

saine, il n'a souillé ses colonnes d'articles repugnants à ce sentiment de commisération que tout sinistre commercial excite; jamais il n'a eu recours à ce style *racy* et *spicy* que certains journaux recherchent; et la hauteur de son enseignement a toujours eu pour parallèle la dignité de la rédaction.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—London Aug. 1st.—R. Boyd, store damaged to the extent of \$500.—Alliston, 1st.—The Alliston cheese factory burned with contents; loss \$4,300; insured in Western \$1,600, and Royal \$500.—London, 3rd.—The barns of Hugh Jones, of Lake Road burned; loss heavy, insurance \$1,900.—Hamilton, 4th.—F. E. Skelly & Co.'s grocery partly destroyed; loss \$400, insurance \$1,700.—Erin, 1st.—Rev. M. Fowler's stable, loss \$300.—Meaford, Aug. 6th.—A barn owned by Wm. Neely burned; no insurance.—London, 6th.—Chas. Baker's dwelling house burned; loss \$1,000; partly insured in Waterloo Mutual.—Burwell's Corners, 7th.—Alex. McPherson's barn burned.—Clifford, 10th.—Two grain warehouses belonging to W. D. Williamson and Ed. Tolton consumed, together with 2,000 bushels of wheat; loss \$5,000; insurance, \$2,000.—Midland, 11th.—Chew & Week's grist mill partly destroyed, insurance, Citizens, \$1,000; Gore Mutual, \$2,000; Royal Canadian, \$500; Fire Insurance Ass'n, \$1,000.—Welland, 11th.—R. Lambert's barns burned with contents, loss \$2,500; insured in City of London for \$1,100.—Fordwich, 12th.—Strame's saw mill burned, loss about \$14,000; no insurance.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Montreal, Aug. 2nd.—McKenzie & Co.'s warehouse, Grey Nun St., slightly damaged, loss \$5,000; insured for \$10,000. Ross Bros. & Co., suffered damage to extent of \$1,000, covered in B. A.—Three Rivers, Aug. 10th.—Frechette & Co's match factory partly burned; loss \$5,000.—Quebec, 10th.—A row of stores occupied by W. H. Brown, W. Shaw, hardware, and John Darlington, tailor, partly destroyed. The insurances are:—Darlington, \$2,500 on building, in Northern; Brown, \$2,400 on building in Queen, \$1,200 on furniture in Royal; Shaw, \$1,000 on building in the Commercial Union, and \$2,000 on building and \$1,000 on furniture in the Quebec.—St. Eugene, 10th.—A fire started in the stables of Paul Ranger and did damage to the extent of \$40,000. Paul Ranger, house and outbuildings, loss \$4,000, insured in Royal for \$1,500; Geo. Constant, two houses and outbuildings, loss \$8,000, insurance \$600; Simon Labrosse, three houses, store, and outbuildings, loss \$20,000, insured in Commercial Union for \$2,000, N. B. & M. for \$2,000, and Royal for \$500; Pierre Labrosse, house and outbuildings, loss \$4,200; Antoine Quatter, house and outbuildings, loss \$800, insured. The following tenants suffered loss as under: Dr. Seguin, \$100; Madame St. Pierre, \$100; Adrian Raizenne, \$1,000; Antoine Proulx, \$300; Octave Gauthier, \$300; C. A. Duquette, \$150.

BRITISH POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT.

The thirty-first annual report of the British Postmaster-General states that the business of the past year shows a considerable growth in many of its branches. The average number of letters to each person in the United Kingdom increased from 15 in 1854, 22 in 1864, to 38 in 1885. Including post-cards, the average per person was 42, a far larger proportion than in any other country. The number of post-offices in the United Kingdom increased by 483, making the total number 16,434, of which 919 are head offices. 773 letter-boxes have been added, bringing the total number of receptacles of all sorts for letters up to about 33,000. The total number of permanent officers is about 48,000, the number added during the year having been 1,966. The number of females included in this total is 2,919. The number of letters, post-cards, newspapers, &c., received in the Returned Letter Offices was 5,626,875, showing a decrease of 1.8 per cent. over the previous year. Of this total 512,636 letters were unreturnable; and of 26,472 letters which were posted without any address whatsoever, 1,686 contained value to the total of £3,898. Upwards of 45,000 parcels could not be delivered, owing chiefly to insecure packing and incomplete addresses.

At Liverpool, in January last, some person wrote a letter containing 26 words on the back of a penny stamp, which was committed to the post and duly delivered. The success achieved led to a repetition of the experiment, but on a third attempt being made with a halfpenny stamp the diminutive document became liable to a charge of one penny as an insufficiently prepaid letter, a penalty which was duly enforced.

The business of the Post Office Savings' Bank continues to develop. The total amount due to depositors on the 31st of December last was £44,773,773, an increase of £3,004,965 over the previous year. The deposits were 6,458,707 in number and £14,510,411 in amount. The amount of interest credited to depositors was £1,025,117, being an increase of £69,206 over the previous year. The daily average of deposits was 21,107, amounting to £47,420; and of withdrawals 7,147, amounting to £38,468. The average amount of each deposit was £2 4s. 11d., and of each withdrawal £5 14s. The number of new accounts opened during the year was 774,268, and 546,235 were closed, as compared with 772,201 accounts opened and 525,535 closed in 1883. The inland money orders issued last year were upwards of 11,900,000 in number, and £23,500,000 in amount; the decrease, as compared with the previous year, being 1,826,605 in the number and £1,475,418 in amount. The increased facilities afforded by the provisions of the Act affecting postal orders, passed in 1883, and the reduction of the rates of commission have contributed to the rapid development of that branch of business; and the total number of orders paid last year was 18,831,164, amounting in value to £7,884,347, as compared with 12,286,556 orders, amounting to £5,028,663, in 1883-84.

The telephone business of the country shows but little development, and an increase of only 435,000 messages in the year cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The expenditure has, however, largely increased, and it will be noticed that last year it exceeded the revenue by about £26,000, and that for two years no contribution has been made towards the payment of the interest, amounting to £326,417 a year, on the capital invested. The department has at present 27 telephone exchanges open in various country towns, with a list of 1141 subscribers, paying a total of £22,600 a year; but by far the greater part of the telephone exchange business of the country continues to be conducted by private companies. The royalties paid by companies amounted to only £19,370 in the year.—*Glasgow Herald*.

HE PAID, AS USUAL.

The commercial traveller of a Philadelphia house, while in Tennessee, approached a stranger as the train was about to start, and inquired.—

"Are you going on this train?"

"I am."

"Have you any baggage?"

"No."

"Well, my friend, you can do me a favor, and it won't cost you anything. You see, I've two rousing big trunks, and they always make me pay extra for one of them. You can get one checked on your ticket, and we'll euchre them. See?"

"Yes, I see; but I haven't any ticket."

"But I thought you said you were going on this train?"

"So I am. I'm the conductor."

"Oh!"

He paid extra, as usual.

—On the subject of promiscuous novel-reading to the neglect of more serviceable books the *Pittsburg Chronicle* has the following sensible remark: "There is something positively ludicrous in the assumption of many persons of both sexes in society that they are highly well-informed because they read all the novels of any note that come out. Of course to do this involves a certain amount of industry, but it does not necessarily involve any intelligent and critical discrimination, and it requires no great capacity to read a given number of pages of fiction. A large part of the 'literary' talk in society consists of reference to novels, and many a person of genuine native wit and sound understanding is undervalued because he or she is not crammed with this fiction's lore and glib of speech in relation to it. There is a

wide field of reading besides novels which does require capacity, and those who are familiar with it are not apt to have a cart-load of novels, good, bad, and indifferent, at their tongues' end."

—A circular has been issued announcing the following round trip excursion rates from St. Paul and Minneapolis to the Pacific. For a party of ten, \$165 each; fifteen, \$160; twenty, \$155; twenty-five, \$150; thirty, \$140; thirty-five, \$130; forty, \$120; forty-five, \$110; fifty, \$100. The party must travel together westward, stopping over in a body desired. They may, however, return singly.

—The Quebec Land Improvement Company applies for incorporation; objects: the building, furnishing and management of hotels, and the occupation and improving of land in that Province. The proposed capital stock is \$100,000 in hundred dollar shares. The names of the applicants are Hon. Geo. Irvine, Messrs. W. Rae, A. Thomson, C. Sewell and E. B. Spaulding.

—Counterfeit silver coin is in circulation in Halifax. It can be instantly detected, says the *Herald*, by the ring.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, August 12th, 1885.

The remarks made last week on the general trade situation will still apply. Shares are not so active, the volume of business having again become small, but the "bulls" have maintained their position pretty well, and prices keep steady at the advance. Bank Montreal selling at 201 to 201½; Toronto, 185½; Merchants, 114½ to 115; Ontario, 108 to 108½; gas 188; Canadian Pacific, 45½. Money plentiful and easy at 3 per cent. for call loans on good collateral, 6 to 7 per cent. for commercial paper. Reports as to the crops from almost all sections continue of a most favorable character.

ASHES.—From \$3.85 to \$3.90 is now the quotation for No. 1 pots, though some sales have transpired at \$3.95 since last report. A few seconds have come forward realizing \$3.40. A sale of 15 brls. of pearls, the first for some time, is reported on private terms. Shipments last week were about 250 brls. Receipts for season fair; stocks on hand, 1,114 pots, 132 pearls.

DRY GOODS.—Quite a few travellers will be home by the end of the week, though others will remain out some little time yet. Results are generally reported as fair, but there has been no disposition to order largely, and a number look forward to a quantity of goods being sold on the sorting trip. City retail trade is quiet, as it is getting on in the season, and it cannot be expected that many more summer goods will be sold. The demand for cottons continues pretty steady at prices unchanged as yet. Remittances as usual to the season are slow, but failures are very few.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business continues very dull and quiet; prices remain pretty much as they were. Quinine is stationary, and those who have bought large lots anticipating an advance are not likely to have their wishes gratified just now at any rate. Camphor a little weaker if anything at 35 to 40c.; gum arabic rather stronger, there are complaints of adulteration in this article. We quote: Sal Soda, \$1.00 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 12½c.; Cream Tartar crystals, 31 to 34c.; do., ground, 36 to 38c.; Tartaric Acid crystals, 52½ to 55c.; do., powder, 55 to 58c. per lb.; Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11c.; Bleaching Powder, \$2.25 to \$2.75 according to lot; Alum, 1.65c. to \$1.80; 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 to \$1.10; American do., \$1 to \$1.10; Opium, \$4. to \$4.40; Morphia, \$1.90 to \$2.00; Gum Arabic, \$4.40 to 45c.; White, 55 to 70c.; Carbolic acid, 56