

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Picton, Sept. 27th.—Dr. Williams' dwelling and drive house, worth \$10,000, burned, probably incendiary; insured \$6,700 in Queen and Lancashire.—Cobourg, Sept. 28th.—Fire in G. M. Stephens' furniture workshop spread to Field & Bros' dry goods shop; loss perhaps \$4,000; insured in Aetna, B. A., Royal, Guardian, and L. L. & G.—Lindsay, 29th.—A. Cullen's blacksmith shop and dwelling; loss \$1,700, insurance \$1,100.—Newbury, 30th.—B. Simpson's dwelling, furniture part saved; loss \$1,500, insured in Western.—Listowel, Oct. 1st.—G. Leidenberger's stable; \$400 in Mercantile; T. Roll's stable; \$400 in Waterloo Mutual.—Petrolia, 2.—Egan Bros' pumping rig and engine house; loss \$1,000, insurance \$800.—Port Ryer, 3rd.—Summerfeldt's grist mill burned down; loss \$2,400, partial insurance on stock.—Chatham, 4th.—F. G. Eberts' barn outside the town burned with 1,500 bushels barley; loss \$2,500, insured \$1,050 in Royal Canadian.—Glenmeyer, 4th.—Godby & Tweeddale's saw mill with 5,000 feet lumber; loss \$4,000, insurance \$1,200.—Galt, 5th.—R. McDougall & Cos. foundry, moulding shop, etc., damaged \$5,000; insurance \$4,400.—Ottawa, 6th.—Booth's lumber piles took fire, loss \$3,000; covered.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Halifax, Oct. 3rd.—Fire in B. J. Hubley's feed store, gutted; have \$1,000 in Halifax and \$500 in G. & L.; fire spread to Jos. Fader & Cos., who have \$1,750 in N. B. & M., \$800 in City of London; G. P. Henry, victualler, had \$2,800 in Acadia on building and \$2,000 in Western on stock; Geo. Thomson, broom factory, has \$1,500 on building in Guardian. Total loss not under \$12,000.—Westchester, N. B.—Hibbert Smith's dwelling; loss \$1,200, insurance \$400 in an English company.—St. John, 5th.—The lime-kilns at Robertson's Point, near Indian-town, burned, with 1,400 bbls. lime; loss \$6,400, no insurance.—Longueuil, Que., 4th.—James Smardon's residence; loss probably \$6,000.

—The York and Lancaster regiment of Imperial troops, stationed at Halifax, has been sent to the West Indies, and the Duke of Wellington's regiment 1,000 strong takes its place at Halifax. At the embarkation of the former there were quite a number of women and children left behind, as the soldiers had married without leave and these unfortunate families are thus thrown on the public. This feature of social life is not a pleasant one, and some means should be adopted to remedy it.

—The British freight cars are far below American in capacity, although there seems to be a tendency to an increase. The British freight carriages which weigh 5 tons, only carry 8; while the American cars, 10 tons weight, will carry 25 or 30 tons. It is said that one of the west coast lines has ordered a large number of steel tubular cars having a capacity of 30 tons each, to replace the old 10-ton cars for coal traffic.

—Commerce through Sault Ste. Marie canal, between Lakes Superior and Huron, in 1887 up to and including September 30, as compared with the same period in 1886:

Class of Craft.	To Sept. 30, '86.	To Sept. 30, '87.	Increase.
Steamers.....	3,563	4,705	1,142
Sail vessels.....	2,030	2,150	120
Unregistered.....	200	615	415
Total vessels.....	5,793	7,470	1,677
Registered vessel tonnage.....	3,286,266	3,871,373	585,107
Freight tonnage....	3,389,037	4,287,709	898,672
Passengers.....	24,465	26,409	1,944

A very interesting system of insurance against sickness and accidents has been recently established in Saxony by the Government. The London Insurance Record says that in that country there are about 300,000 persons engaged in agriculture and forestry, and hitherto these have been excluded from the compulsory operation of the Imperial sick and accident insurance laws, except under the operation of a local option scheme. The new plan is under the control of the Agricultural Council for the Kingdom. In Leipzig compulsory insurance has also been extended to clerks and shop assistants.

Krupp is about to commence the manufacture of aluminium from Greenland cryolite by the Netto process, by which it is said that pure aluminium can be produced at about 6s. per pound.

—Sunflowers are used in Wyoming Territory for fuel. The stalks, when dry, are as hard as maple wood, and make a hot fire, and the seedheads with the seed in are said to burn better than the best hard coal. An acre of sunflowers will furnish fuel for one stove for a year.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Oct. 10th, 1888.

ASHES.—The demand has been active and the market is now comparatively bare. As high as \$4.70 has been paid for first pots, but the market is now rather easier, and we quote about \$4.55, seconds \$4.00 to 4.05. The season for pearls is now about over, and receipts are smaller; it is hard to fix a quotation, but about \$6.25 would be a fair figure. Shipments have been pretty free and stocks in store are at moment down to about 320 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES AND LEATHER.—The boot and shoe manufacturers are being favored with very fair sorting orders, calling for more material necessary in their make up, and leather dealers as a consequence report better sales, the improved demand being pretty well spread over the whole list. Sole leather is firmly held at the advance last noted, and a leading house has been making considerable shipments to England; stocks of best middle weight jobbing leather are rather low. Upper leathers are still in good supply, though the large stocks some time existing in buff and pebbles have been somewhat reduced. We quote:—Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 23 to 25c.; ditto, No. 2, B.A., 18 to 20c.; No. 1, ordinary Spanish, 20 to 22c.; No. 2, do., 18 to 19c.; No. 1, China, 18 to 19c.; No. 2, 17 to 18c.; hemlock slaughter, No. 1, 23 to 26c.; oak sole, 40 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 30 to 33c.; ditto, heavy, 27 to 30c.; grained, 30 to 35c.; Scotch grained, 33 to 37c.; splits, large, 16 to 23c.; do., small, 12 to 18c.; calf-splits, 32 to 35c.; calfskins (35 to 46 lbs.), 55 to 65c.; imitation French calfskins, 70 to 80c.; russet sheep-skin linings, 80 to 40c.; harness, 21 to 30c.; buffed cow, 10 to 13c.; pebbled cow, 10 to 13c.; rough, 21 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 45 to 55c.

CEMENTS, FIREBRICKS, &c.—A large business has been done in cements at firmer prices; large lots of Portland have been sold at \$2.50 to 2.65 as to brand; smaller lots, \$2.75 to 3.00; firebricks are advanced, and cannot be bought under \$22 ex-wharf, ranging from that up to \$25.00.

DRY GOODS.—There has been a steady continuation of the miserably wet weather noted for some weeks past, and the effects are noticeable in both wholesale and retail circles, though some little improvement in orders is noticeable since the turn of the month, and a few clear bright cool days would have a very appreciable effect on business. To-day is the first sunshiny day for weeks almost, and earnest hopes are expressed on all sides for a continuation of clear dry weather, so badly needed all through this district. Payments on the 4th October were better than many anticipated. There is no change to note in prices.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—A fair jobbing distribution is reported. All lines of heavy chemicals are firmer owing to higher freights; bleaching powder is notably dearer, having advanced at home; gum arabic and in fact all gums are liable to advance, stocks are very low and there is very little prospect of any Soudan gums being obtainable for some time; crude camphor is also in very light supply, and held at high prices. We quote:—Sal soda, 85 to 95c.; bi-carb soda, \$1.80 to 2.00; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.70; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 10 to 12c.; cream tartar crystals, 32 to 35c.; do. ground, 33 to 35c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 54 to 55c.; do. powder, 55 to 58c.; citric acid, 65 to 70c.; caustic soda, white, \$23.5 to 2.50; sugar of lead, 10 to 11c.; bleaching powder, \$2.50 to 2.75; alum, \$1.60 to 1.70; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.10 to 2.25; roll sulphur, \$2.00 to 2.15; sulphate of copper, \$5.50 to 6.00; epsom salts,

\$1.25 to 1.40; saltpetre, \$8.25 to 8.75; American quinine, 52 to 55c.; German quinine, 52 to 55c.; Howard's quinine, 55 to 60c.; opium, \$4 to 4.50; morphia, \$1.90 to 2.10; gum arabic, sorts, 80 to 90c.; white, \$1.00 to 1.25; carbolic acid, 55 to 65c.; iodide potassium, \$3.90 to 4.10 per lb.; iodine, \$5.25 to 5.75; iodoform, \$6.00 to 6.25. Prices for essential oils are:—Oil lemon, \$2.00 to 2.50; oil bergamot, \$3.00 to 3.75; orange, \$3.00 to 3.25; oil peppermint, \$4.50 to 5.00; glycerine, 25 to 30c.; senna, 15 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 40 to 45c.; American do., 36 to 40c.; insect powder, 70 to 80c.

FISH is in very fair request at steady prices. We quote dry cod, \$5.25; green cod, \$5.25 to 5.50 for No. 1 large; Labrador herrings, \$5.50 to 5.75; Cape Bretons, \$6.00; N. Shore salmon, \$14.50 to 15.00 for No. 1. Oysters are in fair supply and Malpeques are selling at \$2.50 for ordinary, hand picked \$3.50 to 3.75.

GROCERIES.—Wholesale dealers report a fair, steady distribution, and no serious complaints are heard as regards remittances. Sugars are unchanged, but maintain the firm position of the last several weeks; granulated, 7½c. in largest refinery lots; yellows, 6½ to 6¾c. Syrups were advanced a quarter cent per pound a short time ago, making lowest grade 3½c. at refinery, but the old difficulty in obtaining supplies still exists. Molasses is steady at 38 to 39c., though one large holder stated his intention the other day of holding at 40c. Teas continue to show strength; the level of the local market is still much below that of the principal tea centres, notably New York, still retailers have to pay from 1½ to 2c. a pound more for Japans than a few weeks ago; in London the firmer grades of blacks are up a penny. The direct Mediterranean steamer "Dracona" is in port with a full cargo of fruit, including some 40,000 boxes of Valencia raisins, which are selling at 6½ to 6¾c. as to brand. No new Malaga fruit has yet arrived, and the trade report a difficulty in getting any quotations from place of growth, but it seems pretty certain prices will be high. Currants, 5½ to 7c. as to quality. There is evidently a scarcity of French prunes, for a house who placed an order some time ago is in receipt of a cable stating that the order cannot be filled except at an advance of 2/3d. a cwt. Tobacco, rice, and spices unchanged.

HIDES.—The market maintains a firm tone, owing to the activity in outside markets, but the local demand from tanners is not particularly lively. Dealers are paying 6 to 6½c. for No. 1 green hides, with sales to tanners at 7 to 7½c.; Toronto and Hamilton No. 1, 7½c.; calfskins, 5c.; lambskins, 65c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—A good business is being done in iron and heavy metals generally at firm prices. The general tone of the market is upwards, and we revise the list closely this week. Warrants are somewhat off, and are cabled at 40/-; but makers of pig iron are very strong in their views still; bar has been advanced to \$2.10, and best refined to \$2.35; steel bars are up ten shillings in Britain. Tern plates and galvanized sheets are advanced, also zinc and spelter; copper very firm, and 18½c. would be lowest figure for largest lots. We quote:—Coltness, \$22, with little or none here; Calder and Langloan, \$21; Summerlee, \$22; Eglinton and Dalmellington, \$19.75 to 20; Gartsherrie, \$21.00; Siemens makers are not selling or making any fresh contracts; Carnbroe, \$20.00; Shotts, \$22.00; Glengarnock, \$20.00; Middlesboro, none here; cast scrap, railway chairs, &c., none; machinery scrap, \$16.50 to 17; common ditto, \$13; bar iron, \$2.10; best refined, \$2.35; Siemens, \$2.10. Canada Plates—Blaina, \$2.40 to 2.50. Tern roofing plate, 20x28, \$7 to 7.25. Tin plates—Bradley charcoal, \$5.75; charcoal I.C., \$4.25 to 4.50; do. I.X., \$5.25; coke I.C., \$3.85 to 4.00; galvanized sheets, No. 28, 5 to 7c., according to brand; tinned sheets, coke, No. 24, 6c.; No. 26, 6½c.; the usual extra for large sizes. Hoops and bands, per 100 lbs., \$2.30. Staffordshire boiler plate, \$2.75; common sheet iron, \$2.50 to 2.75; steel boiler plate, \$2.75; heads, \$4.00; Russian sheet iron, 11c.; lead per 100 lbs., —; pig, \$4.00 to 4.50; sheet, \$5.00; shot, \$6.00 to 6.50; best cast steel, 11 to 11½c.; spring, \$2.50 to 2.80; tire, \$2.50 to 2.75; sleigh shoe, \$2.40 to 2.50; round machinery steel, \$3.00; ingot tin, 25c.; bar tin, 27½ to 28c.; ingot copper, 18½ to 19c.; sheet zinc, \$5.00; spelter, \$5 to 5.50; antimony, 12 to 13c.; bright iron wire, Nos. 0 to 8, \$2.15 per 100 lbs.; annealed do., \$2.20 to 2.25.