

MONEY ORDERS CHEAPENED.

THE new Postmaster-General, the Hon. JOHN CARLING, has inaugurated his re-entrance into official life by a display of administrative action in a direction into which his predecessors hesitated to move. The high rates charged for money orders between the Dominion and the exterior world have always been regarded as excessive, this form of taxation, too, falling almost wholly upon the least wealthy classes of the community. Mr. CARLING has just abated this grievance by reducing the rates to as low a point as it was at all possible they could be allowed to descend, and the new money-order tariff goes into force to-morrow. The rate of exchange is also reduced from \$48.90 to \$48 for the £10 sterling. The rate will be the same as on orders for the United States, and is lower than any of the rates which have been suggested. A new pattern of "order" also comes into use, superseding three others, and adapted for drawing on any country with which Canada has now, or may hereafter have, a rate of exchange. Orders for all countries will be issued in "dollars and cents" only, and the conversion into foreign money will be effected at the chief office through which the outgoing relative advices pass. In like manner the English post-office will convert orders on Canada into dollars and cents before leaving England, so that Canadian postmasters will be entirely relieved of the trouble of converting into and issuing orders in a foreign money, a duty which has been the cause of many errors whereby the public suffered. The following will illustrate the advantage which will result from this change in rates. At present to send home \$10 costs 20c., and the payer in England receives £2 0s 11d. After Saturday to send the same amount will cost only 10c., and the payer will get £1 1s. 1d, a total saving of 14c out of 20c., or say two-thirds off. Printed notices containing full information and tables, together with examples, have been prepared, and will be at once placed in prominent places in the various post offices throughout the country. The utility of this action of Mr. CARLING's will only be equalled by its popularity, and in it we see fresh proof that the new Postmaster-General is a worthy colleague in an Administration which is celebrated above all for the practical character of its measures.

ENGLISH TRADE.

THE Board of Trade returns for May show the value of the total exports of home produce for the month to have been £20,047,066, against £19,087,648 for same month last year, and £17,277,876 for May, 1880, being an increase on last year of about 5½ per cent., and on 1880 of 16 per cent. For the five months of the year, the total exports amounted to £98,160,280, against £90,503,478 last year, and £89,170,852 in 1880; showing an increase of 8½ per cent. on last year and 10 per cent. on 1880. On the

other side, imports have increased more largely than exports, as the total value for May was £35,985,954, against £32,483,822 last year, and £30,453,114 in 1880; showing an increase on last year of about 10½ per cent. and on 1880 of about 18 per cent. For the five months ending with May, the total value is £175,046,193, against £167,947,754 last year, or an increase of 4½ per cent., and £173,323,060 in 1880, or an increase of 1 per cent. The increase in the imports is due to the magnitude of the arrivals of raw materials, those of cotton amounting to £4,696,177, an increase of £1,775,797, or about 60½ per cent. A portion of this increase is, however, due to a rise in prices, since the increase in quantity is only 44½ per cent. The arrivals of wool only show a moderate expansion, and in this case there has been a fall in prices, the quantity imported being 12½ per cent. greater than last year, while the increase in value is only 8½ per cent. There is a large increase in the landings of timber, amounting to £281,001, or 32 per cent. Among articles of food the two great staples of the cereal trade show large decreases. The imports of wheat amounted to £2,291,295, a diminution of £227,665, or 10½ per cent. The falling off in quantity is even greater, being as much as 15½ per cent. The imports of Indian corn show a reduction of 34 per cent. in quantity and 23½ per cent. in value. There is a slight increase in the arrivals of wheat flour, which amounted to £881,227, or about 6½ per cent. more than last year.

MONTREAL.

ALTHOUGH stocks have been dull, business quiet, and people flocking to the sea side, the religious world has been stirred a good deal of late. The Roman Catholic Bishop has caused some excitement among his flock by cautioning the faithful against attending Protestant funerals! and Dr. SULLIVAN has been made a Bishop. We noticed one foolish oversight at this long and tedious ceremony, the plate was not carried around until large numbers of the audience were gone, resulting in a heavy loss, we should say—for the new bishopric. Why on earth bishops cannot walk about in clothes like other people is more than we can make out, but we suppose now Bishop SULLIVAN, like the rest, will be happy in his cocked hat, tight breeches, and silver buckles. Lard heavy—a plentiful supply of butter.

LABOR AND STOCKS.—The startling statement is made by the New York *Indicator* that labor unions in the States are largely under the control of a few persons, and that in some instances they have been bought by stock speculators, who have staked millions on a fall in stocks, which a strike may influence. It is distinctly asserted that the recent boiler-makers' strike in New York was brought about by these foul means. The subject is naturally attracting much attention across the lines, and the matter will doubtless be sifted.

THE PRICE OF TEA.

NOT along ago the Finance Minister of Canada took the duty off tea and coffee. Who has benefited? Not the public, most assuredly. The retail prices, to all appearances, remain the same. The reduction goes into the pockets of the importer or retailer, and the consumer, for whom the benefit was intended, lives on in blissful ignorance of the change. Messrs. JOHN OSBORNE, SON & Co. held a sale this week in Montreal. They are a noted Company for importing first-class teas. Compare the prices paid by the public to that obtained at auction, and people will see that they are enormously humbugged in this matter somewhere:—

TEAS—Twankay—20 half-chests finest Nankin Moyune at 11½c. Hysons—10 half-chests choicest N. S. Nankin Moyune at 12c., 20 at 13c., 24 choicest do. Pakhaong do. at 17½c. Imperial—31 half-chests choicest N. S. Nankin Moyune at 14c. Gunpowders—15 half-chests curious Moyune at 24c., 15 at 23c., 19 choicest New Season at 24½c., 40 boxes choicest N. S. Nankin Moyune at 24½c., 11 half-chests choicest N. S. Nankin Moyune at 30½c. Yeung Hyson—20 half-chests finest N. S. Moyune at 12½c., 15 cases extra choicest specially-picked Nankin Moyune at 28½c., 12 cases (2-lacquered boxes each) extra choicest fancy first Nankin Moyune at 41c., 59 half-chests choice Nankin Moyune at 21c. Japans—31 half-chests May pickings, extra fancy, at 15c., 70 at 18½c., 97 at 19c., 79 at 20c., 50 at 20½c., 39 at 23c., 20 at 28c., 43 at 30½c. Congous—20 half-chests choice new season Moning at 13c., 40 boxes choicest new season, 1881-82, at 25c., 40 at 25½c., 20 extra choicest at 30c.

ANOTHER LINK GONE.

WE regretted to see in a letter to Bishop BOND, of Montreal, that Mr. C. J. BRYDGES has resigned the Treasurship of the Anglican Church for the Province of Quebec. There are few men so much missed in Montreal as Mr. BRYDGES—a genial good soul—every inch of him good metal. The public are sorry to see tie after tie breaking away, and leaving to memory only the recollection of the man and all his noble qualities.

THE STEEL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.—

It appears that the two shares spoken of in our last were to be issued to the miners and people interested in its working by way of encouragement, and that a syndicate have undertaken the disposal of the stock, some of whom will visit Montreal shortly for the purpose of placing some of the stock.

MOLSON'S BANK.—There is no truth in the report published in an evening contemporary to the effect that the Molson's Bank is about to establish an agency in New York with Mr. Ingram, late of the Merchants' Bank, as manager.

THE UNION BANK.—According to the statement of the Union Bank, of Quebec, to be submitted to the shareholders at the annual meeting on Monday next, the total profits for the year, after deducting expenses of management and reserving for interest and exchange, were \$176,881. Amount appropriated for bad and doubtful debts, \$58,226. Amount carried to credit of profit and loss account for current year, \$80,028.