

Flesherton, Dec. 14th.—A new unoccupied store in Eugenia belonging to D. Wright, was destroyed by fire yesterday, loss about \$800, not insured.

Lefroy, Dec. 18th.—The coopershop of T. Avery, was destroyed by fire this p.m. Insured, \$150.

St. Catharines, Dec. 18th.—The dwelling house of C. M. Snyder, St. Ann's, was completely consumed by fire on 15th. Loss about \$1000, not insured.

GRAIN MOVEMENT AND RAIL STOCKS.

The shipments of grain in bushels, not including flour, by lake and rail respectively, from Western Lake and River ports, for the period beginning 21st April and ending 1st December are thus given for the years named:

BY LAKE.			
1877.	1876.	1875.	1874.
97,177,764	68,813,115	71,199,834	81,153,233
BY RAIL.			
28,022,899	55,762,181	35,836,857	21,617,513
TOTAL.			
118,200,663	124,575,296	107,036,691	102,770,746

The *Public* gives a comparative statement for five years, showing the quantity and proportion of grain moved after the opening of navigation by rail and by lake, in bushels, as follows:

	April 15 to Dec. 1, Rail.	Perct.	April 15 to Dec. 1, Lake.	Per. ct.
1877.....	28,022,899	20.9	90,177,764	67.4
1876.....	55,762,181	38.3	68,813,115	47.4
1875.....	35,836,857	29.7	71,199,834	59.0
1874.....	21,617,513	17.8	81,153,233	67.0
1873.....	27,381,298	21.2	90,572,883	70.2

The quantity required to make up the 100 per cent. was shipped by rail from 1st January to 21st April in each year. These figures show that of all grain moved to December 1st, only 32.6 per cent has been shipped from the western ports by rail this year, against 52.6 per cent last year—a loss of one-fifth of the entire quantity moved. In 1875 the proportion was 41.0 per cent; in 1874 it was 33.0 per cent; and in 1873 it was only 29.8 per cent. The movement since navigation began has been 118,200,663 bushels against 117,954,183 in 1873, and the proportion by rail has been a little greater. Last year, however, the proportion of grain shipped by rail during the season of navigation was nearly 45 per cent, and this year it has fallen to 24 per cent. These comparisons show how great has been the change in transportation resulting from the higher rates charged this year. Commenting upon these returns the *Public* says:

For months we have regularly published the information which ought to have convinced any sane man that the stocks of the roads which directly compete with lake transportation were quoted far above their real value. They can earn no dividends without complete change in the conditions of transportation; and yet men fancied that such stocks were worth about as much, paying nothing, as the Western Union which returns dividends regularly. That was the bull market. And the men who indulged in that speculation are sadder, if not wiser men.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, Dec. 26, 1877.

We are still without snow, and the weather is very mild indeed. The river is quite clear of ice, and one of the steamboats had an excursion down to Sorel yesterday. The country roads are in a dreadful state, quite unfit for wheeled vehicles. This has no doubt a good deal to do with the extreme dullness in all branches of trade which at present prevails. On the Corn

Exchange there is nothing doing just now, and quotations for both Flour and Grain are nominal. In Groceries there has been a little more firmness in Coffee and Sugar owing to a slight advance in New York. Fruit has been in rather better demand, but with these exceptions there is very little or no change to note this week in the wholesale trade of the city.

ASHES.—Pots.—The receipts during the past week have been light but still quite sufficient to meet present demand, which is very moderate. Prices were the turn easier. Firsts sold from \$3.72½ to 3.77½ according to tares; a few seconds were placed at \$3.10. Pearls.—Sales of firsts are inconsiderable at about \$4.70; seconds are nominal. The stocks at present in store are: Pots, 1,834 brls.; Pearls, 664 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Prices are without change, but there is little or nothing doing, and until the opening of the spring trade, we do not look for any activity. The state of the country trade keeps back the sorting up demand which generally amount to something about this season.

CATTLE.—The St. Gabriel cattle market was completely deserted yesterday, owing to some dispute between the corporation and the cattle dealers. Some very choice cattle were sold outside the city limits at 5½ to 5¾ per lb.; fair to good brought from 4 to 5c. Live hogs are held for 5c per lb. Dressed hogs are in large supply and sales range from \$5.50 to 5.65 per 100 lbs. The stock of cattle which have come to town is large but they are generally held over till after the New Year when the demand is expected to be brisker.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The demand continues light, and no sales of any; consequence are reported, prices are generally well maintained. We quote *Bi Carb Soda* \$3.30 to 3.50 per 112 lb. keg; *Soda Ash* 1½ to 1¾c per lb.; *Cudbear* 11 to 15c per lb.; *Arrow root* 15 to 50c per lb.; *Borax* 10 to 12c per lb.; *Cream Tartar Crystals* 25 to 30c per lb.; do *Ground* 28 to 30; *Caustic Soda* \$3.12½ per 100 lbs; *East India Senna* 12½ to 15c per lb.; *Sugar of Lead* 14 to 15c per lb.; *Bleaching Powder* 1½ to 1¾c per lb.; *Madder* 8 to 10c per lb.; *Alum* 1½ to 2c per lb.; *Copperas* 1 to 1½c per lb.; *Sulphur* 3½ to 4c per lb.; *Brimstone* 2½ to 3c per lb.; *Epsom Salts* \$1.75 to 2.00 per 100 lbs. *Sal Soda* \$1.10 to 1.15 per 100 lbs; *Saltpetre* \$8.00 to 8.50 per 12 lb. kegs; *Blue Vitrol* 5½ to 6c per lb.

DRY GOODS.—There is no change to notice as yet in this line of business; everything is as dull as possible. Merchants look for some improvement immediately after the Holidays, when travellers take the road with Spring samples, meanwhile merchants are employing their time in taking stock.

FISH.—A few sales take place of small lots, but the demand is very light indeed, and to effect sales holders would probably accept rather lower prices, but in the absence of transactions our quotations are nominally unchanged. *Dry Cod* \$4.50 to 4.75; *Green Cod* \$4.00 to 5.00 per brl.; *Lobrador Herrings* \$5.00 to 5.25. *Salmon* \$12.00 \$11.00 and \$10.00 or Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

FLOUR receipts during the past week 7898 brls. Total receipts from 1st Jan. to date 810,401 brls., being a decrease of 93,130 brls. of the receipts for the corresponding period of 1876. Shipments during the week 3158 brls. In the early part of the week a few sales were made to retail dealers, but so small as to be hardly worth reporting, and the corn exchange has adjourned till Wednesday so that there is nothing doing on which to base quotations, which are now quite nominal: *Superior extra*, \$5.90 to 6.00 *Extra*, \$5.80 to 5.85; *Fancy*, \$5.35 to 5.40; *Strong bakers flour*, \$5.40 to \$5.60; *Spring extra*, \$5.10 to 5.15; *Super*, \$4.90 to 5.00; *Fine*, \$4.40 to 4.50; *Pollards*

\$2.75 to 3.00; *Middlings*, \$3.40 to 3.55; *Oatmeal* \$4.70 to 4.80.

GRAIN.—There is nothing doing here in any kind of grain and quotations are nominal. Receipts during the week have been nil.

GROCERIES.—Teas.—This market continues very quiet, and beyond small sales of cheap Japans for immediate wants there has been nothing doing; the want of sleighing prevents country dealers from getting into market, and no activity need be looked till the country roads are in a better condition for travelling. Prices are nominally unchanged. *Coffees*.—In sympathy with the New York market, prices are in favor of holders, but there is very little demand. We advance our quotations slightly.

Java, 28 to 31c; East India coffees 23 to 26c; Maracaibo, 22½ to 24c; Rio, 21½c. *Sugar*.—Recent European advices have lent strength to the sugar market, but the demand existing at present is only for small lots. Scotch refined 7 to 8½c; Granulated 9½ to 9¾c; Dry crushed 10 to 10½c; but it is difficult to effect sales at these prices. Raw sugars are not asked for; holders are asking 8½ to 8¾c for Trinidad and Port Rico, the only kinds at present in stock. *Rice*.—We hear of no sales but holders are asking \$4.47½ to 4.50. *Spices*.—There has been a moderate jobbing demand but there is no change to notice in prices and we repeat those of last week. Black pepper 9½ to 9¾c; white pepper 18 to 19c; pimento, 11½ to 12½c; cloves, 42 to 50c; cassia, 14 to 15c; Jamaica ginger, 18 to 22½c; mace, 75 to 80c; nutmegs, 65 to 85c. *Fruits*.—There has been a fair demand this week from the local trade for most kinds of fruits especially layer raisins, which have been selling from \$1.55 to 1.60; London layers \$2.50 to 2.75; these are scarce at the moment. Valentias 5 to 5½c; Sultanas 7½ to 8c; Currants have been dealt in to some extent within our range of quotations of 6½ to 6¾c; Walnuts 10½ to 11½c; Almonds 11½ to 15c; Filberts 7½ to 9c; new figs 10 to 10½c; Brazil nuts 6 to 6½c. *Salt*.—Coarse is rather easier but in small demand offering at 75c. factory filled 95 to 1.10.

HIDES AND BELTS.—Nothing now transpiring in this trade prices are well maintained at \$8.00 \$7.00 and \$6.00 for No. 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

LEATHER.—Market continues quiet with a moderate enquiry only, and sales are principally in small lots to fill immediate wants, prices are steady except for Spanish sole which is the turn easier. A fair business is looked for after the holidays, though no special activity need be expected for some time to come, we do not alter quotations this week.

Hemlock Spanish Sol No. 1. B. A., 23 to 25c; do. No. 2, B. A. 21 to 22c; *Zanzibar Ordinary* No. 1 21 to 22c; do. No. 2 19 to 20 *Buffalo Sole* No. 1, 20 to 21; do. No. 2, 18 to 19c; *Hemlock Slau her* No. 1, 25 to 27c, *Waxed Upper* light and medium 35 to 40c; do. heavy 34 to 37c; *Grained* 34 to 39c; *Plits* large, 28 to 32c; do. small 21 to 27c; *Calfskins* 27 to 36 lbs., 55 to 70c; do 18 to 26 lbs do. 50 to 60c; *Sheepskin Linings* 20 to 32c; *Harness* 26 to 32c; *Buffed cow* 14 to 15c; *Enamelled cow* 17 to 18c; *Patent Cow* 16 to 18c; *Pebbled Cow* 14 to 16c; *Rough Leather* 24 to 27c.

OILS.—Prices are generally unchanged but there is very little doing just now; as a rule, however, holders are firm for fish oils, which are not in large supply. We quote: *Cod oil*, Newfoundland, 55c; Halifax, 51 to 52½c. *Seal*, pale, 52½ to 53c; ditto, straw, 50c; ditto, steam refined, 60 to 62½c. *Linseed, raw*, 65 to 67½c; ditto, boiled, 69 to 71½c; *Olive oil*, firm at \$1.05 to 1.10.

RAW FURS.—The only change to note this week is a decline in mink. The market generally has a downward tendency. Skins come in but slowly, and arrivals this year are considerably under those of the corresponding period of 1876. Good winter roads would most likely remedy this,