipping from Canadian docks is on the decline; stocks are accumulating at Albany, and some of the other principal depots on the other side. The amount of last week's shipments fall considerably short of that, of any week, previous. Manufacturers and dealers are speculating upon a good season's logging. Prices—clear, $22.00 to $24.00; com., $9.00 to $9.50; culls, $7.00 to $7.50; shingles, No. 1, $2.60 to $2.80; shingles, No. 2, $2.25.

PAINTS AND OILS.—Business is very limited just now. *Cod Oil* is a little lower, now quoted at 62c. to 65c. No change in other oils. *Spirits Turpentine* has advanced and held at 56c., with an upward tendency.

PETROLEUM.—Trade continues active, with orders ahead of present ability to deliver. No change to note in quotations.

PRODUCE.—With the exception of barley, the market has been only moderately active, but holders of both wheat and flour are tolerably firm in their views, and do not seem desirous to effect sales at the expense of a reduction in price. *Flour*—There being little or no demand from shippers, the market has slightly given way. In the forepart of the week sales were made of superfine, at $5.20; but toward the close, 500 brls. sold at $5.15 f.o.c. here, and this price could now scarcely be obtained, buyers' views being from 5c. to 10c. lower. Fancy has sold as low as $5.25 f.o.b., but holders are not offering at this figure, $5.30 to $5.40 may be considered about the value. *Wheat*—There has been little doing in the way of shipments, but there has been some demand for No. 1 spring from Canadian millers, and sales have been made as high as $1.12 for choice, with $1.10 bid at the close, holders asking $1.12 White Winter has sold at $1.20, and Treadwell at $1.15. The deliveries from farmers have again been of an unimportant character, and have been taken at various rates according to quality. *Barley*—The market has been very active during the week, a United States demand for Canadian in preference to Western barley for malting purposes having sprung up, as evidenced by an advance in the Oswego market without any corresponding advance in Chicago. An advance in last week's prices was immediately established here, choice Barley fetching as high as 80c., with sales of ordinary to prime at from 72c. to 76c. These prices had the immediate effect of inducing very large deliveries from farmers, under the pressure of which the market slightly declined, closing at from 68c. to 75c., according to quality. The shipments hence to Oswego for the three months to Sep. 30th last, were 225,029 bushels. *Oats*—have been quiet with only small sales at about last week's quotations. *Peas*—The market has been steady, with a moderate demand, and sales made have been principally at 70c. on the track. *Hay*—has advanced, and now sells at $10 to $14. *Straw*—of which there is little coming to market, $6.50 to $7.50.

PROVISIONS.—All kinds have been fairly active during the week. *Butter*—has been in demand for shipping lots of selected dairy at outside quotations, but the market has been weak for ordinary and inferior, which have been almost unsaleable. *Cheese*—is a trifle firmer, with a slightly improved demand, but quotations are unaltered. *Eggs*—are in small request, and unchanged. Nothing to note in *Pork*, *Bacon* and *Hams*, which are in light supply and demand. *Lard*—meets a small demand for local consumption at late rates. *Dressed Hogs*—are beginning to arrive, and selling at $8 to $9 per 100 lbs.

SALT.—There is a steady demand for Goderich, and for Liverpool coarse, without any change to note in quotations.

WOOL.—Has again advanced, and 31c. to 32c. would now be paid for round lots. of combing sorts, sales to some considerable extent having been made at these figures.

MONEY.—Sterling Exchange 60 days' sight or 75 days' date, 108¾ to 109; gold drafts on New York, ¼ prem.; currency drafts on New York or Greenbacks, 87½ to 88¼; American silver, large 5½ to 6; small 7 to 10 discount. Gold in New York has been very steady, closing firm at 113⅛.

MONTREAL MARKET.

MONTREAL, Oct. 11.

The weather during the week has been fine, with high wind, and sharp frost on Friday morning The harbor is beginning to get a little bare now, as the fall fleet are anxious to get off as soon as possible. Freights have been very quiet at late rates.

In Breadstuffs there has not been much done; considerable quantities are now being shipped. Provisions are quiet but steady. Ashes are quiet with very little offering. Groceries have been pretty active. Stocks have been dealt in to a considerable extent. Sterling exchange dull and weak at 9 to 9¼.

ASHES.—*Pots*—In the early part of the week the market was firm, since then it has been quiet and closes for *Firsts* at $6,25 to $6.30. Some choice lots sold early in the week at a rather higher figure. *Seconds* have been sold in small quantities at $5.25 to $5.30. *Pearls*.—There has been rather more enquiry during the week, but