

THE COAL TRADE.

Anthracite trade is quiet; there are more enquiries and sales, but prices do not improve as they should at this season of the year. This may be due to the methods of some parties engaged in the coal trade; they apparently are not in the business for the sake of making it a profitable industry, but for the purpose of spreading abroad everything that could tend to demoralize the market and weaken the confidence of buyers. * * * There is not likely to be any more coal mined than that for which demand will arise, but there is no method adopted in the producing of coal, so that it shall not be greater at any time than the requirements. Nothing was said or done about restricting in August and yet the monthly tonnage will not be as large as the proposed allotment; the same condition of affairs is likely to be the course for the month of September. * * *

The company price lists are \$3.70 for stove, \$3.15 for broken and egg and \$3.25 for chestnut, and standard free burning coals are sold at these rates, with fluctuations on the less favorably known coals; the standard Lehigh coals hold up well and quotations are \$3.75—\$3.85 for broken, \$3.67—\$3.75 for egg, \$3.90 for stove, \$3.50—\$3.60 for chestnut; on other coals sold as Lehigh there is a less rate as a matter of course. Buyers find that every transaction stands on its own merits and no cast iron rule obtains as to prices. * * * Tonnage last week was 673,604 and for the year 18,320,118 as compared with 821,237 and 19,535,892 last season.

Water freights are low in all directions, and it is thought must soon change; quotations of 95c. from Philadelphia to Boston, with \$1.10 from Baltimore; \$1.00 from Norfolk and 70c. from New York ports made low rates delivered. Buffalo is still quoting 50c. to Chicago and Milwaukee, 40c. to Duluth, etc. and 20c. to Detroit. Erie to Chicago, 50c. Toledo to Ashland, Milwaukee and Chicago, 50c., Cleveland, 55c. to Chicago and Milwaukee.

Bituminous is spoken of by some few dealers as showing a trifle more animation than it has; no doubt an active fall trade among manufacturers will increase the demand for coal. Bituminous is yearly becoming the steam fuel of the country, and it is not impossible to find that heavy freight traffic on what are termed the hard coal roads is done by engines burning soft coal, while in the manufacturing districts this fuel is used wherever circumstances will permit, by reason of its efficiency and cheapness. We note from Cleveland that manufacturers are taking more coal, and that despite the great accumulation of coal, shipments during August exceeded those of the same month last year by 10,000 tons.—*Coal Trade Journal*.

A PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND GIRL.

The kind of girl they grow in Rose Valley, P. E. Island, is illustrated by the following incident which took place at Bredalbane last week: One of the fair maids of the valley drove in a single waggon and pulled up in front of a store occupied by a well-known oat speculator. She gracefully alighted from the vehicle and inquired the price of flour. The proprietor was standing in front of the store in conversation with a number of friends. He pointed to a barrel of flour on the platform and said: "Miss —, if you put that barrel of flour in your waggon you can have it for nothing." It is known that the gentleman who made this reply is not given to charity or liberal with his fair share of the world's goods, and his astonishment and his disgust may be more easily imagined than described when the fair maid of Rose Valley gripped the barrel and landed it clean over the front wheel into the body of the waggon, took her seat upon it, and thanking the merchant for his kindness, drove off amid the cheers of those who witnessed the act.

—The by-law in favor of the Montreal and Sorel Railway was carried last week by eight of a majority. Although most strenuous efforts were made against its passage, the owners of more than two-thirds of the value of the property voted in its favor.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. B. C.; Windsor.—The sale to which we referred is advertised by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, to take place at Toronto, on the 22nd prox.

S. S.; Tilsonburg.—The Liverpool quotation for cheese on the 21st August was 38/-; on each of the four following days 37/- and on the 27th it was 39/-.

NON SAILOR; Dalhousie.—Buenos Ayres, in the Argentine Confederation, is more than three hundred years old, but its population according to McCulloch's *Dictionary*, was in 1870 under 100,000. Rio Janeiro is not in the same republic, it is the capital of the Empire of Brazil and its population in 1867 was stated at 420,000, of which one-fourth was slaves.

R. B.; City.—We do not pretend to such minute knowledge, off-hand. See the *Canadian Almanac* or the *Dominion Annual* for those years. You can find them at the Public Library.

SUBSCRIBER; Rochester.—The work at the Lime-Kiln Crossing is going on under a second appropriation from Washington. We are not aware that any was made from Ottawa recently.

C. W. H.—Letter received, will reply shortly.

"LUMBER FIRM."—That must have been a mistake, the quantity given was too small to be accurate. It is only a week or two since the St. John *Telegraph* gave the following as the deal shipments from St. John, to European ports to date:—

Year 1882.....	113,040,000	super. feet.
" 1883.....	97,950,000	"
" 1884.....	110,424,000	"
" 1885.....	72,017,000	"

A LOAD OF HOGS.

A tall, lank man boarded an out-going western train near the stock yard. He looked like a farmer; and there was an odor of cattle cars about his clothes. He walked through the car and looked about for a seat, but nobody stirred to make room for him. A drummer was spread over two seats, and a woman and her two children over three. Several men occupied a whole seat apiece. The tall, lank man gazed up and down the car a moment and then exclaimed: "Well, by gosh, I cum up to Chicago with a load of hogs, but I'll be darned if I thought I'd have ter ride home with a load too."—*Chicago Herald*.

—"I was never exactly buried alive," said an old clerk, recounting his experiences, "but I once worked a week in a store that did not advertise. When I came out my head was almost as white as you now see it. Solitary confinement did it."—*Cincinnati Gazette*.

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STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, SEPT. 2ND, 1885.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average '84.
Montreal.....	224	201	257	202	201	191
Ontario.....	109	108	25	109	108	112
Peoples.....	80	75	10			45
Molson.....	125	119	46	125	121	116
Toronto.....	187	185	210	187	186	177
Jac. Cartier.....	65	50		65	60	
Merchants.....	116	115	169	115	115	112
Commerce.....	128	127	285	127	127	121
Union.....	75	51		65	50	
Montreal Tel.....	128	127	104	128	127	115
Rich. and Ont.....	64	58	822	64	60	57
City Passenger.....	120	117	820	118	117	122
Gas.....	189	188	175	189	188	190
C. Pacific R. R.....	46	44	125	46	45	45
N. W. Land.....						50

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