

—"DUTCH BUTTER" IN LIVERPOOL—THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION.—Messrs. Alexis Fecht & Co., provision merchants, charged with having sold to "one John Higgins, to the prejudice of the purchaser, an article of food—to wit, butter—which was not of the nature, substance, and quality of the article demanded, whereby they had incurred a penalty not exceeding £20, under the sale of Food and Drugs Act.—Mr. Atkinson, appeared to prosecute. There had lately sprung up in America and some parts of Europe, especially in Holland, the manufacture of a substitute for butter, and this consisted of matter which was fined, coloured, and flavoured, and then sent to this country. The result of the processes was the production of an article which greatly resembles butter. It was not alleged there was anything unwholesome in the matter sold, but, on the contrary, it was believed that the substance was as wholesome as butter, probably as nutritious. The authorities did not wish to stop the sale of this article, but when a customer asked for butter he must not be supplied with this matter, but with properly made butter from cream. If people sold this "butterine," as it was called, they must label it accordingly on the jar in which it was sold.—Mr. Higgins, clerk and inspector in the health department, said he visited the defendant's place on the 27th. ult., and asked for cheap butter to sell at 1s. a pound, and an assistant showed him some described as "Dutch." When witness told the assistant that he was going to have it analysed, he stated that it was not sold as butter, but as butterine.—Dr. Browne, borough analyst, said the substance sold was largely composed of animal fat mixed with water, and some pure butter. Mr. Raffles said there had been an infringement of the law, but he did not think the defendants had offended intentionally. They must, however, be very careful to put a label on the jars in which it was sold, stating distinctly what the substance is, and then they could sell as much as they liked. He would impose a fine of 1s. and 1s. costs in that instance, but a larger fine would be imposed in the event of a second offence.

LAKE MARINE.—The Chicago journals represent the Lake shipping interest as going on from bad to worse. One of them estimates the depreciation in values during the past three years of all kinds of sailing craft at from 50 to 75 per cent. "Many of the owners have already gone to the wall, while others are on the verge of bankruptcy." All this, the N.Y. Bulletin points out, is very discouraging, but the causes at work to produce it are too well understood to need explanation. As long as the railroads are carrying freight for next to nothing, the lake marine must be laid up; but as there must necessarily be a limit to railroad business on that principle, the boatmen may look forward to the future to make amends for the present hard times. There have been no new vessels constructing for a long while past, and those which have had employment are wearing out. These are points in their favor. A European war, too, would be apt to help them. Even now there is some talk about capitalists in New York and Chicago considering a project to buy up a fleet of lake vessels at cheap prices during the winter, to be engaged in the Lake the European trade next season. Another generation may pass before they can get vessels as cheap.

—Four trains a day are to run on the Chatham Branch railway to connect with the Intercolonial. The Parrsboro branch road is now nearly finished. A meeting of the Directors of the Shore Line Railway, proposed to run between St. John and Maine, will shortly be held to consider the question as to the continuance or abandonment of the enterprise.

## HALIFAX MARKETS.

Our last trade report from St. John and Halifax represent business as moderately brisk. In Halifax the exports are increasing, imports keeping about an average. Flour is dull, receipts large, rather in excess of demand. Dry fish rule high and the demand is very heavy for export. All classes of pickled fish hold their values. The demand for dry cod for shipment to Cuba is increasing. West India goods very firm, Sugar and Molasses are scarce, receipts very light, those of Molasses at Halifax being 33 per cent. less, and of Sugar 15 per cent. less than last year. They are respectively 25 per cent. less, and 40 per cent. less than 1874. Stocks in store limited. Produce from Prince Edwards Island in heavy supply but not equal to demand so there has been a sharp rise especially in potatoes. The provision trade is fair, prices firm. Boots and Shoes and winter requisites are being produced by manufacturers in large quantities and meet with ready sale.

## Commercial.

### MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

MONTREAL, Nov. 29, 1876.

The close of navigation this week has brought business almost to a standstill, and merchants are preparing to review this year's work by taking stock, which will be the order of the day for the next month. The weather has set in very cold and since last Friday night we have had hard frost, but as yet no snow has fallen. The ground is now hard and the first fall we have is likely to remain.

The flour market has been firm and advancing but not much demand. Grains are nominal in the absence of transactions. Hardware prices are firm but the market is quiet. Stocks of Pig iron are unusually low this year. Groceries are not in extra demand. Sugar has again advanced but buyers generally are only operating for immediate requirements. The news from Newfoundland of the failure of the Bonne Bay and Bay of Islands herring fisheries has stiffened the market, stocks held here being now very light. Provisions are quiet and steady; Ashes in small demand and prices declining.

ASHES.—Pots.—In the early part of the week the demand for fish has ceased and prices have again receded from \$4.10 to 4.25. Seconds are steady at \$3.30 but without much demand. Pearls.—The decline in the price of firsts, noticed in last weeks' report, has not been regained and sales to a limited extent are reported at \$5.00 to 5.10, at which the market closes. Seconds.—A few barrels only have changed hands at \$4.75. The stocks at present in store are Pots 2,441 brls.; Pearls 689 barrels.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The market maintains its firmness but business has been very quiet, the fine weather has limited the demand for fall goods. We have no change to make in our prices, but if the leather market continues its present firmness manufacturers say that a considerable advance will have to be made on the manufactured article.

CATTLE.—The arrivals of live stock this week have been much heavier than usual, and for these there has been an active demand. Prices obtained, show a slight advance in those of the present Monday. The prices to-day ranged from \$3.75 to 4.75. Hogs were plentiful and sold from

\$5.00 to 5.25; Sheep were only in moderate supply and were placed at \$3.75 to 4.00 per 100 lbs. live weight, one lot of dressed brought 5½c per lb.

DRY GOODS.—There has been almost nothing doing in this line of business, weather has been too open and country roads in such a state as to prevent people getting out, and in consequence the stocks held by country dealers have been little broken in upon. Travellers are sending in very few sorting up orders, and no demand is now looked for till the opening of the spring trade. Remittances are coming in fairly.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business in this department as well as most others has ruled very quiet this week, the demand having been confined to small parcels for immediate wants. The English market has an advancing tendency and holders here are not pressing sales. We make some few changes on our list this week. We quote: Bi Carb \$3.75 to 0.00; Sal Soda \$1.37½ to 1.50; Caustic Soda \$3.25 to 3.50; Soda Ash 2 to 2½c; Copperas 1½c; Alum 2 to 2½c; Epsom Salts 2c; Saltpetre \$7.50 to 8.50; Brimstone \$2.75 Sulphur \$3.50; Bleaching Powder 2½ to 28; Blue Vitrol firm at 6½ to 7½c; Cream Tartar ground 30c; Cream Tartar Crystals 26c; Borax 14 to 16c; Madder 9 to 12c.

FREIGHTS.—Navigation may now be said to have closed here and a few schooners remaining are preparing to go into winter quarters. The rates of freight from Montreal to Liverpool via Portland are: heavy grain 7/- p r 480 lbs : Oats 6/- per 320 lbs; Flour 4/- per barrel; Potash 4/- Pearl ash 5/- Cheese and Butter 6/s.

FISH.—A telegram received to-day from Newfoundland says "Herring fishery at Bonne Bay and Bay of Islands a failure"—this has stiffened the views of holders; here although there is a very light demand for any kind of fish, stocks now held here are small. Labrador Herrings are selling at \$6 to 6.25; Dry Cod \$5 to 5.50; Green Cod \$5.50 to 6.00 per brl. for No. 1; Salmon \$12, \$11 and \$10 for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 respectively. No Mackerel in stock.

FURS AND SKINS.—We have no change to make in our quotations, prime dark mink is still quoted \$2 to 2.50 but our outside quotation is only given for very fine skins. With the cold weather Mink and Muskrat are coming in more freely, but business continues very quiet and lower prices are likely to rule. We quote Beaver \$1.75 to 2.00. Bear large \$8.00 to 10.00; ditto small \$4.00 to 7.00; Fisher \$6.00 to 8.00; Silver Fox \$25.00 to 60.00; Cross Fox \$2.00 to 5.00 Red Fox \$1.25 to 1.50; Lynx \$1.50 to 1.75; Martin dark Lab \$7.00 to 8.00; ditto pale \$1.25 to 1.50; Mink dark prime \$2.00 to 2.50; ditto dark 2nd \$1.00 to 1.50; Otter find dark \$6.00 to 8.00; Fall Muskrat 12 to 15c; Raccoon 25 to 60c; Skunk 20 to 40c.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the past week 18,138 brls.; total receipts from 1st January to date 867,855 brls., being a decrease of 110,164 brls. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1875. Shipments for the week 24,244 brls.; total shipments from 1st January to date 724,172 brls. being a decrease of 107,724 brls. on the shipments for the corresponding period of 1875. The close of navigation has brought business almost to a standstill, and there is nothing doing beyond the supply of local wants, holders are firm in their views and an advance has been obtained in the closing quotations of this day week. Fall wheat is scarce just now in this market. Market closing very firm and advancing but quiet. We quote: Superior Extra, \$5.90 to 6.10; Extra, \$5.75 to 5.90; Fancy, \$5.55 to 5.60; Spring Extra (Canada), \$5.00 to 5.25; Superfine, \$5.00 to 0.00; Strong Bakers' Flour, \$5.40 to 5.60; Fine, \$4.45 to 4.55; Middlings, \$3.60 to 3.80; Pollards, \$3.00 to 3.05; Cornmeal, \$2.75 to 3.00; Oatmeal, \$5.00 to 5.10.