

## Correspondence.

## FINANCE AND BUSINESS IN NEW YORK.

(From our own Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, 6th April, 1874.

The business of the past week has not realized the expectations of those who believed that the promise of an increase in the legal tender and bank note circulation would start into new life the lethargic trade of the country. Even Wall street, which is freely denounced as the bane of honest commerce, and as drawing into its vortex all the advantages, so called, to be derived from inflation, seems as yet to have profited very little by the prospect of obtaining what it is credited with having striven for. In the meantime, Congress, fully convinced that it knows more about banking and currency than was ever dreamt of by all the economists from Adam Smith downwards, and having settled to its own entire satisfaction that what the country wants to save it from commercial panics and general prostration is more accommodation notes, which cost nothing and yet can purchase everything, is very busy elaborating a plan for the indefinite extension of this truly wonderful machinery which makes everything out of nothing, and to which the much prated-of philosopher's stone was a mere circumstance. Let us hope that neither the declamatory resolutions of public meetings nor the fear of the Presidents veto will turn our legislators aside from this noble purpose.

There has been no change in the money market since last advices, notwithstanding a considerable movement of funds to the interior, as is usual at this period of the year. Money remains easy at 3 5 per cent. for loans secured by stocks, and 5 to 6½ for good commercial paper.

The bank returns shew an increase of \$4,936,000 in the loans and a decrease of \$2,239,000 in the deposits. The figures are as follows:—

	April 4th.	March 28th.	April 5th, '73.
Loans .....	\$29,113,700	\$286,177,500	\$273,534,000
Specie .....	24,045,600	25,439,300	15,664,400
Legal tenders .....	56,983,100	60,585,100	34,940,500
Deposits .....	237,491,400	239,730,900	187,687,000
Circulation .....	26,804,600	25,726,400	27,715,800

Proportion of reserve to liabilities .....	30.65 p.c.	32.28 p.c.	23.49 p.c.
Rate of interest on call loans .....	3 @ 5 p.c.	3 @ 5 p.c.	7 p.c. gold to ½ p.c. p. day

Some little flurry was occasioned in the beginning of the week by despatches from London, announcing a fall of about 3 p.c. in English securities, which was greatly exaggerated by speculators here to the dimensions of a panic, although the decline in consols and U. S. Governments was only fractional, and the rate of interest remained at 3½ per cent. The truth turned out to be that the recent heavy fall of over 10 per cent. in Erie had embarrassed several operators in the London Stock Exchange who have been compelled to suspend. This naturally created an uneasy feeling in financial circles, resulting in a slight depression in other securities, from which they are already recovering.

Late advices from England, however, indicate that the trade of the United Kingdom is not in a very flourishing condition. The board of trade returns show that there has been a decrease of nearly £11,000,000 in the exports during the last nine months, and this is only an index of the general depression which prevails. A large part of the decrease in the volume of her foreign trade is no doubt due to the diminished importations of the United States.

It was generally expected that the Bank of

England would raise its rate at the weekly meeting last Thursday. The fact that it did not do so gave a firmer tone to securities on the other side, and had a favorable effect here.

The closing prices of the active railroad stocks, &c., compare as follows with the two preceding weeks:—

	April 6.	March 30.	March 23.
New York Central .....	100½	100½	100½
Erie .....	39½	37½	42½
Lake Shore .....	78½	80	77½
Wabash .....	45½	44½	45½
North Western .....	54½	56½	54½
do preferred .....	72	73	70½
Rock Island .....	106½	107	105
Milwaukee & St. Paul .....	43½	44½	42½
do preferred .....	63½	64½	62
Ohio & Mississippi .....	30½	31½	30½
Union Pacific .....	37½	37½	34½
C. C. & Ind. Central .....	32½	32½	30½
Hannibal & St. Joseph .....	31½	32½	31½
Del. Lack. and Western .....	108½ x d	110½	108½
Western U. Telegraph .....	79½	79	77½
Pacific Mail S. S. Co. .....	46½	47½	41½
Atlantic & Pacific M. L. .....	16	16½	16

Gold has been remarkably steady during the week, fluctuating between 12½ to 13½, and closing at 13½. The Secretary of the Treasury advertises that he will sell \$5,000,000 during the current month.

Foreign exchange has also ruled steady. With all fluctuation in the nominal rates the actual rates have scarcely varied, during the whole week, and the closing quotations may be stated to be 4.84½ and 4.87½ for long and short sterling, respectively.

The imports and exports at New York for the week, and from the beginning of the year, compare as follows with the corresponding periods or the last two years:

	1874	1873	1872
<b>Imports.</b>			
Week ending 3rd April .....	\$ 9,851,827	\$ 7,576,073	\$ 12,615,852
Total, since 1st Jan .....	110,392,614	120,904,613	112,353,405
<b>Exports.</b>			
Week ending 31st March .....	\$ 6,047,968	\$ 5,361,287	\$ 4,078,234
Total, since 1st Jan .....	69,062,941	69,387,898	53,016,225
Sight rate of stg. exchange .....	4.87½	4.81	4.88½
Price of gold .....	113½	118½	110½
Rate of interest on call loans .....	3 @ 5 p.c.	7 p. c. gold to ½ p.c. p. d.	7 @ ½ p.c. per day.

## FARMERS' GRANGES.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

SIR,—Allow me to call the attention of your readers to an organization in this district, which is likely to spread over the whole country; that is the organization of farmers' clubs, or granges. The principal feature in connection with them, is the attempt to do away with the retail merchant in every branch, by buying their groceries, dry goods, implements, &c., from the wholesale men. By doing so they claim to save the retailers profit. What I wish to impress on the retail merchants, in order to check this inroad on trade, is the advisability of uniting to put a stop to the mean practice of many wholesale houses selling to farmers tavernkeepers, &c., and at the same time solicit us for our support. Not a week ago I was told by a respectable tavernkeeper, when talking about Commercial travellers, that he could buy from them anything he wanted; he stated that last fall he bought all the cottons, blankets, &c. he wanted in the dry goods line for the winter, and another agent offered to send him a suit of clothes if he desired, with the request that it would not be known. His groceries he bought regularly in this way. Now I think it is our duty to unite and advise each other of houses that do this sort of business. They can be easily found out, and we must find a way of

advising each other, and bind ourselves not to purchase one cent's worth from any house that will do the like. I hope to hear some other opinions on this subject. Thanking you for the space I have occupied in your valuable paper.

I remain, yours &amp;c.,

Meaford, April 6th, 1874.

Y.

## Insurance.

**FIRE RECORD.**—St. John, N.B. March.—A fire occurred in the brick building on Dock street used as an Opera House, and in which were the stores of A. S. Kearns, E. O. Hughes & Co., and W. F. Wortman; the flames were extinguished after the stock of Hughes & Co., had been much damaged; insured for \$3000 in the Guardian. Mr. Wortman's goods somewhat damaged; insured in the Northern.

Port Elgin, April 6.—Nathaniel Shell's steam sawmills, at McCarrolls Corners, about five miles from here, were destroyed by fire. Loss, about \$3,000; no insurance.

Minden, April 4.—The house of R. C. Garratt, South Lake, near Minden, was totally destroyed by fire; estimated loss \$1,200; insured for \$200.

Bowmanville, April 4.—A large brick house owned by C. G. Hanning, of Uxbridge, and occupied by Dr. Morris, about two miles out of town, was burned; loss heavy; no insurance.

Stouffville, Feb. 27.—Joseph Barkey's Cabinet factory and dwelling were consumed; insured for \$600.

**BRITISH LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.**—The total income of the Life Assurance Companies of Great Britain for 1873 amounted to £15,525,581, to which sum the premiums contributed £10,538,317. The total expenditure amounted to £12,125,292, including £423,470 in dividends and bonuses to Shareholders, thus leaving £3,410,289 excess of income over expenditure. The life insurance and annuity fund amounted to £95,393,871, the paid-up capital to £10,483,600 the total accumulated funds to £113,437,826, and the amount of life policies in force to £352,667,453. The ratio of expenses to premium income was 14.73.

**STATE OR MUNICIPAL INSURANCE.**—The Legislature of Massachusetts, having directed the Insurance Commission of that State "to investigate the subject of the feasibility of any system of State or municipal insurance, and of the necessity of any change in the existing system," the commission has made report as directed. The investigation led the commission to confirm all that has ever been said about the danger of governments entering into business enterprises. The report says that the private insurance corporations have been, as a whole, honestly and fairly conducted; that the Government could not carry on the business as cheaply as individuals pecuniarily interested in the results of their management, and that, if established, a new system of partisan favoritism would be inaugurated, and, possibly, incentives offered for wholesale fraud and incendiarism. Another indirect evil following the introduction of Government insurance might be that, in case of an extended fire, an insuring community might be cut off from the outside aid now extended to it under the present system.

—The exports of Petroleum from the 1st of January to 14th March, were 35,795,048 gallons this year against 23,861,675 gallons in the corresponding period of 1873, and 20,108,811 in '72.

—The unprecedentedly low price of petroleum last year had a most disastrous effect upon the shale oil refiners in Europe, and compelled most of them to shut down,