

same time harmony with other civilized nations. This system requires the change of one dollar as follows:

	Weight of fine gold. grm.	Weight of coin. grm.
Present	1.50463	1.671813
Proposed	1.5	1.666666
	0.00463	0.005146

The decrease is only about one-third of one per cent. Twenty dollars would weigh thirty-three and one-third grms., and correspond nearly to one hundred francs, the latter now weighing 32.25806 grms. standard gold. The following table shows the commensurability of various national units by comparatively slight changes, and points out the road in which America will henceforth lead, not follow. And this leadership, let us add, will be founded upon the inherent superiority of the American monetary system, not, as has been the short-lived triumph of the French idea, upon bare audacity and restless propagandism.

#### METRIC DECIMAL BASIS.

	Fine gold. grammes.	Weight of coins. grammes.
Three Union Crowns of Germany	30.	33½
(Present) 20 dollars, U. S.	30.0926	33.4362
" 100 francs	29.032253	32.25806
" 1,000 pence sterling	30.5100	33.2800
" 4 pounds sterling	29.2895	31.9522

It may easily be seen from this table how slight are the changes required to bring these numbers into unison. In the case of the English coinage, the change required, if 1,000 pence are taken as the equivalent of twenty dollars, is smaller than if the attempt is made to conform the sovereign to the value of our new half-eagle. A coin containing say two hundred and fifty pence, or, say a metrical pound (which would be between a pound sterling and guinea) would weigh at present 8.32 grammes of English standard gold, whereas it should weigh 8.33½ of American standard gold, i. e., of gold nine-tenths fine.

M. Elliot, in a recent brochure upon the subject, arguing the matter on the basis of the contents in fine gold, justly remarks that "the chief point of practical moment soon to be decided by commercial nations is, whether 30 or 29.032253 + grammes of fine gold—the former the German standard, the latter the French standard, shall represent or define their value." This German standard is represented by the new German crown, of which nearly \$7,000,000 worth have already been struck.

We do not believe that Congress can be deceived in this matter as to the demands of science, trade, or national advantage. For the sake of the enlightenment of the whole public, however, we should be glad to see the matter referred to a competent commission, including men of science, officers of the mint, and merchants and travelled men. If they furnished a volume as valuable and interesting as the report of the recent British Commission on the same subject, their appointment would be amply justified.—*Engineering and Mining Journal*.

#### MONTREAL MARKET.

MONTREAL, May 31.

Since my last report we have had fine warm weather, but if anything rather too dry for the country, and rain is again much wanted; crops, however, are looking fair, and fruit trees promise an abundant yield.

Business, in consequence of the Fenian troubles, has been very dull in all trades. Most of the young men in the stores have been called to the front, and until their return, no great amount of business will be done. The return of the volunteers is ex-

pected this week, when it is hoped business will revive, and that we will no more be troubled with this contemptible Fenian nonsense.

Shipping is going on briskly, and there is a large amount of tonnage in the harbour. An attempt was made last week to seize the "Lake Michigan," in consequence of the failure of the stevedore to pay the labourers employed by him, but the master cut the hawser and slipped out of port without its accomplishment.

Dry Goods.—Although no large transactions have been reported during the week, there has been a fair amount of business done, considering the excitement, which has had a most depressing effect on this trade, both for wholesale and retail. Stocks are still well assorted, and every steamer is bringing in new supplies.

HARDWARE.—The death of Thomas Morland, Esq., a member of one of the leading hardware firms in this city, has cast quite a gloom on this branch of trade, he was well known as one of the leading men, and much respected by all classes of the community. There has been no change in prices during the week, and the demand has been only to a very limited extent. Stocks on hand are about the usual quantity, and both shelf and heavy hardware are arriving freely.

LEATHER.—Prices for most kinds during the week have been well maintained, but business has been quiet. Light waxed upper, and heavy upper, have declined about 2c., and are now quoted at 40c. to 42½c. and 38c. to 40c. respectively. Light and heavy calfskins have also declined 10c. Harness, however, has advanced a little, and is now bringing 25c. to 28c. Stocks are light, and receipts are only about equal to the demand.

WOOL.—None shipping as yet. Pulled wool continues quiet, and prices are unchanged. There is no clipped yet in market, and prices will not be established before the middle of June.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The market at present is very unsettled, the wholesale houses have not yet begun to send out samples for the fall trade, and as higher prices are looked for than those at present obtained, they are unable to give quotations.

COAL.—Large quantities have arrived at Quebec, but very little has come here, owing to the high rates of freight. Scotch steam is quoted at \$4.50, duty paid. Two cargoes of Welch coal have arrived here, but they have not been put on the market. Small sizes of American coal can be bought at \$7.50 to \$8 per 2,240 lbs. ex ship; market is very quiet.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There has been very little animation in the market this week. Caustic soda is scarce, and has been sold at 3½c. to arrive; soda ash brings 2c.; bi-carb. soda \$3.15 to \$3.20. No change in price to note in other articles.

OILS.—Cod oil is very stiff at 62½c.; the take this season is reported to be very large, and buyers are holding off, waiting to see what the accounts are from the fisheries. Pale seal is nominal at 70c.; straw, 60c.; and brown, 50c. to 55c.

PETROLEUM.—is rather easier this week, but no large amount of business has been done; the quotation to-day is 25c. to 26c.

FISH.—There has been nothing done in fish this week, with the exception of dry cod, which has advanced 25c., and is now quoted at \$5.50c. to \$5.75; salmon and herrings are nominal.

SALT.—New salt has been sold in limited quantities at 55c., to meet western orders. Lower prices are looked for when the bulk of vessels arrive at Quebec, which are expected soon. Fine salt is quoted to-day at 85c.

GROCERIES.—This branch of trade has been very much depressed during the week, and sales have been entirely confined to local consumption. Teas are unchanged in price. Sugars are held for higher prices. Refiners are pretty well supplied from the American market. Rice is easier but not quoted lower. Coffee is steady, and 16c. is still paid. Fruits are still scarce and in demand at last week's rates. Molasses is quiet and steady, but not much doing except for local trade. Liquors are not much inquired for and prices are

nearly all unchanged. De Kuyper's Gin is easier, and is now sold at \$1.45 to \$1.47½.

FLOUR.—The amount of business done during the week has been small, in the early part the prices were drooping, but English advices on Friday tended to stiffen the market, which closes to-day firm, prices are rather higher. The market has been well supplied this week. The amount shipped this week was 16,018 brls., against 13,012 brls. in corresponding week of 1869, being an increase of 3,006 brls. Total quantity shipped from 1st January to date, 63,323 brls., against 66,350 brls. in 1869, being an increase of 2,973 barrels. The following are the prices on 'Change to-day, Extra \$5 to \$5 25. Fancy, \$4.70 to \$4.80, some sold yesterday at an exceptional rate. Ordinary samples from Canada wheat, \$4.40 to \$4.42½. Medium and strong Supers \$4.50 to \$4.85. Welland Canal flour \$4.30 to \$4.40. City Brands of Superfine, from Western wheat, \$4.40 to \$4.45; Canada Supers No. 2, \$4.20 to \$4.25. Fine, \$3.80 to \$3.90; Middlings \$3.40 to \$3.60. Pollards, \$2.90 to \$3; U. C. Bag flour \$2.15 to \$2.25, per 100 lbs; City Bags, \$2.30 to \$2.35 per 100 lbs. Oatmeal, \$4.25 to \$4.60; some N. S. Brands brought \$4.45.

GRAIN.—Wheat has been firm and prices have varied during the week, the quotations to-day are for U. C. Red Winter, \$1.07. U. C. Spring, \$1.07 to \$1.09. No. 2 Western Spring \$1. Considerable sales have taken place within range of quotations. Shipments this week, by River St. Lawrence, 266,845 bush., against 87,910 bush. in corresponding week of 1869, being an increase of 178,934 bush. Pease has been quiet but steady, from 82½ to 84c. per 66 lbs. Corn is nominal, no transactions transpiring. Oats have been in fair demand at lower rates, the price to-day is 35 to 37c. per 32 lbs.

PROVISIONS.—Cheese.—We hear of no sales for shipping, there is very little old in the market and what is, is held for 14½c. There is some enquiry for new at 10½ to 12½c. according to quality. Butter—not much in the market, old 16 to 18c., new 17 to 18c. Lard—is in better supply, 13½ to 14c. would be paid. Pork—the market has been dull and lower, and prices to-day are, mess \$27.50 to \$28; thin mess \$25 to \$25.50. Prime mess \$21.75 to \$22. Prime, \$19.50 to \$19.75. Cincinnati sugar cured hams 22c.

ASHES.—Prices have not been so steady during this week. Large sales of first pots have been made at \$5.50, market closes dull, for 1st pots \$5.45 to \$5.50; 2nd sort, \$5.05 to \$5.10; 3rd, \$4.20. Pearls.—Continue nominal and scarce at \$6.90 to \$7.

FREIGHTS.—The rates by steamer for wheat, to Liverpool, are 4s. 9d. to 5s. 6d. per 480 lbs; to Glasgow, 5s. 6d. Flour 2s. 6d. per brl. Per sailing vessels 2s. 3d. to Glasgow. Potash 27s. 6d., pearlash, 35s. Provisions 45s. per gross ton.

NEW YORK MONEY MARKET, May 27.—Business is generally slow on the street, although prices are buoyant. We have had no excitement this week, the Fenian movements in the northern part of the State, not producing the slightest effect on the market. Money is very plentiful, and the dealers are readily supplied on the ordinary run of collaterals at 4 to 5 per cent., and on Government securities at 3 to 4 per cent. In discounts a moderate business is doing at 5½ to 6 per cent. for choice names; No. 2 at 6½ to 7 per cent. and single names at 6½ to 10 per cent. Gold is strong, with a prospect of higher prices, in view of expected specie shipments. The advance is, however, strongly resisted, and the price, after having touched 115½, closes at 114½.

A contract for the construction of water works in Brantford has been let; the works are to be completed in four months.

The property in Bedford Row, Halifax, known as Clarke's Auction Rooms, was sold at auction to James Anderson for \$6,480.