

couple of "gazers" will often have several stores upon their list, and they are then sure of a very respectable income. — *New York Ledger*.

CHICAGO'S SHAME.

Chicago is getting a bad reputation as the headquarters of fire insurance swindlers, who flood the country with policies of worthless, or utterly bogus companies. It is high time some steps were taken by the Illinois authorities to suppress these dealers in insurance green goods. Probably their arrest by Federal authorities on the ground of using the United States mails for fraudulent purposes, would be the most practical means of combatting fraud of this kind.

The Alabama Insurance Company, of Florence, Ala., is the name of a bogus company which has been operated by surplus line brokers. There is no such company in existence and never has been. No such company has ever been chartered in Alabama and no one in Florence knows of its existence except through letters from people that have been "gulled." The company claims to have its home office in Florence, but if such office is there diligent search has failed to find it. A statement issued by the alleged company claims capital of \$200,000, paid up capital of \$100,000 and no liabilities. The officers of the company are given as follows: M. M. Reynolds, president; J. H. Sawyer, vice-president, and Stanley R. Priest, secretary, none of whom are known in Florence. Mayor Robert Andrews received the following letter a few days since. It shows how successful the bogus company has been with the unsophisticated:

"Bluefield, W. Va., Feb. 27, 1892.—Honorable Mayor, City of Florence.—Dear Sir: A party in Chicago has written up some insurance for me in the Alabama Insurance Company of your city, and sent me the enclosed card, with statement of assets of said company. Will you do me the honor to give me your opinion of the company. I will be glad to do business with them, and could give the company a large amount if it has the assets as shown on this card and is managed by good men. Very respectfully. D. B. Baldwin, Underwriter and Real Estate Agent."

The bogus company has been sending out its delusive circulars from Chicago, and from the large number of letters of inquiry being received it has apparently been meeting with considerable success.—*Bulletin*.

"THE RETORT COURTEOUS."

The *Financial News* of London, Eng., is charmed with the "sweet simplicity, the almost bucolic innocence" of the *Canadian Gazette*, of that city, and the editor of the *Gazette* has much pleasure in returning the compliment. What, for instance, he says, could be more "sweetly simple" than our Abchurch Lane contemporary when it attributes to the *Canadian Gazette* lines which Keats made immortal three-quarters of a century ago, and which the *News* cannot even transfer to its columns without misquoting. Keats wrote of—

Lusty spring when fancy clear
Takes in all beauty with an easy span.

And to this the *Financial News* is pleased in its poetic exuberance to add:—

Except where Quebec's Mount inspires Monsieur
To borrow, like Mercier, where'er he can.

The editor of the *Gazette* will say nothing of the rhythm, nothing of the metre. His contemporary glories too much in the "idols of the market-place" to care about such things. But it is not something more than "innocently bucolic," asks the former, to hand over to Quebec a mountain which nature gave to Montreal?

An Ottawa lumberman talking to the *Journal* about the prospects of the lumber trade for this year, said that while several large lots have been sold, it will be impossible to tell the general complexion of trade till it is seen how the consuming trade turns out, for while large sales may be made now to dealers, if the consuming trade does not turn out well, the lumber may not be moved from Ottawa for months. Delivery of sales made are always governed by the demands made upon the buyers. It is expected, however, that there will be a fair average trade.

LEGAL NOTES.

In appeal, Runkel, appellee, v. the Lloyd Plate Glass Company, of New York, appellant. In an action on an insurance policy, insuring the plaintiff "against loss by breakage, by accident, or causes entirely uncontrolled by the insured," the policy stipulating that the insurance "shall not be liable to make good any loss or damage which may happen in consequence of any fire," where the proof was, that the plaintiff's plate glass, insured under the policy, was broken and destroyed by the falling against it of a wall of a burning building, he is not, under the terms of his policy, entitled to any recovery therefore in an action against the insurers. Judgment of District Court in favor of plaintiff, reversed and avoided, and decree entered in favor of the defendant, with costs of both courts.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, March 30th, 1892.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average. 1891.
Montreal	223	221	124	222	221½	224
Ontario	112½	112½	5	116	112½	114½
People's	110	109½	151	99	98	97
Molson's .....	.....	.....	.....	165	166	150
Toronto .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	236	215
J. Cartier	107½	107	45	110	105	94
Merchants	151½	151½	6	153½	152	143½
Commerce	137	136	134	137	136½	128½
Union	94	94	3	.....	.....	.....
M. Teleg	138½	136½	3051	138½	139	106½
Rich. & Ont	68½	65½	2238	68	67½	60½
Street Ry.	190	190	306	195	190	189½
do. new stock ..	190	190	290	.....	190	79
Gas,	210	205½	184	209	207½	212½
do. new stock ..	.....	.....	.....	200	.....	197½
C. Pacific	89	88	4340	89½	87½	77½
C. P. land b'ds ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109
N. W. Land & ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bell Tele.	167	165	367	166½	166	.....
Montreal 4% ..	99	99	\$1,300	.....	.....	.....

—The Manitoba provincial department of agriculture has arranged for a system of grain exchange by which farmers throughout the country may secure a supply of seed wheat free of cost. Those who wish to take advantage of this arrangement will, says the *Free Press*, have to send in a quantity of wheat, the amount they require for sowing, and state from what part of the country they would like to procure a supply of seed, and the department will forward to them by freight what they require. The grain will be received at and shipped from a warehouse in Winnipeg. The grain to be exchanged must be up to the standard called for by the Winnipeg grain exchange, and will have to pass the inspection of the Winnipeg grain inspector. The object of this exchange is to give the farmers an opportunity of procuring fresh and sound seed, and to further the efforts now being made to eradicate the smut evil. Consignments of wheat sent under this arrangement will be carried free by the C. P. R., M. & N. W., and probably the N. P. and G. N. W. C., and should be addressed to the care of the Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

—The difference in the keeping of butter, whether the grain is broken or not, is very great. When the grain is all right, butter may be kept under great disadvantages, and almost anywhere. If the grain is spoiled, it will hardly keep long under any circumstances, and the flavor is about as much affected as the keeping. Laying aside the keeping qualities, if the grain of butter is damaged the charm is gone, and all the enjoyment derived from fresh aromatic butter, properly handled, is lost. Butter-makers who would reach the highest position known to the art must look well to the grain.—*Elgin Daily Reporter*. Storekeepers should tell this to their butter-making customers.

The North British Canadian Investment Company's report for 1891 shows a net balance of £7,368 7s. 3d., from which the directors recommend a dividend for the year of 6 per cent. They further propose that £1,000 should be carried to the Reserve Fund, making it then £19,000. Interest payments were well met.

—The examinations of the Societe d'Industrie Laitiere for the positions of cheese and butter factory inspectors were held at St. Hayacinthe several days ago. The examinations are held under a statute which gives the society the right to divide the province into districts, in which the cheese and butter factories will be under the charge of an inspector. The examiners were Messrs. Alex. Chicoyne, of St. Marc; Peter Macfarlane of Huntingdon, and J. de L. Tache, of Quebec. Eight candidates presented themselves for examination as cheese factory inspectors and one for the position of creamery inspector.

—The good-will, trade-marks, and the whole business of the Hop-bitters Company were offered for sale at auction in London recently, and the best bid was £2,600. It had been a very successful business, the auctioneer said, in America from 1872. It was established in England in 1881, and profits up to £15,000 a year had been made from it. In 1886 it was sold to a company for £95,000. Since then it had been badly managed and the profits had decreased.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 30th March, 1892.

ASHES.—The market has developed a little further strength; in some cases \$4.10 has been declined for first pots, and we quote \$4.10 to 4.12½, seconds \$3.65. Of pearls there are only six barrels in store, and \$6.15 is the nominal figure. Receipts are slightly better than they were, but for the month are at date 60 brls. under last March figures.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The sorting trip by travelling salesmen has not resulted in very much business. Manufacturers are turning their attention to the preparation of fall samples, and already travellers are getting off to the more distant provinces to look for fall orders.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—The demand for cements is still disappointingly slow, and values are easier in view of approaching new arrivals. English is quoted at \$2.30 to 2.50, though \$2.25 would probably fetch a round lot; Belgian, \$2.20 to 2.40. A lot of 500 barrels of English was sold at auction yesterday; the lot had been rejected on a public work as being too coarse ground, but brought about \$2.18 cash, which is considered by dealers a high figure. Bricks unchanged from last report.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—What new creamery and dairy butter there is coming forward finds ready sale, and the market is steady. We quote new creamery 21 to 24c. per pound; dairy 22 to 23c.; Townships 18 to 20c.; Western 16 to 18c. Cheese remains steady at 12c. per pound for finest. Eggs are unchanged at 12 to 13c. per dozen for fresh.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business is of a moderate jobbing character in these lines. Citric acid is moving upwards, also Messina essences. Epsom salts rather easier; glycerine very flat, and in rather uncertain shape; insect powder stiffer abroad; gum arabic easier, as the old fashioned Soudan gums are again finding their way to market. We quote:—Sal soda, \$1.15 to 1.25; bicarb soda, \$2.50 to 2.60; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$2; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00 borax, refined, 8 to 10c., cream tartar crystals, 26 to 27c.; do. ground, 28 to 30c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 40 to 42c.; do. powder, 43 to 45c.; citric acid, 60 to 65c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.50 to 2.75; sugar of lead, 10 to 12c.; bleaching powder, \$2.50 to 2.75; alum, \$1.75 to 2.00; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.75 to 3.00; roll sulphur, \$2.50 to 2.75; sulphate of copper, \$4.50 to 5.00; epsom salts, \$1.50 to 1.75; saltpetre, \$8.25 to 8.50; American quinine, 35 to 40c.; German quinine, 35 to 38c.; Howard's quinine, 40 to 45c.; opium, \$3.75 to 4.00; morphia, \$1.50 to 1.60; gum arabic, sorts, 40 to 50c.; white, 65c. to 85c.; carbolic acid, 30 to 40c.; iodide potassium, \$3.75 per lb.; iodine, re-sublimed, \$4.75; to 5.00; commercial do., \$4.25 to 4.75; iodoform, \$5.50 to 6.00. Prices for essential oils are:—Oil lemon, \$2.75 to 3.75; oil bergamot, \$4.70 to 4.90; orange, \$4.00 to 4.50;