

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Oct. 18th, 1893.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellars.	Buyers.	Average.
Montreal.....	220	210	13	235	217	230
Ontario.....	110	114	4	115	100	108
People's.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Molson's.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Toronto.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Jac. Cartier.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Merchants.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Commerce.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Union.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
M. Teleg.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Rich. & Ont.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Street Ry.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
do. new s ock.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Gas.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
C. Pacific Ry.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Land grant b'ds.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
N West Land.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Beil Tele.....	135	135	10	155	135	135
Montreal 4%.....	135	135	10	155	135	135

HIS MISTAKE.

Every now and then a reminiscence of the past comes up to make one laugh or cry. Talking recently with an old-timer, the conversation turned on J. B. Bennett and his peculiarities, one of which was an extravagant use of show cards of all sorts. It was said of him, that if he could he would have had all the paving stones in the United States engraved "Æna." Certain it is that he missed no opportunity to familiarize the people with the name of his great and favorite company. Posters, lithographs, colored prints were crowded into hotels, stores, court-houses, depots, saloons—everywhere! One day a fellow, already pretty tipsy, went into a saloon and called for a drink. The barkeeper, seeing his condition, refused him. He persisted, but the barkeeper told him he had enough already. Looking slowly around the room at the numerous pictures and cards which adorned it, he turned to his companion and said, with a drunken leer: "Joe, we've made mistake, lesh go, we've made mistake, this 'shurance office!"—C. C. Hine.

HARD TIMES AND LIFE INSURANCE.

The financial stringency existing throughout the land has been the prevailing topic of conversation and conjecture as to the probable outcome for some months past. The daily papers, with more zeal than good judgment, have made daily mention of all the phases of this stringency, thereby adding to the general lack of confidence and distrust of all financial institutions. With no other cause than lack of confidence, money has been withdrawn from circulation until the manufacturing, industrial and mercantile institutions of the country have become seriously embarrassed, if not all but paralyzed. There is plenty of money stowed away in safety deposit vaults, old stockings, etc., awaiting for the return of confidence, and in the meantime business of all kinds is seriously crippled. The fact that this state of affairs has no justifiable cause does not in the least mitigate the financial distress or make the immediate prospect any brighter.

It is gratifying, in the midst of all this financial distress, to find at least one bright spot. Inability to pay obligations has been, and still is, the almost universal rule; but life insurance stands out in bold relief as a shining exception. No life insurance company has defaulted payment of any of its obligations, nor is there any reason to believe that one will. Banks and other financial institutions have been seriously affected by the "hard times," but not once has the finger of suspicion been pointed at life insurance companies. Their strength and ability to pay all claims have been unquestioned through it all, and no man has had occasion to fear that his life insurance contract would be repudiated should it become a claim. No stronger evidence of the stability of the system could be adduced than this, and nothing which commends it so favorably to the public.

These things being so, it follows that life insurance furnishes one of the best, yes, the very best, field of investment in existence. It is absurd to hoard one's savings in old stockings and other receptacles when life insurance

offers such an opportunity. Neither thieves, fire, bank failures, nor any similar causes can affect the life insurance policy, but it holds "good for its face" in spite of all calamities. "Hard times," then, are the conditions above all others when life insurance should receive favorable consideration from everyone. A financial crisis like the present is very prone to be used as an argument for not insuring, or, worse yet, for dropping a policy in force; but no argument could be more unsound. There are men, more's the pity, who under the stress of present need surrender their insurance for its cash value, and then perhaps die, leaving their family without a dollar, as did a business man in Detroit recently.—*The Indicator*.

—A Chicago newspaper, the *Farm Implement News*, says: "We must frankly acknowledge that one Canadian concern, Massey-Harris Company, have the largest, fullest and the finest exhibit in the whole agricultural implement department in the World's Fair. It is hard for an American to concede so much to a foreign company, but we can do so more readily and gracefully inasmuch as Canadians are also Americans, and on the whole very good neighbours."

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Oct. 18th, 1893.

ASHES.—The markets of Liverpool and London show an advance of from a shilling to one and sixpence, and this, together with the extreme lightness of receipts here, has caused still further advance of price locally, and we now quote first quality of pots at \$4.60 to 4.70, seconds \$4.00 to 4.10. There is also some enquiry for small lots reported from the United States.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Business is comparatively quiet among the Montreal shoe companies, only one or two being fully employed at the moment, though all are running more or less. Among manufacturers in the city of Quebec business is also reported only moderate. Travellers are beginning to leave for the Northwest and Lower Province points with Spring samples.

CEMENT AND FIREBRICK.—The demand is



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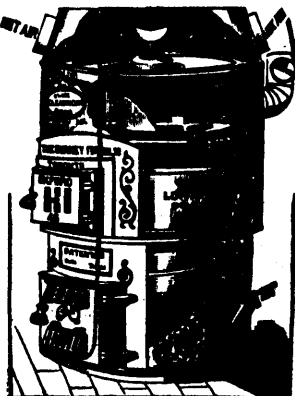
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