

British Grain Trade.

The London Miller reviews the course of British wheat markets for the month of March as follows.

"The month's trade began with slow country markets. Value at Norwich was firm, and even advanced 6d. at Wisbech, but the great majority of exchanges were discouraging. Mark Lane on the 4th was firm, and American and Russian wheat advanced 6d. per qr. English wheat was dull at currencies. The Liverpool market of the 5th was steady and some of the country markets were better in tone from the end of February. The Scotch markets on the 6th were 6d. dearer for both wheat and flour, but on the 8th Liverpool was weak. Trade, in fact, was very undecided; some places were weak, through large local offers; others very firm, because of moderate stocks and supplies. But the continental demand for cargoes was livelier than it had been in February, and this imparted 'tone' to the 'Baltic.' On the 11th London was firm for all breadstuffs and good flour made 3d. to 6. more money for all but top price, which remained simply steady in value. The Scotch markets of the 13th were again rather dearer, but an advance of 1s. from the end of February checked demand. Bristol on the 14th was encouraging, both English and foreign breadstuffs being 6d. dearer on the week. On the 18th London was 6d. dearer for all sorts of wheat, but sales were not brisk. On the 19th Ipswich advanced 6d. per qr. for wheat, which made 21s. to 24s. per 504 lbs. On the 20th Braintree, Yarmouth and Romford were 6d. dearer for English wheat, but Hereford and Chichester were rather cheaper. On the 21st Manchester was a fairly strong market and Bristol was strong, but the exchanges on the 22nd, including Liverpool and Wakefield, were somewhat unsatisfactory. The weather at the vernal equinox was fine and spring-like; field work was once more in active progress, and the buyer of grain began to assert that a spring and not a winter view of trade and prices should now prevail. At Mark Lane on the 25th there was a general indisposition to pay any more money for either wheat or flour; in fact, previous advancing tendencies were arrested. Liverpool was dull on the 26th and the end of the month was not marked by much business either in English or in foreign wheat.

Tobacco Factory Fire.

W. C. McDonald's extensive tobacco factory at Montreal was partially destroyed by fire April 25. About 900 hands mostly women and children were imprisoned on the top flats and the building is said to have been without any means of escape. A number of girls were injured by jumping from windows. If telegraphic reports are correct the proprietor appears to be criminally negligent as to the welfare of his employees, while the greatest censure should be thrown upon the authorities for permitting such a scandalous state of affairs.

The Lake Steamers.

The first Canadian Pacific boat to leave this year for Port Arthur will be the Athabasca. She will leave Owen Sound on May 2 and will be followed by the Alberta on May 6. These steamships will leave Owen Sound Mondays and Thursdays and leave Port Arthur on Thursdays and Sundays during the season. The company will run the steamer Manitoba from Windsor to Port Arthur this year, beginning about the first of June. Lake and rail rates are the same as last year.

The first boat of the Beatty line will leave Sarnia or Windsor on or about the 3rd of May for Port Arthur.

Financial and Insurance Notes.

The New York Banker's Magazine gives a list of railroads in default on their mortgage bonds. The list shows a total of 109 roads which have defaulted in paying interest, on a total of \$976,022,865 bonds. Of these roads, 5 are Pacific state roads, 17 are Pacific roads, 7 southwestern, 39 southern, 32 western, 8 middle states and one New England road.

Notice is given that Alfred A. Thibaudau, Romeo Provost, L. A. Boyer, J. P. B. Casgrain, A. G. McBean, H. F. W. Bellow and E. F. E. Barthe, all of Montreal, and others, will apply to parliament for an act to incorporate a company called "The Canada Insurance Promotion Association" with powers to carry on the business of an insurance agency in Canada.

The Bulletin says: A recent addition to the ranks of the procession of benefit fraternities to the potter's field is the Masonic Assurance Association of New York. This body now a corpse, started about sixteen years ago and did cheap life insurance, and the consequence is the insured are in the soup. On March 6 last the unpaid death claims amounted to \$2,717, and the cash assets were \$53. Fraternal life insurance, especially of the Masonic type, is not what it is cracked up to be.

The trial of Goldstaub on a charge of setting fire to his store at Plum Coulee, Man., and of concealing goods with intent to defraud the insurance companies was concluded at Winnipeg, on Saturday, before Justice Killam. Numerous witnesses were called for the prisoner and the gist of their evidence was that Goldstaub was awakened on the night of the fire by a sense of suffocation from smoke and rushed outside, when he discovered the fire, and then started to carry out the goods and cried for help. Numerous parties came and assisted him to carry out some of the goods which were laid on the sidewalk and afterwards carried to the stable, where they were subsequently found, covered over with hay, accidentally, by a man who delivered a load of hay to feed cattle with; the man pitched the hay in not knowing that there were any goods in the stable. The amount of the prisoner's stock at the time of the fire was about \$3,480 and the insurance he had on the goods was \$2,500. His Lordship delivered judgment, stating he could not convict the prisoner on the charge of setting fire to the house; the circumstances afforded considerable ground for suspicion and the crown council had presented strong arguments upon them, but they did not sufficiently satisfy His Lordship's mind, to leave it free from reasonable doubt, that the fire could not have been accidentally caused above the kitchen or household part of the building. On the charge of fraudulent concealment of the goods His Lordship held that the concealment for the purpose of making it appear that the goods had been burned was clearly proved. Prisoner was allowed to go on bail to appear before the court on Tuesday and submit to sentence or the further order of the court.

Grocery and Produce Trade Notes.

Advices from Smyrna report the stock of Sultanias there about exhausted and the price 2s higher than it was about ten days ago, when the last advance was reported.

The feature of the coffee market, says the Montreal Gazette, has been the firm feeling in Maracaibos and prices are fully 3c per lb. higher, the inside figure now being 21c. The demand, however, is only fair, and sales are principally in small lots to fill actual requirements. We quote: Maracaibo, 21 to 22½c; Rio, 18½ to 20c; Java, 23 to 29. Jamaica, 18 to 19c, and Mocha, 26 to 28c.

A Remarkable Statement.

Below will be found the statement of the estate of William Watkins, of Medicine Hat, Assa., insolvent.

Probable amount of book debts that may still be collected, \$20,00

Liabilities, as per claims	
fyled	\$1,214 33

Preferred claims:		
Chattel mortgage and interest	\$326 00	
Rent	70 00	
Costs, drawing assignment, etc.	11 00	
Freight on goods	5 00	
Taking stock	10 00	
Assignees commission on \$116.63, amount realized on stock, etc....	41 66	
		463 66
Proceeds of stock at 60c	337 35	
Book debts collected....	79 28	
		416 63

Balance	\$17 03
---------------	---------

The statement above shows that not enough cash has been collected to meet preferred claims, yet we understand Watkins is opening up in business again at Medicine Hat, with a new stock.

Late Western Business Items.

The millinery stock of the John Norris & Co., estate, Winnipeg, has been sold to Mrs. J. P. Keeler.

The town of Hartney, Man., was visited by a disastrous fire on Thursday night, which originated in Barter's stable. The buildings destroyed are:—O'Brien's hotel, Beatty's tailor shop, Buettner's hardware store, Cuthbert's grocery, The Massey-Harris company's warehouse, the Ivson store, Barter's butcher shop, the Commercial hotel, Rigg's butcher shop, Sutherland's bakery, McDonald's livery stable, Young's hardware store, Bower's harness shop, Bradley's store, a stone building, stopped the fire. Insurance as far as can be learned as follows: O'Brien \$1,000, insurance loss, \$2,000; Batty, no insurance, loss \$100; Cuthbert, \$700, loss, \$1,500; Buettner Bros., \$1,500, loss, \$2,000; Barter, \$1,000, loss, \$1,000; Galbraith, Commercial hotel, \$1,250 in the British American, \$1,250 in the Queen's, \$1,000 in the Phoenix of Brooklyn; Sutherland, \$800 in Phoenix, of London, and \$600 in the British American, loss \$2,000; McDonald, no insurance, loss \$2,000; Young, no insurance, loss \$3,000; Bradley, \$700 in the Queen's, loss \$500; Bowers, \$1,100 in the National of Ireland, loss, \$1,200; Woodhull, \$800 in the British American, \$600 in the Phoenix of London, loss \$400.

AUSTIN & ROBERTSON, WHOLESALE STATIONERS, MONTREAL

Dealers in all Classes of

Writings and Printings,

Linens, Ledger and Bond Papers.

See Quotations and Samples on Application. See

S. A. D. BERTRAND, OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE

For the province of Manitoba, under the recommendation of the Board of Trade of the city of Winnipeg. Insolvent and Trust Estates Managed with Promptness and Economy.

Special attention to Confidential Business Enquiries.

Corner 2nd. Avenue and 2nd St. North,
WINNIPEG, MAN