

slow, owing to the extremely difficult nature of the bottom; but it is the intention of the Commissioners to go on with the work until there is in the channel and basin an uniform depth of 20 feet, to correspond with the depth of the channel to Quebec. No difficulty from the existing obstructions is apprehended to occur during the spring months of next season, and it is expected that by the month of August, sufficient progress may be made to meet the usual fall of the water level.

The sea-going vessels entered and cleared during last season numbered 516, and their tonnage reached 295,775 tons, and the number at one time in port 91. This aggregate of vessels in and out and their tonnage, has been but twice exceeded, in 1861, when there were 534 vessels of 26,835 tons, and in 1862, 571 vessels of 278,213 tons, while the number in port at one time was but once exceeded, being 117 vessels in 1861. It may be added, however, that in the last-named year a large number of vessels came in ballast, and probably the extent of wharf accommodation required was no more than was required last year.

So far as the Commissioners are aware the breadth of harbor accommodation has been found amply sufficient, and they are inclined to believe that, with the increasing quantity of traffic carried by steam vessels, the accommodation, when the works now in progress shall have been fully completed, may meet the wants of the trade for many years to come.

The revenue has exceeded that of any previous year, and the Commissioners have been able to meet all engagements, and to carry on the improvements enumerated without increasing the indebtedness of the Trust; a course that they feel disposed to follow while the present conditions exist.

#### PORT WARDEN

This office is now well established under the provisions of the law, and with much advantage to all the interests concerned. The business of the season has been highly favorable, and, under the tariff of fees adopted, a surplus above the year's expenses has been accumulated, which will form the nucleus of a contingent fund, to secure the regular payment of the Port Warden and his assistants, if at any time there should happen a deficiency in the current receipts. The Report of the Board of Examiners will show the state of the account.

#### FLOUR INSPECTION.

The Inspector of Flour has advised the Council of his intention hereafter to enforce the provisions of law, so as to correct irregularity in short weights and tares—a course which, in the opinion of the Council, should be pursued.

#### WIGGIER, MEASURER AND GAUGER.

This office is satisfactorily established in the hands of Mr. John Campbell, and its good offices are gradually extending. The Council is pleased to have to say that its government has appeared so favourable to the Quebec Board of Trade that that body has adopted the same provision in nearly every detail in establishing a similar office.

#### LEATHER AND HIDES.

The inspection established in this branch of business has appeared to work well, and an additional (Deputy) Inspector has been appointed during the year.

#### ASHES

On the 26th of December a petition was presented to the Council by a number of prominent parties in the trade, asking for its recommendation of a change in the manner of stating the value of ashes, from the practice of a fixed uniform quotation, from which *pro rata* deductions were made according to quality; when the Council recommended the adoption of a named definitive price for each quality of ashes, and that practice is now conforming to by the trade.

#### REGISTRY OFFICE OF MONTREAL

On the 5th of May a memorial, signed by 264 merchants and others, was forwarded to the Governor-General, calling attention to the dissatisfaction which was expressed with the working of this office. Its receipt was acknowledged, and it is known that official inquiry has been instituted.

#### SUGAR DUTIES.

On the 26th of June the report of a Committee of Council on the subject of sugar duties, substantially recommending the closest possible adherence to the ad valorem principle, was adopted and forwarded to the Minister of Finance, but without any influence in determining the changes shortly thereafter made.

#### DECIMAL WEIGHTS.

The question of the general use of decimal weights has been brought before the Council, and it is thought to be worthy of legislative action, with a view to the introduction of that system into common use.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

A letter has been addressed to the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's, Newfoundland, suggesting the policy of urging the repeal of the duty (thirty-six cents per barrel) imposed upon Canadian flour, while it is admitted free into the neighbouring Provinces.

The attention of the Council has been called to the serious evils arising from the facility afforded to fraudulent debtors, thieves and other rogues, to cross the border between us and the United States, and it is thought highly desirable that steps should be taken to urge upon Government the necessity of providing a remedy to some extent.

The Council has not entered upon any statistical accounts of the general trade of the city, as the Secretary's annual report is now in press, and is expected to be published very shortly. It will contain the fullest information under this head, as well as many important details of the progress of trade in this and the neighbouring Colonies, to the close of 1866.

J. L. LENNAN,  
President.

Montreal, March 21st, 1867.

After the adoption of the Report, the election for

officers for the ensuing year took place, and Thomas Rimmer, Esq. was elected President, J. H. Wiann, Esq., Vice-President, and Damase Masson, Esq., Treasurer. The following were announced as the new Council and Arbitrators.

COUNCIL—A. Allan, W. Darling, H. Fraser, George Stephens, H. Chapman, Alex. Campbell, Jas. Hutton, T. J. Claxton.

ARBITRATORS—P. Redpath, J. McLean, H. L. Routh, F. Leclaire, G. Moffatt, D. Torrance, J. M. Young, C. J. Cusack, J. H. Joseph, P. McDougall, Henry Thomas, H. Mulholland.

### ST. JOHN TRADE REPORT.

ST. JOHN, N.B. March 23, 1867.

WE have again to report another week of dullness in most departments of business. The unusual tightness of the money market has not yet met with any perceptible relief, and its influence is severely felt in nearly every department of trade, but more especially by those engaged in manufacturing pursuits.

The suspension of the Westmorland Bank, alluded to in our last report, has been confirmed. Opinions are pretty freely expressed, that the Bank has been made the victim of one of the St. John institutions, but in the absence of authoritative information, it will be as well to suspend judgment. The circulation of the Bank at the time of its stoppage was \$81,000 to \$90,000, and as the stockholders are liable for double the amount of their capital, (or \$120,000) and they are all known to be men of good standing, there can be little doubt that the bank's paper will be ultimately redeemed. Probably the meeting of stockholders called for the 25th will throw some further light on the matter.

The course taken by Mr. Hatheway in the arrest of Mr. Bridges at Portland, meets with very general reprehension. The G. T. Railway has been of the greatest possible service in assisting the development of our Intercolonial trade, and whatever cause of complaint Mr. Hatheway may have had his manner of seeking redress finds no sympathy here.

The shipping arrivals of the week have been more numerous than for some time past. The "Win. Fenwick" from Liverpool, laden principally with iron, hardware, and salt, arrived on the 19th, there have also been two vessels from the West Indies with sugar and molasses, and one from Philadelphia with coals; the remainder consisting of eleven vessels (some of them of large tonnage) were in ballast. The weather is remarkably fine for the season of the year, and very little snow is now remaining in our streets.

LUMBER.—The clearances of the week comprise nineteen vessels, two of which were for Liverpool with deals, nine for West Indian ports (principally Cuba) with shooks and boards, and the remainder for the United States. There is little to notice in prices, transactions being of quite a nominal character. Freight continues low, and the tendency is still downwards. We quote deals to Liverpool 60s. per standard, shooks to north side of Cuba 18c. to 20c. Boards do, \$7.00. Boards to Boston \$3.75. Do. to New York \$5.

LOUR.—Since our last report the market has again advanced, and is to-day quite firm at our quotations. Very little can be had under \$9.00, and desirable brands of strong Superfine sell freely at \$9.25. The stock is very much reduced, and unless speedily replenished, there must be a scarcity. In a few weeks the river will be open and the demand for country trade will commence, so that whatever is intended for this market ought to be sent forward at once.

The receipts of the week have been 350 bbls. per steamer from Portland. Strong Superfine \$9. to \$9.25. Ordinary Brands \$8.50 to \$8.95. Oatmeal (scarce) \$6.75 to \$7.00. Cornmeal \$4.50 to \$4.75.

PROVISIONS AND GROCERIES.—The market for provisions is firm, although no advance in prices can yet be quoted. Every week now will tend towards an increased demand for shipping and other purposes, and with the increased demand higher prices may be expected to prevail.

In Groceries there is very little doing. During the week there have been two cargoes of molasses received from Porto Rico, which are offered from the vessel at 40c. in bond. Few purchasers have however appeared and the bulk of the cargoes will probably be stored. The quality is said to be very superior.

#### BANK RATES OF EXCHANGE.

On London, 60 days ..... 10½ premium.  
Do. at sight ..... 11½ "  
N. Y. and Boston, sight, (gold) ..... 11½ "  
Montreal, sight ..... 1½ premium.  
Halifax, do. .... 2½ discount.  
Canada notes taken at par.

The barque "Eliza Young" stranded on Navy Island, was got off on the 20th inst. by three steam tugs. She is reported to be seriously injured, and will probably be condemned. The steam tug earned \$500 by the operation.

Brig Mohawk, Fraser, home for Havana, which was towed into Boston, 13th inst. reports: On the 7th inst., in a gale from S. E., 60 miles N. E. from George's Shoals and Bank was hove down on beam ends, and was obliged to throw overboard deckload; also cut away topmasts, when the vessel righted, full of water. On the 9th, the brig was taken in tow by fishing schooner Lucille Courtis, of Gloucester, and towed in oil Cape Cod, where she was anchored between Nauset and Highland light (back side) at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. The schooner had to leave us, as she could not wait for Cape Cod with the brig in tow. Sch. McClellan, from Baltimore, took in tow at 10 p.m., and brought us to Boston.

MARCH 30th, 1867.

We have the charge to report in the general aspect of business since our last. Every department is unmistakably dull, and the approach of spring is eagerly welcomed, as affording the prospect of relief from the depression which has been characteristic of the past few months.

The money market continues very stringent, and it is not likely that much, if any relief can be experienced, until the proceeds of the winter's lumbering operations begin to be realized. The Westmoreland Bank meeting of March 1st, was adjourned after the appointment of a committee to investigate the affairs of the Bank. From the high character and position of the gentlemen comprising the committee, and the general confidence expressed by the stockholders, the belief is gaining ground that the suspension will be but temporary. At all events there is no just cause for alarm on the part of holders of notes—as these will probably be redeemed in full under any circumstances.

FLOUR &c.—There is no material change to report in this department of business. The demands keep steady, and considerable quantities are worked off in supplying the ordinary daily consumption of the community, but transactions are altogether of a retail character, as at present high rates, buyers will only operate to supply their immediate and most pressing wants. Strong Superfine, \$9.25; Ordinary brands, \$8.50 to \$9.00.

PROVISIONS.—In this department there is little doing, and prices remain without any noticeable change from last week's quotations.

### BY TELEGRAPH.

ST. JOHN, N.B. April 3, 1867

BUSINESS slightly improving. Demand for flour steady. Prices unchanged, Strong Superfine \$9 to \$9.25. Ordinary brands \$8.50. Receipts of the week 2,500 barrels. Money Market still continues stringent. Exchange on London 60 days 10½ premium. Montreal O.S.S. Company's steamer "Nestorian" arrived from Portland this morning.

### HALIFAX TRADE REPORT.

HALIFAX, March 23d, 1867.

BUSINESS during the past week has assumed more activity. The imports and exports are considerably in excess of last week.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour has advanced fully \$1 per bbl. since our last review, and large quantities have changed hands. The market is unsettled; holders are demanding \$10 per bbl.—the latest sales were made at \$9.75. From present appearances Flour is likely to rule high. A corresponding advance has taken place in Canada, which market must govern us to a great extent. Corn Meal has gone up 50c. per bbl. and is now \$5 for Brandywine. The imports for the week are from Canada, 5,619 bbls Flour & the United States, From United States 96 bbls Flour and 250 bbls Rye Flour, 1,217 bbls Corn Meal, 2,275 bus Corn, 60 bbls Beans.

FISH.—There has been a want of enquiry this week, and very little has changed hands. Cod: hard cured still remains firm at present quotations. Bank and Bay is very dull. Labrador is just now unsaleable; a lot of Labrador was bought a short time ago at \$2.60, per qtl. also a small parcel of Bay at \$3.20. Mackerel Nos. 1 and 2, large, with ut of age, No. 3, large, still in request at present rates. Salmon quiet. Alewives continue in demand; their scarcity, of course, enhances their value. Herrings without change. The receipts for the week from out ports were: 300 qtls Codfish, 61 qtls Seal, 29 bbls Herring and 375 boxes Smoked Herring.

The exports are: 1,206 tics, 4 drums, 420 bxs and 278 lbs boxes Codfish. 269 tics, 254 drums, 45 bxs and 103 lbs