

The seven States having the largest losses by fire in 1879 are here given: New York, \$15,793,200; Pennsylvania \$7,520,900; Illinois, \$4,506,900; Massachusetts, \$4,339,100; Ohio, \$3,692,100; Michigan \$3,368,200; Missouri, \$3,242,300.

A summary of the casualties of the year upon the lakes is given in the *Detroit Post*, from which we extract the following: So far as has been ascertained there were fully 1,000 disasters, which includes several of a minor character and upwards of 900 of a prominent nature; 23,933 tons have been lost and 36,687 tons commissioned. The number of vessels and amount of tonnage lost is much larger than in 1879, while the new tonnage is an increase over 1879 to the extent of 12,769 tons. The loss of life is greater than for many years past, while the valuation of hull and cargo loss falls little short of \$2,000,000 which is a large increase over any former season. The greatest amount of losses occurred on Lake Michigan. Lake Huron follows next in order, while Lakes Erie and Ontario are proportionately the same.

In 1880, total disasters 975	\$1,815,800
In 1879	1,120,400
In 1878	846,000
In 1877	1,460,000
In 1876	1,274,260

The quantity of grain lost or damaged, as nearly as can be arrived at, is 746,416 bushels, a good portion of which was lost entirely. The October gale had only a precedent in 1844, occurring on the same date and of same duration; 228, of these disasters of 1880, occurred in October involving a loss of \$614,800 and 217 in November involving \$589,000.

It is not many months since we had occasion to notice the retirement from the general management of the North British & Mercantile Insurance Co., of Mr. David Smith, and his appointment to a seat on the Edinburgh board of that company. We have now to announce his death, which took place last month at the age of 77. In former years he had been solicitor to the North British Railway Co., the Standard Life Office &c., &c. and his business acuteness and capacity were remarked in a business circle which extended beyond the insurance world.

A requisition has been signed by nearly all the Quebec stockholders in the Merchants Marine Insurance Company, calling a meeting for the purpose of considering the advisability of winding up the company. The past season's heavy losses, and the call which has been made upon the stockholders, have induced this action.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Jan. 19th, 1881.

STOCKS.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total Transacted in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Average Price, like Date 1880.
Montreal	172	182	5775	177	177	136
Ontario	98	100	1251	99	99	91
People's	93	93	212	93	93	58
Molson's	104	107	444	105	105	75
Toronto	141	144	60	143	146	121
Jac. Cartier	97	97	100	97	100	59
Merchants	118	119	1056	117	118	86
Commerce	132	140	9479	138	139	114
Eastern T'ps	115	115	44	114	115	98
Union	90	91	132	91	95	.....
Hamilton	65	65	406	62	63	.....
Exchange	111	123	13911	122	122	89
Mon. Tel.	61	61	763	61	65	.....
Dom. Tel.	59	60	2957	58	58	40
Rich. & O'Nav.	116	117	250	115	116	77
City Pass	150	156	1970	153	154	115
Gaz.	150	156	25	55	58	.....
R. O. Ins. Co.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mont. Tel. ad	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 18th January 1881.

A good deal of tea has changed hands, at prices not very satisfactory to the importers. The boot and shoe trade has been doing a good business, at satisfactory prices, and there is rather more demand for leather, at easier prices. An unexpected demand has arisen for fish, and large lots have been changing hands. Bread-stuffs and provisions are still dull and inactive, while a further decline has to be noticed in the price of ashes. The following are the stocks of flour and grain in store.

	Jan. 15 1881.	Jan. 1 1881.	Jan. 15 1880.
Wheat, bushels....	92,713	102,179	134,246
Corn "	4,400	15,000	9,500
Peas "	39,743	38,377	69,283
Oats "	200	.....	130,221
Barley "	6,678	6,667	8,932
Rye "	7,978	7,547	26,378
Flour, barrels	42,398	41,625	35,477
Oatmeal "	243	349	1,261
Cornmeal "	210	250	124

ASHES.—Pots.—When we last wrote Firsts had fallen to \$4.85, the market since then has gradually weakened and Firsts close at \$4.50 to 4.60. In *Pearls* there have been no transactions, and prices are quite nominal. The stocks at present in store are—Pots, 507 brls.; Pearls, 137 brls.

CATTLE.—There was a fair amount of good cattle offering yesterday. Prices were slightly easier, ranging from 3 to 4½c.; the outside price being for choice Butchers' cattle. Some prime Western cattle were taken up for export at rather over 5c. per lb. *Live Hogs* were not numerous, a few were sold at \$5.75 per 100 lbs. *Dressed Hogs* are offered by the car load at \$6.40 to 6.50 per 100 lbs.

DRY GOODS.—The cold weather we are now experiencing has caused a pretty fair demand for woollen goods of the staple kinds. Cottons are also more enquired for. Travellers with Spring samples have been doing encouragingly well, and altogether this trade appears to be in a healthy position. Merchants are sanguine of another year of prosperous business. Stocks are pretty well assorted, and, judging from remittances, money is plentiful.

FISH.—The demand has been good the past week and rather unexpected so early in the season. The bulk of Herrings in one hand, and the proportion of good herrings is small. Cod-fish is firmer, owing to the firmer tone of the United States market. There is more enquiry for salmon and the outlook is much brighter. A few packages of *Lake Superior White fish* are held at \$4.75 but only in a retail way. We quote *Labrador Herrings* \$5.62½ to \$5.75; ditto No. 2 \$4.00 to 4.25; ditto No. 1 small \$4.25 to 4.50; No. 1 *Split Herrings*, none in market; *Green Cod*, No. 2, \$3.00 to 3.25; ditto No. 1, \$4.10 to 4.25; ditto large, \$5.25 to 5.50; *Salmon*, No. 1, \$18.50; ditto No. 2, \$17.50; ditto No. 3, \$16.50.

FLOUR.—The stock in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 15th inst. was 42,393 brls. against 41,625 brls on the 1st inst. and 35,377 brls. on the 15th of January 1880. Receipts for the past week 9596 brls. Total receipts from 1st January to date 16,296 brls. showing an increase of 1769 brls. on the receipts for the same period of 1880. Total shipments from 1st January to date 13,704 brls. being an increase of 1,911 brls on the shipments for the same period of 1880. There is very little change

to report in this market; business has been confined to a very small consumptive demand and prices are almost nominal and unchanged since this day week. To day there was a little more demand but only for local wants at quotations. We quote *Superior Extra*, \$5.30 to 5.35; *Extra Superfine*, \$5.20 to 5.25; *Fancy*, \$5.15 to 5.20; *Spring Extra*, \$5.10 to 5.20; *Superfine*, \$4.75 to 4.85; *Strong Bakers' Flour*, \$5.75 to 6.25; *Fine*, \$4.15 to 4.40; *Middlings*, \$3.65 to 3.75; *Pollards*, \$3.10 to 3.30; *U. C. Bags*, \$2.55 to 2.60; *U. C. Oatmeal*, \$4.40 to 4.45; *Cornmeal*, \$3.60 to 3.10.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—The stock in store and in the hands of millers on the morning of the 15th inst was 92,713 bushels, against 102,179 bushels on the 1st inst., and 134,246 bushels on the 15th of January 1880. Total receipts from 1st January to date 47,210 bushels, being a decrease of 32,564 bushels on the receipts for the same period of 1880. Total shipments from 1st January to date 46,810 bushels, being a decrease of 25,489 bushels on the shipments for the same period of 1880. We have no change to report in the state of this market, which continues quite nominal and inactive.

GROCERIES.—Teas.—The market is dull and panicky. Although a good many Japans have changed hands the prices realized have been low. We now quote 18 to 50c for common to choicest Japans, a good deal having been sold at our inside quotation. Gunpowder is also lower, 30 to 65c for extra first; Young Hysons are worth from 27 to 60c; Hyson, 30 to 40c; Twankay, 26 to 30c; Congou, 20 to 50c; Souchong, 25 to 50c. Coffee.—There is little doing, but in sympathy with New York, there is a firmer feeling in the market but prices remain nominally unchanged.

Sugar.—There is no particular demand at present for refined white, but yellow is rather more enquired for, prices this week are if anything in buyers favor. We quote cut loaf, 10½ to 10¾c; granulated, 8½ to 10¾c; grocers A, 9½ to 9¾c; *Raw sugars* are firm and a shade dearer is now asked say 7½ to 8c; *Molasses* are dull but holders are firm, asking for Barbadoes 46c, and Trinidad 37 to 40c but no sales have transpired. *Syrups* are worth from 3 to 4c per lb. *Rice* is unchanged; *Spices* are very firm but there is no demand at the moment. Black pepper is held at 11 to 12c; white pepper is from 18 to 19c; Allspice 15 to 16c; cloves 37 to 45c; cassia 11 to 13c; nutmegs 65 to 95c; African ginger 6 to 7c; Jamaica Ginger 17 to 20c; mace 60 to 75c. Fruit.—Valencia raisins and currants are very firm, and advices from Europe state that a sharp advance on them may very shortly be looked for. Other fruits are perhaps a little easier but there has been very little demand since the holidays. We now quote, new layers, \$2.10 to 2.25; loose muscatels, \$2.25 to 2.40; London layers, \$2.50 to 2.80; Valencias, 8 to 8½c; Sultanas, 10½ to 11c; currants, 6½ to 7c; figs, 12½ to 16c; prunes 6 to 7c; almonds, 13 to 14c; filberts, 8½ to 9½c.

HIDES.—There is still a ready demand for butchers hides at \$10, \$9 and \$8 for No. 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Calfskins are beginning to come in and are worth about 12c per lb.

HARDWARE.—Business remains without much activity, the jobbing trade are moderately busy, but principally in shelf goods. Cable advices report Pig Iron as having advanced several shillings within the past week, occasioned by a good demand in the home market. A few sales in the ordinary way of small requirements have taken place here, but in large lots between dealers little has been done. Some lots of Tin Plates have been offered to arrive, but buyers' and sellers' views are rather far apart to bring on business. Bar Iron still is procurable at about the same prices as some time ago, although there has been an advance with makers of 6/ to 7/6 stg. per ton. *Pig Iron* per ton, Coltness, \$21.60 to 22.00; Gartsherrie, \$21.25 to 21.50; Summer-