

son's trade has been, on the whole, good and the prospect for next year, unless something unforeseen should arise, very encouraging.—*Brockville Recorder.*

—As to Australian Timber Trade, Messrs. C. S. Ross & Co., Melbourne, writing October 3rd last, state that during the past month the public sales have been very heavy in the principal lines of timber, and the eagerness of importers to realize has resulted in a serious decline in prices, especially in flooring, lining, weather-boards, and Oregon. The arrivals of flooring have been very heavy, and cargoes have been forced on the market before they were landed.

### JUDGE MACDOUGALL ON SECOND HAND SHOPS.

There was one thing, however, which he hoped the Grand Jury (of York Co.) would consider. This was the difficulty which the police authorities found in dealing with second-hand shops and second-hand dealers. As a general rule these second-hand dealers were merely receivers of stolen property and afforded a cloak for thieves, in enabling them to dispose of stolen property. Unfortunately in many instances some of those engaged in that trade were more than suspected of dealing with these goods, well knowing them to have been stolen. The difficulty, however, was in securing evidence to satisfy a jury that these people were guilty of receiving stolen goods. There was only one way in his opinion in which this difficulty could be removed, this was to license these second-hand dealers, thus placing them directly under police supervision. If this was done a man of bad character would not be given a license to receive second-hand goods. A licensed dealer, when receiving goods, could take a description of the party selling, and enter each article in a register, which could be kept. In this way, when stolen goods were found, the thief could be easily traced.

### HE KNEW HOW IT WAS.

"Well, we are penniless, or mighty near it," he said as he reached home and threw the evening paper to his wife.

"Wh—what is it?"

"The Mechanics' Bank has busted, and we had \$4,000 on deposit there."

"But, Richard," she said, after glancing at the article, "the president says that he hopes to pay all depositors in full."

"And didn't I say the same to my creditors when I failed in the grocery business, and did a single one of them receive five cents on the dollar?" he howled.—*Wall Street News.*

The Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society are evidently none the worse off since they commenced taking the public into their confidence by publishing their accounts, says the *Post Magazine*. During the year ending July 7th, last, the company shows an increased premium income of £9,612, or, as the directors say, "in spite of depression in trade at home, it is very encouraging that the English business increased £23,000." The income of the Company now amounts to £577,207, as compared with £567,595 in 1883-4, and £510,244 in 1882-3. The losses for the past year show an increase on those of the preceding year, and the working expenses a fractional decrease, the actual figures being:

	1883.	1884.
Losses.....	63·0	66·0
Expenses.....	29·0	28·8
Profit.....	8·0	5·2

The company is strong in reserves, apart from paid-up capital, viz.:—Reserve fund £225,000; Reserve to cover current risks, being one-third of net premiums £192,402; Balance, profit and loss £129,661; making a total of £547,063.

—A reporter of the *Chignecto Post* saw a car at the Amherst Station last week booked for the North West. On enquiry, it proved to contain 50 sets of car wheels and axles for the North Western Coal and Navigation Company.

—Application is to be made at the next session of the Dominion Parliament for an act to incorporate "The Colonial Bank of Canada," to carry on a general banking business in Montreal.

—According to Mr. Edward Atkinson, nearly the whole wool clip now comes to market unwashed; and out of the 320,000,000 lbs. of domestic wool now used, there must be 25 per cent. at the least, or 80,000,000 lbs., of a very valuable oil now thrown into the rivers and wasted, while polluting both the water and the atmosphere. When the "suint" is refined, a thick, viscous oil is obtained, which is absolutely free from oxidation, and which is, therefore, the most valuable oil for carriers' use which can be found. The residuum of wool scourings, says the *Shipping List*, is largely imported from Europe for carriers' use, under the name of "de gras," and the substance also forms one of the ingredients of a mixture which is used for oiling wool preliminary to carding. "De gras" is recovered from wool scourings in Europe by a chemical process; it is very inferior to the fine oil which can be recovered from the wool by the naphtha process, but it may be cheaper.

—Economy of operation has been a special topic of study with trunk lines for some time and we are pleased to see, by their new contract, that it has been studied to some good purpose. That freight traffic could not be handled with the best economy while fast freight lines were permitted to multiply and flourish as they have, has been an admitted fact with thoughtful railway men. A few lines, in number determined by common business sense, have perhaps their place and their worthiness. But with a half-dozen lines running over the same road, competing with themselves and also with the road giving them haulage, and consequently continually maintaining an unhealthy atmosphere about the field of competition, no true economy of service can be attained. The trunk lines see this and in their agreement say that, as a reduction of expenses is an important feature of their present policy, they agree to reduce the fast freight lines to the lowest possible number consistent with the proper conduct of their business.—*Railway Review.*

### Commercial.

#### MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 2nd, 1885.

ASHES.—Not much business doing, but on strength of small receipts, prices are a little firmer. No. 1 pots selling at \$3.60 to 3.65. We hear of nothing doing in seconds or pearls. Present stocks in store are pots 1,232 brls.; pearls 101 brls. From January 1 to November 30, 1885, receipts of pots have been 4,963 brls., of pearls 376 brls., as compared with 5,983 pots and 798 pearls for same period last year.

CEMENTS, FIRE CLAY, &c.—The market for these lines has now assumed its normal phase for this season of the year, and matters are quiet. Portland cement is held firm at \$2.75 to 3.00 in lots, \$3.25 for smalls; Roman \$2.75; Canadian \$1.75; fire clay \$2 per bag; fire-bricks \$25 to \$30 a thousand, \$3.25 per hundred.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business keeps up fairly for the season, but is mainly of a jobbing character. As regards prices, opium and morphia are very firm and expected to advance; gum arabic has advanced considerably as the new crop expected from Egypt has been destroyed by floods; quinine firm. We quote Sal Soda \$1 to \$1.10 per 100 lbs., Bi-Carb Soda, \$2.50 to \$2.60; Soda Ash, \$1.65 to \$1.75. Bichromate of Potash, per 100 lbs., \$8.00 to \$9.00; Borax, refined, 11 to 12¢; Cream Tartar crystals, 33 to 35¢; do., ground, 37 to 38¢; Tartaric Acid crystals, 52½ to 55¢; do., powder, 56 to 60¢. per : Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11¢; Bleaching Powder, \$2.25 to \$2.75 according to lot; Alum \$1.60 to \$1.75; Copperas, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; Flowers Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.75 to \$3.00; Roll Sulphur, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sulphate of Copper, \$5.00 to \$5.75; Epsom Salts, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre, \$9.00 to \$9.50; German Quinine, \$1.15 to \$1.20; American do., \$1.15 to \$1.25; Howard's quinine, \$1.25 to 1.35; opium, \$4.00 to \$4.50; Morphia, \$1.75 to \$1.90; Gum Arabicsorts, 50 to 60¢; White, 75 to \$1; Carbolic acid, 45 to 60¢; Iodide Potassium, \$4.25 to \$4.60 per

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