

priated under the Arrangement Act of this year towards the payment of dividend on the 1st and 2nd preference stocks, making a total sum of £6,275,000. The expenditure on new works, new rolling stock, and narrowing the gauge, &c., and which is shown in detail in the accounts, amounts to £147,248, making the charge against capital for the half-year £6,422,248, from which, however, has to be deducted a credit of £390,286 principally arising from the issue of securities of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railway, which reduces the total charge against capital for the half-year to £6,031,962. The receipts in American currency during the half-year amounted to \$2,074,856, as against \$1,902,431, of which \$551,800 was converted into gold, against \$617,140, entailing a loss of £9,903, against £10,635 for the corresponding period of 1872. The change of gauge of 421 miles of the main line between Stratford and Montreal was completed on the 3rd and 4th October. The International Bridge across the Niagara River was opened for traffic by the President on the 3rd of November last. The President returned from Canada on the 20th of December last, and he will, at the adjourned meeting to be held on Thursday, the 22nd inst., render an account of his recent prolonged visit. The Directors have, since the last half yearly meeting in April, 1873, lost the invaluable co-operation of two of the oldest and most respected of their colleagues, Lord Wolverton and Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., men whose places in the councils of the Company it is almost impossible to supply. They have elected Mr. Newmarch to succeed Lord Wolverton, and they will, in due course, propose a successor to Mr. Thomas Baring. By Mr. Newmarch's election the office of auditor has become vacant, and Mr. Albert Creak has signified his intention of seeking election to this important office at the approaching meeting.

RICHARD POTTER,  
President.

—*Herapath's Journal.*

## Insurance.

**FIRE RECORD.**—Windsor, Jan. 10.—A fire broke out in the hardware store of Purser & Son. Their stock was burnt and damaged to the extent of \$4,000, insured in the Victoria Mutual and Provincial Companies for \$2,000.

Prince Arthur's Landing, Dec. 12.—A fire destroyed the residence of Neil White, with furniture; loss about \$3,000; no insurance.

St. John, N. B., Jan. 6.—The barns and stables of Wm. Quinton, in the vicinity of Fairville were destroyed; loss about \$5,000, insured for \$1,100 in the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company.

Quebec, Dec. 26.—The store of Andrew Young at Shigawake, Bonaventure County, P. Q. was destroyed; loss \$4,000; no insurance.

Scotland, January 13.—The Union Hotel, owned by Mr. Thatcher, in this village, was entirely consumed. The loss is about \$800; partially insured.

Colebrook, Jan. 19.—A fire broke out in the saw-mill and broom handle factory, belonging to Messrs. Church & Rider. The building, machinery, and a quantity of broom handles were entirely consumed. Loss about \$2,000; some insurance.

Aylmer, Ont., Jan. 17.—A tannery, formerly occupied by R. Parks, was destroyed. Loss about \$800.

London, Jan. 14.—A frame store, owned by J. M. McKinnon was destroyed with contents; building insured in Phoenix, and goods and furniture in the Northern for \$1,000.

Toronto, Jan. 10.—Millers cabinet store, No. 5 Shuter street was destroyed; insured on stock \$800 in the Gore District Mutual. J. A. Stuart

had on apples stored in the cellar \$500 in the Queen City.

Strathroy, Jan. 22.—A fire destroyed an old frame building on Front street, known as the Royal George Hotel, and two small shops, the total value of which did not exceed \$1,000. The property is owned by Mr. John Seaton, and is insured.

## Commercial.

### MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

MONTREAL, January 27, 1874.

We have had a very favorable change in the weather since our last report; the early part of the week was very wet, but on Saturday morning snow began to fall, and continued all day. Sunday was clear and very cold, and yesterday morning the thermometer registered 21 degrees below zero—this morning 18. The ice bridge has now taken and we have good winter roads across the river in all directions, causing a good deal of activity in the retail markets. We cannot as yet record much improvement in any branch of the wholesale trade; in some lines, such as flour, the business done has hardly been enough on which to base quotations. Provisions are very firm, but with light demand. Dry goods are quite inactive. Groceries are in moderate demand. Drugs and chemicals steady. Ashes in good demand. Hardware is much the same as last week. Very little activity is now looked for till after the election.

**ASHES.**—*Pots*—Business this week has been fairly active, and the demand for firsts has been well maintained, although prices are, if anything, a shade easier than at the date of our last report. Sales to a considerable extent were made at \$5.82½ to 5.85. To-day the market closes about 2½ cents lower. Seconds, \$5.10, and Thirds, \$4.50. *Pearls*—There are not many barrels of this description coming in; some 25 barrels were sold at \$7.35, closing steady at that price. Inferior sorts of pearls are nominal, no sales taking place. The stocks at present in the inspection store are: *Pots*, 1702 brls.; *Pearls*, 577 brls.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—We have no change to note in prices, orders continue to come in and the spring business bids fair to be a prosperous one. We repeat our quotations of last week:—Men's thick boots, \$2.25 to 2.75; ditto kip do., \$2.50 to 3.50; boys' thick boots, \$1.75 to 2.75; ditto kip do., \$2 to 2.20; women's buff boots, \$1.15 to 1.25; do. split do., 90c to \$1.10; do. pebbled buff bals., \$1.25 to 1.50; Misses do. \$1 to 1.25; do. buff boots, 90c to \$1; do. split do., 50 to 60c; beef boots \$11 to 12 per doz.; men's mocassins \$10 to 15 per doz.

**CATTLE.**—The market is now fairly supplied with good stock, and a brisk business is doing, prices however, are much the same as last, viz., first quality \$7.00 to 7.50; second ditto \$5.00 to 6.00; third ditto \$5.00 to 5.50. *Sheep.*—Are scarce and in demand at \$4.00 to 6.00. *Lambs.* Are wanted but none in the market, full prices could be obtained for any offering. *Hogs.*—No live hogs in market. Dressed hogs are arriving freely, and sales reported at \$7.00 to 7.50 according to quality.

**DRY GOODS.**—The bad roads, and open weather which has prevailed so long has operated against this line of business, and with the exception of some orders sent in by travellers for Tweeds we have nothing to record. Remittances reported as being very satisfactory, prices ruling so far this year, are fully up to last years prices.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—We have a very light business to record this week, but prices are generally well maintained owing to the lightness of the stocks. *Bi carb* holders are

very firm and buyers have had to accede to their demand of \$5.80 to 6.00; *Caustic soda* unchanged. *Sal soda* is steady and firm at \$2.50; *Cream Tartar Crystals* 27 to 28c; *Bleaching powder* 2½ to 3c; *Alum* 2½ to 2½; *Saltpetre* \$10.50; *Epsom salts* 1½ to 2c. Very little movement in other articles and prices are unchanged.

**FISH.**—There is an active enquiry for No. 1 *Labrador herrings* but there are very few if any in stock, and are quoted at \$5.50 to 6.00, any in market are held for these prices. *Dry Cod* \$4.50 to 5.00. *Salmon* quiet with little enquiry at \$14 to 14.50; No. 4 mackerel \$4 to 4.50.

**FURS.**—We have had no further advices of any change in the state of the English fur market, but the prospects of a good demand at the March sales for American furs is poor, owing to the prevalence of mild weather, very few furs coming in here, and our quotations remain much the same as last week. *Beaver* \$1.75 to 2.25 per lb; *black bear* large \$8 to 10. ditto cub \$3 to 5; *fisher* \$6 to 7.50; *silver fox* \$25 to 50; *cross fox* \$5.00; *red fox* \$1.50; *lynx* \$2 to 2.50; *marten*, dark Labrador, \$7 to 8; *pale marten* \$1.75 to 2.00; *prime dark mink* \$3 to 3.50; *mink dark 2nds* \$1.50 to 2; *otter* \$3 to 12; *fall muskrat* 12c; *winter muskrat* 15c; *raccoon* 25 to 50c; *skunk* 20c.

**FLOUR.**—The receipts for the past week have been 7,900 brls.; total receipts from 1st January to date 23,400 brls. being an increase of 4602 brls. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1873. The amount of business done on the Corn Exchange during the week has been very small indeed hardly sufficient to establish quotations. Speculators are enquiring for flour for May delivery, and one round lot is reported to have been placed on private terms, with this exception the only business done was in small lots to local dealers at prices within our range of quotations, to-day the market closes exceedingly dull without any demand. *Superior extra* \$6.50 to 6.70; *Extra* \$6.30 to 6.40; *Strong Bakers flour* \$6.00 to 6.20; *Spring extra* \$5.75 to 5.85; *Superfine* \$5.35 to 5.40; *fine* \$4.90 to 5.00; *Middlings* \$4.40 to 4.50; *Pollards* \$3.75; *Upper Canada bag flour* \$2.70 to 2.80; *Oatmeal* steady at \$5. to 5.15; *Cornmeal* \$3 to 3.20.

**GRAIN.**—*Wheat*—Receipts for the bygone week, 9,800 bushels; total receipts from 1st January to date, 15,400 bushels, being an increase of 3,850 bushels on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1873. This has been a blank week as far as transactions in this grain are concerned; there has been literally nothing doing, and in the meantime it is impossible to give quotations. *Maize*—The market has been firm at 70 to 72c. *Pease* are in small supply with a very fair demand both on the spot and for delivery in May; 75c is freely offered for the former, and 85c for the latter, but we have heard of no transactions taking place. *Oats*—Market is steady at 36 to 38c. *Barley* is in fair demand, and the late quotation of \$1.00 to 1.10 is fully maintained. *Pot Barley*, \$8. *Pearl Barley*, \$15—no demand.

**GROCERIES.**—*Teas*—The demand for uncolored Japans has been good, and as they are not in large supply holders are very firm and asking higher prices. We quote ordinary to fair qualities 35 to 48c, and for good to fine 50 to 65c; not much doing in China teas, but prices are firm. The ship "Tamarlane," from Yokohama, which we reported a week or two ago as being lost, has cast up at Batavia with her cargo badly damaged. *Coffee*—Accounts received in the city last week from all the producing countries report advancing markets, and notwithstanding the very high prices prevailing at present, a further advance is confidently looked for by holders. At the moment, business here is not very active, owing to the light stocks, and prices just now are nominal—but an advance on our late quotations will have to be