

have no demand for beef in Canada—and to export it for sale in bond, brings us into competition, at great disadvantage, with the United States. Our only market then appears to be the vessels that visit the St. Lawrence, and the fisheries. If each vessel that came, however, were to take four or five barrels or tierces, there would be a demand for five or six thousand packages in the season, which is probably as great a surplus as Canada has to spare. Beef should be chiefly packed in barrels as prime mess and prime—and the superior cattle in tierces as prime mess of a higher standard. The price for good qualities is high and advancing in Britain, whilst for old and inferior parcels, it is ruinously low. As in pork, much depends upon the manner of cutting and cleanness of pickle. Present prices in Montreal, \$4½ for prime beef in barrels; \$6½ for prime mess in do.; \$11. for do in tierces of 304 lbs. The tendency will probably be to advance, on account of the small quantity putting up.

**Butter.**—A great improvement has taken place in the character of Canadian butter, inasmuch that it is much sought after and highly commended in Britain, though this is doubtless partly occasioned by a scarcity there, caused by the great drought of last summer. Owing to these causes shippers have obtained large profits; some choice parcels that cost 5½d to 6d here, having realized a return of 9d to 9½d Cy. per lb. There is no probability of a second year of drought in Britain, but there may be still greater pains taken in making and putting up our butter, so that comparatively high prices may be always secured.

I cannot insist too strongly on the importance of cleanliness in the whole process of making and packing butter, and of a thorough separation of all milky particles. In fact the water in which it is last washed should be left perfectly clear. The salt used should invariably be fine Liverpool, and thoroughly incorporated with the butter, which should be carefully packed all of one kind and colour in a keg or firkin with plenty of pickle. The packages should be thoroughly seasoned and soaked, and well hooped with wooden hoops, besides an iron one at each end.

Butter may be quoted at 6d to 6½d per lb. here, and at 75s to 85s per cwt. in Britain, subject to a duty of 5s per cwt., whilst foreign butter has to pay 20s per cwt. It is rumoured however, that the duty on foreign will probably soon be reduced to 10s, in which case the duty on Canadian will probably be taken off entirely.

**Shells.**—The production having been very large, prices are low every where, although the great activity in manufactures causes a greatly increased consumption. Should present low prices check production, an advance will doubtless gradually take place, otherwise it would not be safe to expect over 24s for pots, and 25s for pearls, next spring. The prices at present are about 1s to 1s 6d under these rates.

**Lumber.**—Although not practically acquainted with this trade, I may state that it has been eminently prosperous through the past season, an instance of which, is an advance within twelve months upon standard staves of upwards of 50 per cent. There are however, immense preparations throughout all the lumbering districts to supply the demand next season, and owing to various causes, freights are likely to be very high. It is not, therefore, at all improbable that this year may prove almost as disastrous as the last was prosperous; though the great demand for lumber in constructing railroads and all kinds of building in Britain, occasioned by the return of prosperity is some security for a healthy trade in that staple for a while to come.

**Imported Goods.**—The importations of the past season though large, have been nearly all disposed of advantageously to retail dealers; who, as far as I know, have no reason to complain.

In conclusion I would suggest that it is matter for deep thankfulness, that our widely extended country absolutely teems

with a superabundance of valuable productions; that the past year has been upon the whole eminently prosperous, and that the coming year wears a cheerful aspect.

I am, your most obedient servant,

JOHN DOUGLASS.

## NEWS.

The British Cabinet, it is said, contemplates a complete change in the government of India, which will extinguish the political power of the East India Directors.

The late potatoe crop in Ireland is found to exceed the produce of any year on record—and the repeal cause is going on as favourably as ever.

The iron trade is most animated, and even at this, usually, the dull season of the year.

The banking house of Messrs. Rogers & Co., in which the poet of Memory, Mr. Samuel Rogers, is a partner, has been the scene of one of the most astounding robberies on record. The iron safe in the banking house was plundered on Sunday night, the 24th ult. of notes and specie exceeding £10,000.

There was an entire absence of demand for United States securities. Scarcely a transaction had taken place; the quotations must be considered as quite nominal; their rise or fall depends, it is said, altogether upon the future policy of the new government.

The cotton market is in a very depressed state, and prices are literally fixed by the buyer, owing to the anxious desire to effect sales.

It is stated in a London paper, that the agitation of repeal has cost the people of Ireland, in twelve months, the sum of £121,364, of which £56,000 were devoted to the personal and private uses of Mr. O'Connell.

The late Mayor of Liverpool, Mr. Thomas Sands, has followed the excellent example of the Recorder of that town, and has contributed the munificent sum of 100 guineas towards the establishment of a Sailors' Home.

The Queen has subscribed £200, and Prince Albert £100, towards the erection of baths and wash-houses in London. Queen Adelaide has also given £100.

A member of the society of Friends, near New-York, has sent £500 to the subscription in aid of Father Mathew, and the Duke of Devonshire has sent £100.

The cause of temperance had made rapid advances in Poland, particularly those parts of the kingdom which border on the republic of Cracow, and in the Upper Silesia, where the people, following the example of the clergy, had almost universally renounced the use of brandy—much to the loss of the excise revenue. The Czar has published a circular, suppressing all temperance societies, and forbidding the clergy to promote the cause by addresses from the pulpit.

A great effort is making in the United States, to have the rate of postage made uniform at two cents per half ounce.

The famous, or rather infamous gag law, prohibiting the reception of petitions regarding slavery, has at length been abolished in Congress, by a considerable majority.

The most strenuous efforts are making by the President of the United States, and various other leading men, to annex Texas at once, by a joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress.

Another revolution has broken out in Mexico.

A number of the individuals transported from Canada to New South Wales for political offences, five or six years ago, have recently been pardoned and sent back, at the expense of the British Government.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, December 11.

Among the petitions presented were the following:—

Of the inhabitants of Stanstead for amendments in the Charter of McGill College and King's College.

Of the Corporation of the Montreal Protestant Orphan Asylum, for pecuniary assistance.

Of the Corporation of the Ladies of the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum of Montreal, for pecuniary aid.

Of the Very Rev. Augustus M'Donnell, V. G., praying that sufficient remuneration may be provided for him as Chaplain to the Roman Catholic prisoners in the Penitentiary.