fire companies, engines and men, perished in the flames they endeavored to subdue. The horrible incidents are too numerous to detail. Strangest of all is the fact that the fire thus destructive raged but a few hours, and spread with such rapidity that buildings were swept away in an instant, and with an explosion like that of a cannon. The fire was fed and rendered almost irresistible at the first by a flow of petroleum from the stores in which this article was kept for sale. The "liquid flames" carried destruction to the adjoining houses. Many of those who lost their lives during the disaster were, it is alleged, either instantly killed or mortally burned by explosions of the tin cases in which the fluid was kept. The London Insurance Offices that will suffer most by this unprecedented conflagration are the Royal, the Imperial, and the Sun, the total amount falling on them, however, will not it is confidently stated, exceed £150,000. The two Swiss Offices which do a large amount of business there will also suffer considerably, but an immense amount of property was totally uninsured. It is to be hoped one of the results of this disaster will be the establishment in Constantinople of a fire brigade, with powerful modern engines at the expense of the municipality, if necessary; the maintenance of which might easily be provided for by levying a moderate rate. Complaints are heard on all sides of the villany and rascality of the so-called fireman who work the bucket-like machines which are dignified with the name of engines. In many places they stole large quantities of property, and often refused to work or fetch water unless paid most exorbitantly for doing so. Another crying want of the place is water, without which the best of modern engines would be useless. Until something is done Pera may be burnt down any day—it is entirely helpless—for once a fire gains a hold of the combustible stuff with which this capital is replete nothing can stop it until it literally burns itself out—until, in short, there is no more left to burn.

Law Report.

PROVINCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY *vs.* HUGH SCOTT.—IN THE COMMON PLEAS.—This action was brought to recover an alleged balance of upwards of $7,000, due by the defendant to the plaintiffs. At the assizes, in October last, it was referred by Mr. Justice Morrison to the award of R. G. Dalton, Esq., Clerk of the Crown, who in May last published his award as follows:—

"I, Robert G. Dalton, of Toronto, the arbitrator in the rule of reference in this cause named, do hereby make my award of and concerning the matters by the said rule submitted to me as follows:—As to the issues joined in the said cause, I award as to the issue joined on the first plea, that the said defendant, Hugh Scott, never was indebted as alleged. As to the issue joined on the second plea, I award that before action, the said Hugh Scott satisfied and discharged the plaintiffs' claim by payment. As to the issue joined upon the third plea, I award that at the commencement of the said suit, the said plaintiffs were and still are indebted to the defendant in an amount greater than the plaintiffs' claim upon the matters in the said plea mentioned; and I find that the balance due to the defendant, Hugh Scott, from the plaintiffs, upon the matters in the said plea contained, after taking into account the claim of the plaintiffs against the said Hugh Scott, in the said action, amounts to the sum of $641, and $52, which sum I award that the plaintiffs shall pay to the defendant, Hugh Scott, on demand. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this fourteenth day of May, A.D. 1870.—Robert G. Dalton.

A motion was subsequently made on the part of the Provincial Insurance Company, before Mr. Justice Galt, in Practice Court, to have the award set aside, but the application was discharged with costs.

Note.—Our readers may remember the terms in which we had occasion to refer to the item of 'Agent's balances," in the annual statements of the Provincial; the result of this Scott case fully justifies the remarks we then made.

ISAACS ET AL. *v.* THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—The plaintiffs, who are merchants at Calloa, insured their premises with the defendants' company in February, 1868, for the sum of $30,000. The policy was to be for six months—namely, from the 14th February, 1868, until the 14th of August, 1868; and it so happened, that a fire broke out on the night of the 14th of August, between the hours of ten and eleven, which damaged the insured premises to the extent of $3,500. On an action on the policy, the defendants pleaded that the policy had expired at the time of the fire, as it only ran from the 14th February inclusive to the 13th of August inclusive. None of the judges before whom the matter was argued had any doubt that the 14th of August was included in the policy.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

MONTREAL, July 5.

We have had very seasonable weather during the past week, warm enough for the country without being oppressive; several showers of rain have fallen, which have done much good to the country. The hay harvest has commenced in this neighborhood fully ten days earlier than last year; the crop, though fair, is very light. Other crops of all descriptions look well, and no disease is yet visible on the potatoes.

The S.S. Bolivar, which has lain so long on the shore of St. Helen's Island, was floated off on Saturday, and after undergoing some temporary repairs, will be taken to Quebec. The statement of the arrival and departures of vessels from the opening of navigation to 30th June, 1870, compares very favorably with the same period of 1869. The arrivals in 1870 was 186 vessels, equal to 106,697 tons, against 116 vessels, equal to 72.072 tons in 1869, being an increase of 70 vessels, equal to 34,625 tons. The departures in 1870 were, 158 vessels, equal to 84,430 tons, against 122 vessels, equal to 68,810 tons, being an increase of 36 vessels, equal to 15,620 tons.

Business in most branches has been fair, but rather broken in upon, by two holidays last week. Stock market has been quiet, without many operations of much magnitude.

ASHES.—Without very much animation to note; the market has ruled steady, without any material alteration in prices. First Pots have sold as low as $5.40; the general price, however, was $5.45 to $5.47½, closing quiet at $5.42½ to $5.45. Seconds, $5 to $5.05. Thirds are scarce, and have sold at from $4.10 to $4.20, closing quiet at the latter price. *Pearls.*—Receipts are small, and 44 brls. were placed at $7.80; some few seconds were sold on p.t.; market closes nominal. Receipts of Ashes at the inspection stores, from 1st January to date: Pots, 7,602 brls.; Pearls, 598 brls., against 7,920 brls. Pots and 1,549 brls. Pearls in 1869. Shipments to date: Pots, 7,491 brls., Pearls, 941 brls., against 6,775 brls. Pots, and 1,630 brls. Pearls in 1869. Stock now in store: Pots 1,192 brls., Pearls 75 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There is no particular change to note this week; business has opened very fairly, and travellers are sending in favorable reports. Manufacturers are busy with Fall styles.

COAL.—The Government duty on Coal is said to have injured business very much. The amount of business done has been light. Large quantities of Pictou and Smith's coals are arriving. Scotch Steam is procurable at $5 to $5.50; American, $7.50 to $7.75; Pictou, $4.75 to $5.25; Coke, $8.50 to $8.75. No change to note in other kinds.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS—have been dull and neglected. Sal Soda is rather firmer, $1.30 to $1.35 having been paid; Soda Ash is rather easier, and has been placed at 1⅞c. to 2c.; White Caustic Soda is higher, from 3⅜c. to 3½c. has been paid, and is hardly procurable now under the outside figure; an advance is also noted in Brown Caustic Soda of ⅛c. No transactions of any moment in other articles, of which the prices are unchanged.

FISH.—There is no market here at present for Herring, which are dull and neglected, and quotations are unchanged; Dry Cod is unchanged in price, and can only be moved in small lots for local wants.

FLOUR.—Receipts at this port, by all channels, from 1st of January to date, were: 383,497 brls., against 342,794 brls. in corresponding period of 1869, being an increase of 40,793 brls. Shipments, by all channels, in 1870: 237,371 brls., against 200,569 brls. in 1869, being an increase of 36,802 brls. The stocks in store, and in the hands of millers, on the morning of the 2nd inst., in this city, were, 93,154 brls., being an increase of 12,886 brls., since 15th June, and an increase of 35,885 brls. on the stock in store on 1st July, 1869. Market has been rather unsettled all week, the two holidays having restricted business. The warm weather has had some effect on superfines, and holders have been more free in their offerings; buyers, however, were not much disposed to buy. To-day there has been a better enquiry for shipment and local wants, and considerable amounts were sold; the market closed firm at about 20c. to 25c. under last week's quotations. The quotations to-day are: Extra, $6; Fancy, $5.45 to $5.50; Superfine, from Canada wheat, $5.15 to $5.25. Medium, bakers' $5.25 to $5.35; Strong bakers' flour, $5.40 to $5.50; Supers, from western wheat (Welland Canal), in bond, $5.25; City brands of Superfine (from western wheat), in bond, $5.25; Canada Superfine, No. 2, $4.95 to $5; Fine, $4.70 to $4.75; Middlings, $4.40 to $4.50; U. C. bag flour, $2.55 to $2.60, per 100 lbs; City bags, $2.70 to $2.75, delivered. *Oatmeal.*—Some round lots have changed hands during the week, at $4.40 to $4.50, for ordinary brands, choice brands bringing 25c. more.

FREIGHTS.—There have not been many engagements during the week, and what have transpired are at a decline on last week's rates. Heavy grain to Liverpool and Glasgow, by steamers and sailing vessels, 4s. 6d. to 5s.; the latest engagements for wheat to Liverpool, per steamer, was at 5s., and 4s. 9d. to Glasgow. Flour is taken at 3d. under last week's figure. Rates for Ashes, Butter, Cheese, and Provisions, are unchanged.

GRAIN.—*Wheat.*—Total receipts, by all channels, from 1st January to date, 2.270,970 bus., against 1,959,701 bus. in corresponding period of 1869, being an increase of 311,269 bus. Total shipments, from 1st Jan. to date, 1,582,934 bus., against 1,292,548 bus. in corresponding period of 1869, being an increase of 290,286 bus. Stock in store and in hands of millers, on the morning of the 2nd inst., 561.873 bus., against 671,836 bus. on 15th June, being a decrease of 109,963 bus., and an increase of 346,785 bush. over the stock in store on 1st July, 1869. The decline in the western state markets has tended to check business here, and although sellers are disposed to give way, buyers do not seem inclined to respond to it; the consequence has been, that very few transactions have taken place. A cargo of No. 2 Chicago Spring, on the spot, was placed yesterday at $1.16 in bond; U. C. Spring is quoted at $1.13; U. C. Red Winter, $1.17½. *Peas.*—The stock in store on the 2nd inst. was, 103,667 bus.; the market has been dull and quiet; a cargo sale was reported at 65c., and some small lots at 92½c. to 95c., in store. *Corn.*—The stock in store on 2nd inst. was only 9,000 bus.; there are no transactions; the nominal price is 95c. per 56 lbs. *Barley.*—Only small sales are transpiring at 60c., round lots would bring about 55c., but there is none offering at present, the stock in store being only 8,000 bus. *Oats.*—A cargo sale reported at 39c.; small sales have taken place at 40c. to 40½c.; stock is light, and very little coming into market.

GROCERIES.—The demand, during the week, has been very light. *Teas*—are unchanged in