burned to the ground and the contents totally destroyed, loss not yet known, insured for $3,200 in the Western and $4,000 in the London Assurance Corporation.

Mitchel, Jan. 17.—A fire broke out in the general store of Mr. Miller. There was nothing saved out of the building. The loss on goods and furniture will be about $1,200, on the building, $2,500, mostly covered by insurance. They were owned by Mr. W. Clegg, who occupied one as a millinery establishment. The other was occupied by the Merchants' Bank. Mr. Clegg's loss on the building will be about $700; on stock, $1,200. The Merchants' Bank's loss $75.

Lakefield, Jan. 17—A fire broke out in a building known as the Tannery and owned by Messrs. Smith & Boyd, and on their mill property. The fire originated in the roof of the carding mill, it is thought from defective stove-pipes. The machinery in the carding mill was almost totally destroyed. In the grist mill all the flour on the lower floor was saved, still the loss of both parties is heavy. The loss is about $5,000; insurance, $4,500.

—The Acadia Fire insurance Company of Nova Scotia has declared a dividend of 12½ per cent.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKET.

Business has been comparatively quiet during the past week, in all branches of wholesale trade complete dulness being noticeable in most of them. Produce and provisions have also been somewhat inactive, although from light deliveries and advancing markets in England and the United States, prices of leading articles are again higher. The weather since last report has been very severe all over the province, less so here and west than in Quebec and the more easterly parts of Ontario. Some snow has also fallen and there is now good sleighing everywhere. An improvement in business may now soon be looked for, but no decided activity for a month or so. Remittances continue to be tolerably satisfactory, but there is still fear that collections will not be sufficient to make anything approaching to payments in full on April and May indebtedness.

Boots and Shoes.—Trade is quiet, but not more so than is customary at this season of the year. Manufacturers are somewhat annoyed by the conduct of the Crispin Association of workmen, who claim a right of dictation as to whom shall be employed, etc., which their employers are not disposed to admit. There is at present no dispute as to wages, and as manufacturers are determined to regulate their own affairs, it is not likely that the trouble will last long. Prices of winter goods are unaltered. The following are the quotations of spring goods now sampled:—Men's calf boots, $3.37 to $3.75; men's No. 1 x kip do., $3 to $3.15; men's top kip boots, $2.50; men's thick boots, $2 to $2.65; gaiters and balmorals, $1.75 to $2.50; prunella gaiters, $1.35 to $2; boy's boots, $1.80 to $1.90; boy's gaiters and balmorals, $1.50 to $1.80; youth's boots, $1.45 to $1.55; youth's gaiters and balmorals, $1.30 to $1.50; women's fine kid balmorals and congress, $2 to $2.75; women's prunella balmorals and congress 90c. to $1.75; women's buff and pebble balmorals and congress, $1.20 to $1.90; women's calf and pebble batts, $1 to $1.40; miss'es fine balmorals and congress $1.20 to $1.60; miss'es prunella balmorals and congress, 85c. to $1.30; miss'es buff and pebble, 80c. to $1.10; children's fine balmorals and congress, 80c. to $1.20; children,s buff and pebble balmorals and congress. 60c. to 90c.

Drugs.—Business is fairly active, with no special change to note in quotations.

Dry Goods.—Trade is very quiet. New goods are now about done, and will arrive by every steamer. The importations will in all probability be large, but hardly so excessive as those of last fall, and it is to be hoped that there will be some discretion shown by importers in forcing their stocks on the country. It is well known that the farmers have not made money (with some exception of course) during the past year, and it will be very unwise to count too certainly on their being a prosperous harvest and paying prices this year. The rule of the trade should be to sell less—not more—than is likely to be actually required to supply the wants of consumers.

Freights.—The following are the winter ratse on the Grand Trunk, now in operation: Flour to Kingston, 35c., grain 18c.; flour to Prescott, 43c., grain 22c.; flour to Montreal, 50c., grain 25c.; flour to St. Johns, Q., 60c., grain 25c.; flour to Point Levis, 80c., grain 40c.; flour to St. John, N. B. $1.02, grain 51c.; flour to Halifax, $1.10, grain 55c.; flour to New York and Boston, 90c., grain 45c., gold. The steamers Chase and Carlotta leave Portland for Halifax on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Groceries.—There has been a moderate demand for general and staple goods, without any special enquiry of any kind to note. *Coffee*—The demand at present is very trifling, and sales made are only of small lots at previous quotations. *Fish*—Herrings are not in large stock, and prices are stiffer. Labrador splits are quoted at $6 to $7. Dry Cod is becoming scarce, and holders are advancing their demands. Prices are now firm at $5.50 to $5.75. Little doing in Trout or White-fish. *Fruit*—Notwithstanding a considerable reduction of the stock of Raisins held here by shipments south and west it is still ample to meet all the requirements of the trade, unless there should be a continued export demand; and prices, though firmer, are not expected to advance beyond present quotations. Currants are somewhat stiffer, and are now quoted at 7c. to 7½c. for new crop. *Rice*—has had rather more enquiry of late, and sells more readily at quotations, which, however, are nominally unchanged. *Sugars*—The markets in all parts of the world are still steadily advancing both for raw and refined goods, but here holders are unable to realize the advance in consequence as before stated of a somewhat overstocked market. The Montreal refiners have again raised their rates, ¼c. on yellows and ⅜c. on white grades. As soon as present stocks have become reduced into smaller compass holders will undoubtedly look for higher prices, as they will be unable to replace their goods at the figures at which they are now selling. *Spices*—as a general thing the enquiry is light and prices are unchanged. Black pepper, however, is firm and slightly higher, now quoted at 15c. to 16c. *Teas*—A good many small parcels of Young Hysons have been sold during the past week at gradually improving prices, in the lower grades especially, which are only in fair supply. Japans are in little demand. Gunpowders and imperials are not asked for. Blacks sell to a limited extent. *Tobacco*—Prices have been weak for sometime, and in light sorts especially, lower prices have to be accepted. Good to fine may be quoted 40c. to 60c. *Wines* and *Liquors*—Wines, Brandies and Gins are inactive.

Hardware.—There is a complete lull in trade, and quotations are without change.

Hides and Skins.—The supply of slaughter *Hides* is only moderate, but the demand has fallen off slightly, and prices though unchanged, are scarcely so firm. *Sheepskins*—are in fair supply, receipts being about absorbed by the existing demand, without alteration in rates.

Leather.—The market is rather quiet and prices are as last quoted.

Lumber.—The temporary depression in the Albany market does not affect operations here, for next season's stock as logging is being pushed forward with more than ordinary activity, indeed Canada has perhaps never seen a larger consumption of pine for local and shipping requirements than will take place during this winter for the spring and summer's delivery. Although the Albany market is for the present glutted, the case is otherwised with the dealers down east, and should a thaw come so as to render logging tardy or impossible as some are speculating upon, the large quantities stored at Albany and other eastern depots will bring a good return to the holders. Prices clear, $22 to $24; common, 9 to $9.50; culls, $7 to $7.50; shingles, No. 1, $2.75 to $2.90; do. No. 2, $2 to $2.25.

Petroleum.—Trade is very quiet, and there is no change to note in quotations. The shipping demand has almost entirely fallen off, owing to the continental disturbances, and it is not improbable that some of the refineries manufacturing for the foreign market may temporarily suspend operations.

Produce.—The market has steadily advanced during the week, in sympathy with the English and American markets, in which day after day prices ruled almost uniformly higher than the preceding day. The business transacted, however, has not been so large as might be expected, holders advancing their pretentions more rapidly than met their views of buyers, whether for consumption or speculation. The receipts for the week have been only moderate, however, and the amount of grain on offer here is comparatively limited, so that buyers have been somewhat at a disadvantage and any sales recorded have been at pretty long prices. *Flour*—In the forepart of the week, superfine was offered in round lots at equal to $5.72½ in Toronto, with $5.70 bid, and 100 brls choice do. sold on the cars at Weston, at $5.75. Subsequently, under improving advices from English markets, holders looked for more money, and only a limited amount was in the market at as low as $5.85, the majority of sellers requiring $6 for desirable samples. A sale of 100 brls. at the former figure was reported, and at this price there are now free buyers, with no sellers. *Wheat*—The offerings have been very limited throughout the week, and the market has been constantly in advance of the views of buyers, so that no business of consequence has been transacted. The principal enquiry has been for spring, with buyers at the close at $1.26 to $1.28, holders looking for $1.29 to $1.30. White sold at $1.28 in store, but values are in the present state of the market somewhat difficult to fix. As high as $1.34 was paid on the street for Soule's. *Barley*—The market has been a steadily improving one, and prices are firm from 5c. to 10c. higher than last week. Receipts by rail have been small, but deliveries by farmers have somewhat increased since the roads have become good. The principal buyers are still the local brewers, but there is some speculative demand as well. On the street, at the close, good samples were taken at from 65c. to 71c., and some car loads were placed at 66c. to 67½ delivered. *Oats*—have been in fair demand throughout the week, and with small deliveries, prices have advanced. Sales were made recently at 50c. delivered, holders asking 49c. on the track and 47½c. bid. Sleigh loads bring from 50c. to 52c. *Peas*—offerings still continue very limited, and in the absence of transactions, quotations must be considered almost entirely nominal. *Hay*—Receipts have been large, but prices are steady at from $10 to $13 for timothy and clover. *Straw*—still comes in slowly, sells at $9 to $10.50

Provisions.—Receipts have somewhat improved espicially by rail, and there has been rather more activity in the market. *Butter*—is in active demand for choice dairy, and with light receipts prices have improved, 20c. being now obtainable for desirable lots. Storepacked is unchanged and still very slow of sale. *Cheese*—sells in a retail way at late rates. *Eggs*—None in market. *Lard*—has the ordinary local consumptive demand. *Pork*—is firm and advancing with some sales of mess at $20; choice held at $21. There is beginning to be some enquiry from the lumbering districts and some shipments have been made to Liverpool. The supply at present, however, is ample for all immediate wants. *Dressed Hogs*—Receipts by rail have been large and by sleigh to