

4,333,373 gallons; French—1876, 1,128,410 gallons, 1875, 1,178,516 gallons; other countries—1876, 930,492 gallons, 1875, 888,744 gallons. Totals—1876, 13,595,411 gallons; 1875, 14,277,380 gallons. Spirits.—Brandy—1876, 10,583,267 gallons, 1875, 10,929,549 gallons. Rum.—1876, 7,254,262 gallons, 1875, 6,008,391 gallons.

The stock in store at London, St. Katherine's, and Victoria Docks, on March 1, were: Brandy—2,330 puncheons, 65,195 hogsheds, 28,237 quarter casks, against 1,531 puncheons, 61,093 hogsheds, 24,971 quarter casks, at same date in 1876—an increase equal to 3,661 puncheons. Port—15,384 pipes, 7,640 hogsheds, 4,001 quarter casks, against 15,544 pipes, 7,648 hogsheds, 5,169 quarter casks, at corresponding date of preceding year—a decrease equal to 456 pipes. Sherry—12,475 butts, 14,369 hogsheds, 12,192 quarter casks, against 14,321 butts, 15,731 hogsheds, 14,651 quarter casks at same date in 1876—a decrease equal to 3,141 butts. French—358 pipes, 8,235 hogsheds, 386 quarter casks, against 422 pipes, 7,472 hogsheds, 617 quarter casks at like date last year—an increase equal to 260 pipes.

**SOLOMON AND LIFE INSURANCE.**—There are quite a number of Mark Tapleys among our transatlantic cousins if we may judge from the facetious way in which they treat the subject of Life Insurance, which surely is, in its present aspect in the United States, a matter rather for tears than laughter. The following is a specimen:

"One day, just after King Solomon had written a column of solid nonpareil wise and moral proverbs, he took his eldest son by the elbow, led him down the back stairs of the palace, through the back yard, past the woodshed, out into the alley, backed him up behind Abithophel's wood-pile, looked warily around to see that no one was listening, and whispered into the young man's ear, 'my son, a little office in a spread-eagle life-insurance company is better than a cart-load of preferred stock in the Ophir mines.' And then the monarch threw his head on one side, drew in his chin, shut one eye, and gazed at his offspring in silence. Three years afterward, when the Great Hebraic Consolidated Stormy Jordan Life Assurance Company, of which that intelligent young Prince was President, went into bankruptcy, the young man was able to let his father, who was a little short at the time, have 275,000 shekels for ninety days, on his simple note of hand."

#### FIRE RECORD.

Port Nelson, April 4.—The grain warehouse of Mr. Hugh Cotter, containing about five thousand bushels of grain, was totally consumed by fire. Insurance on grain unknown. Warehouse insured in the Victoria Mutual.

Jarvis, April 4.—Fire broke out in Elmer & Burts' carriage works, completely destroying them, and damaging the adjoining hotel and dwelling on either side. The total loss on all the buildings is \$3,000, nearly covered by insurance.

Seaforth, April 4.—Fire broke out in Thos. Stephens' new hotel. Damage about two hundred dollars, principally by smoke and water.

Belleville, Ont., April 5.—Fire occurred in house occupied by James Bain, West Belleville; loss, \$200; no insurance.

Port Nelson, Ont., April 5.—The losses by the fire on the 4th inst. are as follows:—On wheat owned by Messrs. W. & J. Spink, Duffin's Creek, nearly \$6,000, supposed to be nearly covered by insurance; wheat and barley owned by Mr. H. Cotter, about \$2,000; on building, &c., \$4,000, partly covered by insurance.

Napane, April 5.—The steamer "Norfolk," lying at Lane's wharf, was discovered in flames and was burned down to the guards. She was owned by Capt. Collier, of Artoburgh, and insured for \$4,000 in the Sudacona, which will hardly cover the loss. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Cheapside, Ont., April 6.—Residence of Mr. James Evans destroyed by fire. Loss, \$300; insured for \$500.

Halifax, April 6.—A barn near the North West Arm, rented by Mr. Jones, M.P., burned, with contents, consisting of hay, sleighs and carriages.

Plantagenet, April 6.—House of Louis Charboneau burned. Insured in Provincial for \$600 on house and in the Beaver for \$200 on furniture.

Quebec, April 7.—A large wooden dwelling house, owned and occupied by Mr. Pellerier, at St. Joseph de Levis, was burned down. Insured in the Isolated Risk Insurance Company for \$8000; and his furniture for \$500 in the Ottawa Agricultural Company.

Hamilton April 9.—Fire in stable used by Jacob Cerf; building and contents entirely destroyed, including two horses and a waggon load of jewellery, &c., valued at \$1,500.

Whitby, April 11.—Dwelling of W. O'Donovan entirely destroyed. Total loss, including building and contents, is between \$8,000 and \$9,000, insured as follows: Provincial on house \$2,000; Western on contents \$2,000; National on contents \$1,000.

Halifax, April 11.—Fire at Amherst destroyed Smith's corner store, McLaughlin's house, shop and photographic saloon.

Clifton, April 11.—The south-east corner of the Custom House Block was discovered on fire; and the whole block was shortly in flames; it was a three-story building, and was occupied by Pierce Howard & Co., bankers, &c.; Dominion Telegraph Co.; H. Preston, customs broker; Bailey & Bunting, sugar merchants; R. Law, grocer; A. G. Hill, Police Magistrate; Oddfellows and Free Masons' Lodges, and other offices; the upper part of the building was occupied by H. M. Customs. The fire gained so rapidly that it prevented the saving of books, furniture, &c.; origin of the fire unknown.

Collingwood, April 11.—Fire broke out in the brewery lately run by Mr. A. Cameron. The building was burned. It is said to be insured for \$1,500. Supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

Brantford, April 11.—A fire in the Waterous moulding and pattern-shops was quickly extinguished; loss not heavy.

Newcastle, Ont., April 11.—A fire entirely consumed the marble works of J. McDonald; very little stock was saved; loss about \$2,000; partially insured. 13 houses were on fire in different parts of the village, from the flying kinders.

Pictou, April 11.—Barns and stables of John Lovell and G. G. Halliwell burned with contents. Fourteen head of cattle, two horses and farm implements. Loss \$2000. Insured in the Bay of Quinté Mutual for \$700.

#### Commercial.

#### MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 12th April, 1877.

Trade generally at the close of last week was quite devoid of animation and but little business was transacted, but during this week the almost certain prospect of an immediate opening of navigation, has tended to brighten this market and induce purchasers to supply themselves more liberally for the opening of the retail Spring trade. The fine weather we have had has told more especially on the dry goods trade and led to some fair repeat orders which, however, have not been very equally distributed. Remittances to the general wholesale trade have slightly improved, though not yet by any means satisfactory. The Fall wheat promises well and though much too early yet to venture on any prophecies regarding the crops which can be viewed as reliable, there is reason to hope that a bountiful harvest may be in store for us; a "consummation devoutly to be wished," and-r present circumstances. Some disappointment is felt here, as

well as in the United States at the lack of that improvement in the condition of American trade generally so confidently looked for after the Presidential election had been settled, for had trade there re-acts always more or less on us. If they are favored with a more than average harvest it will, we trust do much to amend the commercial outlook. Meantime we have some cause to congratulate ourselves on the fact of a slight increase in the amount of our imports at Montreal for the quarter, ending 31st March, as contrasted with the same quarter of last year, a result foreseen by us in our reviews of the principal branches of trade for last year. The returns for this quarter are:—

	1876.	1877.
January.....	\$1,159 345	\$1,322,194
February.....	2,564,396	2,462,874
March.....	1,677,188	1,705,377
	\$5,400,929	\$5,490,445
Increase.....		\$89,516

We feel pretty confident that this is one indication of a turn of the tide of prosperity and are hopeful that nothing will occur to prevent its flow throughout the rest of the year. Failures in all departments of trade, however, still continue unpleasantly abundant, and the wedding out process so necessary to give room for growth to those whose position justifies it, is evidently not yet completed. The money market continues devoid of change.

**ASHES.**—Receipts fair. Advances from Liverpool by cable are of a discouraging tenor, yet prices here have advanced to \$4 15 to \$4 20 for First Pots, and even \$4 25 for very choice ones; the market, however, is slightly easier at the close. Seconds scarce, at \$3.50. No Thirds to be had. *Pearls*.—No receipts and no sales; any quotations would be purely nominal; there is no demand. The receipts of Ashes for the year have been 2620 brls Pots and 94 brls Pearls. The deliveries 1715 brls Pots and 25 brls Pearls, and the stock in store at six o'clock this evening was 3520 brls Pots and 841 brls Pearls.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—There is not much doing now, except finishing up orders taken during the winter. Travellers are not generally out as yet on their second trips, but the sorting-up trade seems likely to be light. Prices remain without material change.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—Not much change to note in any direction. A moderate amount of business is being done and orders are coming in pretty freely for shipment at opening of navigation. In this connection considerable anxiety is felt regarding opening of Lachine canal as reports are in circulation that it will be well on to middle of May, before water can be let in. This will cause considerable inconvenience if true.—*Oils*.—Further reports from Newfoundland, show a fair average Seal Fishing and the market here is quiet and without change in Seal Oil. Cod Oil is being offered pretty freely at 53 to 55c. for "A Inspected" in good round lots. Olive Oil, in sympathy with English market is a little easier. Other Oils without change. *Naval Stores*.—Turpentine is rather easier in New York, but will be comparatively higher here until navigation. Tar and rosins are in fair demand, without change in prices. *Paints* are in good demand at former quotations.

**Dry Goods.**—The wholesale trade has been kept well engaged during the current week by the many buyers who have been in our city doing the usual buying at this season of the year. Cash receipts continue to show a slight improvement. The retail trade report a brisk trade, and the general aspects of both wholesale and retail are cheering.

**FURS AND SKINS.**—No change to report in this department. We repeat previous quotations:—Rat, Fall, 10c. to 14c.; Do. Winter, 12c. to 16c.; Coon, 25c. to 60c.; Fox, Red, 75c. to \$1.25; Fox, Cross, \$2.00 to \$3.00; Marten, Pale, 75c. to \$1.00; Mink, Western Canada, good coats, \$1.50 to \$2.00; Mink, Eastern Canada, prime large \$1.50 to \$2.00; Mink, Eastern Canada, prime small, \$1.00 to \$1.50; Otter, Dark, prime, \$5.00 to