

insured.—Quebec, 17th.—Mr. Leonard's house and store burned; stock insured in the Queen, \$1,000 British America, \$1,300 Northern \$500 and \$500 on furniture, building \$4,000 in Royal.

## Correspondence.

### NORTH-WEST SETTLEMENT.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times:

Sir,—The North-West commotion will, I think, occupy much of our thought for some time. First, about the number of immigrants who are coming to occupy our Western Territory, let me say that a high authority in the C. P. R. Syndicate told me not long ago that he thought about 25,000 was all that could be comfortably housed and settle in the North-west for next winter—that he did not believe in the 70,000 persons spoken of as likely to go thither. But to-day it is no 70,000 but at least 120,000 who are expected.

The Government seems to be altogether unready for such an influx of people. The prairie country they are going to does not grow houses, it does not grow even boards. And what will be the result, in a cruel climate like that, if next winter there is not houseroom and shelter? we shall have emigrants retreating southward, and irredeemable damage done to the reputation of the country. At present there is a glamour thrown over this question of easy settlement and the ease of getting crops with little labor. This labor is comparative. It is easier than cutting a farm out of the bush, but the bank-clerk, the dry-goods salesman and other such physically useless people will find no "ease" in the matter. And they cannot afford to pay for labor if they go to take up land. It may be all right for the farmer or farm laborer with a family and who can do all the work themselves.

Now about houses: why do not some of our mill-men do as American mill men in some of our Eastern States do? i.e. offer to make contracts to construct and deliver houses of two or three different sizes, all the parts of each size interchangeable, with sashes, doors &c. all complete; holes bored in one part and pegs in the adjoining part to fit those holes, so that a person buying one can put it up himself in a day or two. These are the shells for summer residence; for winter use such houses would have to be clap-boarded and lined.

It is a matter of immediate importance to have arrangements made whereby incomers shall be assisted to their new homes on the prairie or elsewhere. Many will be strange to the country, strange to their new occupations, possibly helpless in novel circumstances. Still granting all their imperfections we cannot afford to have their crude impressions go abroad to the injury of our country, if we can help to smooth the way of the immigrant.

Yours &c.

OBSERVER.

### INSOLVENT DEBTORS' BILL.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times,

Sir,—Reading your well timed article upon the equitable adjustment of assets of insolvents has suggested to me the advisability of adding to Mr. Beaty's bill some such provisions as the following:—1st. That all traders shall annually take stock of their affairs. 2nd. That if then discovered to be in an insolvent condition it shall be their imperative duty to make their affairs known at once to their creditors. 3rd. That any trader in insolvent circumstances omitting to do this and making purchases after he knows himself to be insolvent, shall be guilty

of misdemeanour and liable to criminal prosecution.

These clauses are part of the French Bankruptcy Act, and it is well known that no country has so few insolvent traders as France—furthermore these clauses would at once punish dishonest traders and prevent that wretched overtrading which is the great bane of Canada. If a man could not make his business pay—by these clauses he would be compelled to give up, and thus by the simple operation of the law of the "survival of the fittest" only honest and capable men could long remain in business.

Yours faithfully,

STAPLETON CALDECOTT

### STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, April 19, 1882.

STOCKS.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total Transac'n in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Average Price like Date 1881.
Montreal .....	208½	213½	3570	213½	213½	185
" x.d. ....	65½	68½	2288	68½	68½	102½
Consolidated .....	90½	92½	38	91	92	.....
People's .....	125	126	136	125½	126	109
Molson's .....	149	150	382	12½	122	.....
Toronto .....	133	134½	733	134½	134½	122½
Jac. Cartier .....	114	145½	1440	145½	145½	143
Merchants .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	122½	.....
Commerce .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95	.....
Eastern Tps .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	175	.....
Union .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	131	126½
Hamilton .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61	63½
Exchange .....	127	131½	22648	130½	131	.....
Mon. Tel. ....	61	62½	1045	61	61½	.....
Dom. Tel. ....	144	147	1634	146½	147½	.....
Rich. & O. Nav .....	164	166	2025	166½	166½	141
City Pass .....	50½	50½	58	.....	.....	.....
Gas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
R. C. Ins. Co .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Comm. res x.d. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

### SPRING.

The pink arbutus in the woods.  
Trails on the frosty ground.  
The dealer in men's fancy goods  
His spring styles spreads around;  
The buds their gummy wrappers snap,  
And hops the frisky toad.  
The bicyclist in polo cap,  
Takes headers on the road.

### COMMERCIAL.

### MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL 16th APRIL 1882

The past has been found a very dull week for business, for although the river is open here, it is not so at Quebec. The water is let out of the canal for repairs, and it will not be open till the 24th, so that until navigation is fully open activity is not to be expected. Dry Goods have been quiet; groceries fairly active. A number of cargoes of grain have met with buyers for May delivery while flour is considerably advanced in price. Saturday, Sunday and Monday were fine warm spring days, but to-day has been dull cold and raw with indications of snow.

ASHES—Pots—The market remains quiet; receipts are at present small and likely to be so till navigation is fully open, prices are pretty well maintained at \$5.05 to 5.15; Pearls, very few coming in and all the stock is in one hand, prices are purely nominal. The stocks at present in store are Pots 1,181 brls.; Pearls 268 brls.

CATTLE—A fair number offered yesterday and met with better demand than a week previous. Prices realized were rather higher, good fat stock ranging from 5 to 6½c.; while lean stock brought from 3 to 4½c.; Sheep are scarce realizing high prices, say from \$8 to 12 each, and Lambs \$1.75 to 4.00 each; Calves in fair

supply and the best sold from 5.00 \$10.00 each, and inferior ones could hardly find buyers at 2 to 4 each, Live Hogs, a few fat ones were placed at \$7.50 per 100 lbs.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The principal changes this week are a decline in quinine and shellac; business is still slack and heavy goods will begin to move as soon as the lower port boats arrive. Demand for light goods continue fair. We quote: Bicarb. Soda, \$3.10 to 3.20; Soda Ash, \$1.65 to 1.75; Bi-chromate of Potash, per 100 lbs., \$12.50 to 14.00; Arrowroot, per lb., 10 to 14c.; Borax, refined, 17 to 19c.; Cream Tartar Crystals, 29½ to 31c.; ditto ground, 32½ to 34c.; Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to 2.50; Sugar of Lead, 12½ to 13c.; Bleaching Powder, \$1.60 to 1.70; Alum, \$1.80 to 2.00; Copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; Flour Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$5.00 to 3.10; Roll Sulphur, \$2.30 to 2.40; Fpsom Salts, per 100 lbs., \$1.25 to 1.30; Sal Soda, per 100 lbs., \$1.15 to 1.25 Saltpetre, per keg, \$10 to 11; Sulphate of Copper, \$5.50 to 6.00; Quinine, \$2.65 to 2.90; Morphia, \$2.90 to 3.00; Opium, \$5.00 to 5.50; Shellac, 35 to 40c.; Castor Oil, 10½ to 11½c. per lb.

DRY GOODS.—Business has been quiet, and the movement in this market has chiefly consisted in filling small sorting-up orders. Travelers are on the point of starting out, and when their orders come to hand things will probably again become active. The weather up to last Saturday, has been against much business being done; country roads are in a very bad condition and this prevents people getting out to buy in the country. As a consequence, remittances have upon the whole, hardly been what could be wished, though some houses report them to have been satisfactory.

FURS.—We have had a quiet week. Very few Muskrats offering, and only a few small lots of Mink. Fox and Skunk were sold at about our quotations, which remain as last week. We quote Mink, \$1.00; Martin, prime, \$1.00; Beaver, prime dark, per lb. \$2.25 to \$2.75; Bear, prime, large black, \$8.00 to \$10.00; ditto, small, \$4.00 to \$6.00; Red Fox, prime, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Muskrat, winter, 12 to 15c; ditto, spring, 15 to 18c; Lynx, prime, large, \$2.00 to \$2.50; Skunk, prime, dark large, 50 to 75c; ditto, prime, white, large, 25c; Raccoon, 25 to 60c.

LOUR.—The stock in store and on the hands of millers on the morning of the 15th inst. was 63,562 brls. against 61,764 brls on the 1st inst., and 48,099 brls. on the 15th April, 1881. Receipts for the week, 11,377 brls.; total receipts from 1st January, 154,479 brls., an increase of 7923 brls. on the same period of 1881. Shipments during the week, 3,721 brls. Total shipments from 1st January, 71,342 brls., an increase of 9,642 brls. on the same period of 1881. The market has not been active, but has been characterized by a good deal of firmness all round, but more especially for high grades. Somewhere about 2000 brls. changed hands to-day within the following quotations:—Superior Extra, \$6.40 to 6.35; Extra Superfine, \$6.25 to 6.30; Fancy, nominal; Spring Extra, \$6.05 to 6.10; Strong Bakers' Flour, American, \$7.50 to 8.00; do, Canadian, \$6.25 to 6.50; Superfine, \$5.65 to 5.75; Fine, \$4.90 to 5.15; Middlings, \$4.00 to 4.25; Pollards, \$3.50 to 3.75; Ontario Bags, medium to strong, \$2.95 to 3.05; do. do., Spring extra, \$2.90 to 2.95; do. do. Superfine, \$2.75 to \$2.85; City Bags, delivered, \$3.90 to 4.00; Oatmeal, \$5.10 to 5.20; Cornmeal, \$3.75 to 4.00, nominal.

GRAIN.—Wheat—The stock in store and in the hands of millers on the 15th inst. was 46,028 bushels, against 54,861 bushels on the 1st inst., and 44,077 bushels on the 15th April, 1881. Receipts for the week, 33,879 bushels; total receipts from 1st January, 649,986 bushels, an increase of 218,533 bushels on like period of 1881. Shipped during the week 27,619 bushels.