

FIRE RECORD—INSURANCE.

QUEBEC.

Quebec, Dec. 22.—The premises occupied by Mr. Shepherd burnt. Mr. Thom occupied one end of the building, also burnt. Insurance: \$3,000 on building in Commercial Union, \$1,000 Shepherd's furniture in North British and \$3,000 on stock in London Assurance. Mr. Thom fully insured in Sovereign.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

St. John, Dec. 22.—Abram & Kerr's foundry and machine shops partially destroyed. Loss \$30,000; insured. *Chatham*, 24.—The Benson block, G. Stothard's hardware store, a portion of stock of the Miramichi bookstore and confectionery store of Miss Stables, destroyed. Total loss \$10,000; insured for \$3,500. *St. John*, 27.—The New Brunswick Cordage Works, owned by T. Connor & Son, destroyed. Insurance not correctly known, but said to be \$5,000 in Commercial Union and some in London & Lancashire and Citizens. Loss, \$8,000.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Halifax, Dec. 26.—Wooden building owned by estate of E. Jost damaged. Contents, owned by W. A. Hope and G. F. Hope, insured for \$400 in Queen.

Financial and Commercial.

MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

THURSDAY, 28th Dec., 1882.

The dullness in wholesale trade incident to the Xmas holidays reached the climax this week, and the year closes with marked quietude in nearly all departments, but with good prospects generally for the opening of new year. Merchants are busy balancing their books, to see how they stand, and preparations for the renewed activity usually experienced in January seem to be receiving the largest share of attention. Dry goods, as usual at this period, are especially dull, but the buyers in the English markets are homeward bound, and prospects for a satisfactory Spring trade are considered fairly good. The snow roads in Eastern Ontario and this Province continue fairly good, but in Toronto and some other Western centres there has been no sleighing for a week, and this, together with the mild weather, has interfered with retail business in heavy winter goods; accordingly, remittances this week have not been, on the whole, as good as they might have been. Money is readily obtained at the banks, on good collaterals at 7 to 7½ per cent, as to name and date, and stock loans are obtainable at 7 per cent at bank on call; between brokers the rates on call and short time are 6 to 6½. In Sterling Exchange there has been little business doing; sixty-day bills between banks negotiated at 108½, demand drafts at 109½, and over the counter the rate is 108½. Drafts on New York sold at ¾ to ½ prem. The stock market has continued quiet, under the holiday influences, the week having been greatly broken by adjournments for Xmas and to allow the members of the Board to attend the funeral of Sir Hugh Allan. There has been an evident improvement in the market the last two days, however, values being considerably stronger for most securities on the list. Bank of Montreal sold up to 199½ to-day, with buyers closing at that figure, and 200 asked. Commerce advanced 1½ per cent to-day, and Merchants 1. Ontario fell off ½ per cent. Richelieu and City Gas also suffered a fractional decline. The

Northwest Land Co. was quoted at 47s 6d to-day. See table of quotations on another page. Our usual annual table of the highest and lowest values of stocks in this market during the year will most probably appear in the next issue.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Few houses have yet sent out representatives with samples of spring goods; indeed, owing to the lock-out trouble with the lasters, nearly all the manufacturers have got greatly behind with their orders for spring work, but while the "striking" lasters are nearly all holding out still against the agreement they were asked to sign, their places are being rapidly filled by new men, who up to the present have mostly worked in other departments. The lasting of a shoe does not require much skill, manufacturers state, and can be learned in a couple of weeks. There are only 350 to 400 lasters in Montreal, and as new ones can be thus easily acquired, the old ones seem likely to be supplanted if they do not return to work on the manufacturers' terms, viz., that they shall not be interfered with by the Union in the exercise of their right to employ whom they please in the factories. The practical result then will be the employment in future of girls upon fine "lasting" work, and the introduction of machinery for heavy work. A committee has been appointed by the Manufacturers' Association to inspect certain machines now in use in the States, early in January next. Payments generally continue good.

DRY GOODS.—The usual Xmas holiday lull prevails. The travellers are all at home, they having found it useless to attempt sales to the country merchants this week. Stock-taking and balancing books keep the staffs in several houses still engaged, and in some others the firm's travellers and heads of departments were busily employed marking samples of new goods, and preparing generally for the spring campaign to be entered upon next month. Retail trade in both city and country is reported good, and payments continue fairly satisfactory.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There has been little business done here in butter during the week; stocks of all kinds are believed to be only moderate, and the bulk of the supply is held by one firm, who will probably export it to Great Britain or the States. The offerings, therefore, in this market are quite light, and prices rule firm. A lot of about 40 packages common summer grade was sold yesterday at 19c for the local trade, and a lot of rolls in cases at 21c. Advices from Morrisburg state that orders have been received there direct from Liverpool for fine butter, at prices which may probably lead to further business. The firm tone of the cheese market noted last week has been sustained, but business has been confined to supplying the local trade. Fancy September make is not to be had at under 13c. In New York holders of fine and fancy stock of butter and cheese are very confident of the situation, and are only willing to negotiate on a basis of extreme price, the accumulation being sufficiently well under control. Buyers, however, figure closely to actual wants and positive orders.

GROCERIES.—The business doing in the wholesale grocery line is, as usual at this season, moderate; values of goods may be called very little altered for chief staples. *Teas.*—There is no pressure of stocks of desirable Japans in chief markets, and from Japan intimation comes confirming the report that attractive Teas with value are coming forward very slowly. Prices are practically unchanged and firm for good Teas. The removal of United States duty of 10 per cent as stated to come in force there 1st January opens the door for shipment to United States, and it is expected that some Teas lying here will go forward. *Sugars.*—A steady and unchanged market for all kinds—not much business to report.

Molasses dull but with quotations that may be repeated from last week. Syrups also without change. *Rice* keeps at former values. *Coffees.*—A firmer tone and some advance in United States markets. Bottom in this article seems to have been fairly reached, and some reaction has set in. Not for many years has the lovers of genuine Coffees a more favorable opportunity of getting supplies low. *Spices.*—Pepper continues high, possibly slightly relaxed. White Pepper scarce. Other Spices quiet. *Fruits.*—Valentias rather firmer and slightly higher. Good quality held 7½c on heavy lots up to 8½c; some extra held 8½c to 9½c. Malaga Layers continue scarce. Loose Muscatels dull. London Layers in some request. Currants, Sultanias, Figs, Prunes quiet. Almonds a little higher abroad, also Walnuts. Filberts dull. Brazil nuts very high at all points.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—The English wheat markets have assumed a holiday aspect since our last report, but, while little business has been done, the tone of prices has continued steady. Cable advices to-day report the markets quiet but firm. The amount of breadstuffs on passage to the continent show a decrease of 40,000 qrs. wheat and imports in the United Kingdom for the week show an increase of 65,000 qrs. wheat, and 20,000 qrs. corn, as compared with corresponding week last year. The Western wheat markets are telegraphed about steady to-day at yesterday's closing figures. The local breadstuffs market has been devoid of life or interest all week, the only business transpiring being in small lots for the local trade. The tendency in values for flour is downward, as the market rules easy, but for grain there is no change to note from last week.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The demand for goods in this line continues extremely light, and not much improvement is expected until towards the end of January. Stocks of goods so far as can be ascertained are pretty full, with the exception of *Sal Soda*, the stock of which is rather light; the price is therefore a little higher. The English market remains dull but firm. For forward delivery and also for yearly contracts, there is more enquiry; but so far there has been little actual business. Shipment of chemicals from Liverpool to Canada for November, 1882:—345 tons, against 608 tons for Nov., 1881.

FURS.—Offerings have increased somewhat, but the local demand has been pretty fully supplied, and the bulk of stock now coming to market will have to be exported, hence the trade look for lower prices. Last week's figures are still maintained, however, as follows: Mink, \$1; red fox, \$1.20; to \$1.25 marten, \$1; otter, \$8 to \$10; beaver, \$2 to \$2.50 per lb; skunk, 60c to \$1; bear, \$8 to \$10 for large and \$4 to \$5 for small; lynx, \$2 to \$2.50.

FREIGHTS.—The winter rates from Montreal to Liverpool via Portland are:—For heavy grain, 7s 6d per qr. of 480 lbs; flour, 4s 3d per barrel; in bags, 35s per ton. Ashes—Pots, 37s 6d; pearls, 45s. Butter and cheese, 45s per gross ton. Apples, 5s per brl.

LIVE STOCK.—Shipments of live stock from Canada to Great Britain for week ending December 30th, 1882, as reported by Mr. C. H. Chandler, insurance and shipping agent, are as follows:—Via Portland: SS. "Prussinn" to Glasgow, 85 cattle. Via New York: SS. "Lake Huron" to Liverpool, 825 sheep. Via Boston: SS. "Victoria" to Liverpool, 650 sheep. Total this week, 85 cattle, 1,475 sheep. Total last week, 645 cattle, 1,635 sheep. Total to date, 42,925 cattle, 80,396 sheep.

HARDWARE AND IRON.—General business is naturally very quiet at this time of year, and values, though for the most part unchanged, indicate a strong, upward tendency for iron and metals. The leading houses have not yet quite finished stock-taking, and although the books are not yet balanced, the trade are generally