

THE National (Fire) Assurance Company of Ireland, having made the usual necessary deposit with the Dominion Government, has opened up business in Canada. The head office is in Montreal. As may be seen by advertisement, Messrs. Scott & Boulton are joint agents for the Dominion. Mr. Hugh Scott will continue to reside in Toronto, where his other interests will still claim his attention also. Mr. Louis H. Boulton, who has taken up his residence in Montreal, was, it will be remembered, for several years assistant manager, and subsequently general manager of the British America Fire Assurance Co. in Toronto, and came to Canada years ago with an English reputation as an underwriter. Mr. Scott, well known as an insurance man for the last quarter of a century, is the associate manager of the Queen City Fire Insurance Co., the Hand-in-Hand, etc., and is still surrounded and supported by many of the men of sterling worth who stood beside him in his early career. The new company will not enter into any illegitimate competition with first-class companies in any part of Canada. Established in 1822, the National of Ireland, with its fully subscribed capital of one million pounds sterling, and assets of over \$2,000,000, claims to be second to none in stability and perfect security to policyholders. Losses will be adjusted without reference to the Home Office.

FRUIT PRESERVATION.

On Thursday last, at the Natural History Society's rooms, under the auspices of the Montreal Horticultural Society, the Canadian Fruit Export Company (Lim.) made an exhibit of fruit that had been preserved in its natural state by Mr. Geo. A. Cochrane's patent case and method for a period of six months. There were twenty-five cases of various kinds of fall and winter apples, all of which were in a most remarkable state of preservation, looking as fresh and plump as if just taken from the tree. There were four cases of Canada's famous famous apples from the orchards of R. W. Shepperd, jun., Como, P. Q.; Ivan T. Wotherspoon, St. Anns, P. Q.; H. Charlebois, Pointe à la Croix, P. Q. and G. B. Edwards, Covey Hill, P. Q. These attracted great attention from Montreal Island fruit growers, who were present in goodly numbers, and were obliged to admit they were equal to any grown on Montreal Island in flavor and size. A case each of Maiden Blush and Talman Sweets from the orchard of the late Thos. Coverhill, Mountain street, were particularly fine. A case of Alexanders from the orchard of Hugh McCall of St. Joseph-du-lac, P. Q., was the greatest attraction, as the apple is an early Fall variety, and its condition at this time of year was surprising to all. There were cases of Kings, N. Spys, Greenings, Seeks, Twenty oz. Pippins, Baldwins, Blue Permain, Ben Davis, Cranberry Pippin and Swans from orchards in Ontario, all of which were very fine specimens, when considering how poor the crop of 1882 was. The exhibition, so far as showing the benefit of employing Mr. Cochrane's care and method of preservation, was a complete success. Mr. Walter Paul, the enterprising grocer of St. Catherine St. west, bought the entire exhibit at three dollars a case, which is equal to seven dollars and a half a barrel. The Cochrane case is particularly adapted for soft fruits, such as peaches, plums and pears, which will carry any distance without bruising or injury in this case. It appears to us that this case must come into general use and favor with fruit growers and dealers, as it prevents the heavy loss now sustained from bruising and other injuries in bringing the more delicate fruits to market.

ALEX. PAUL, of Brownsburg, Que., general storekeeper, is in trouble, and has assigned in trust. He recently negotiated a sale of his stock, etc., at 65c on the dollar, with a view, it is alleged, of raising the wind to enable him to pay his liabilities, but these proceedings were stopped by some Montreal creditors, who appointed an assignee to investigate the estate. The liabilities amount to \$8,000 to \$10,000. He is said to have both secured and given credit too freely.

Market Reports.

MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

THURSDAY, 12th April, 1883.

There is an improved tone and feeling pervading the markets this week, induced largely no doubt by the more congenial, Spring-like weather. The chilly atmosphere, however, which manifested itself here last Saturday in a snow-storm greatly retards the breaking-up of the ice in the river and the progress of Spring operations. The country roads are reported in a wretched condition, but remittances nevertheless continue to improve, and are generally good. Bank stocks fairly active and well maintained. The market was stronger this afternoon, and closes with an advance since morning of nearly 1 per cent. for Bank of Montreal, and of 1½ per cent. for City Gas; the former sold at 201½ regular and 198½ ex-div., and the latter at 170½. See table of quotations on another page.

DRY GOODS.—Remittances have continued to improve, as has also the city and country retail trade; there have been more buyers here the past week, and with the warmer, more Spring-like weather the market has assumed a brighter aspect. A quiet sorting-up trade has been done during the week, chiefly with near-by country and city customers, but not much improvement is anticipated until the travellers, who start on their sorting-up trip next week, are heard from.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—New Butter is coming forward very slowly, and all receipts are being rapidly picked up by city grocers at 25c to 28c, and between houses it is quoted at 25c. Old stock has been placed at 21c to 23c for fair to fine grades, but supplies were so short yesterday that even 25c was obtained by some holders of old butter. There is no shipping demand for the best of all reasons, there are no stocks. The local Cheese market has developed no new features; a very limited local trade continues to be done at last week's prices. Liverpool market has advanced 1s to 7½ per cwt. Lower prices all round are expected here as soon as the new make of dairy produce is properly commenced.

FRUITS.—Trade has improved considerably since our last reference. Apples are in good demand from the local trade at \$4 to \$5 per barrel for good stock. Oranges, in sympathy with foreign markets, have advanced considerably, selling here at \$6.50 to \$7 per case. A good enquiry is experienced for Lemons, at firm prices: \$3.50 to \$4 per box, and \$5 to \$6 per case. Havana Pineapples selling at \$3.50 to \$3.75 per doz., and a fair trade doing in Bananas at \$3.50 to \$4 per bunch. Coconuts steady at \$4.75 to \$5 per hundred. Dried Apples scarce, and wanted at 11c per lb., and evaporated fruit steady at 18c to 20c per lb.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—It appears that the "bottom" of the late depression in the English breadstuffs markets has been reached, and a steadier feeling is cabled yesterday and to-day. Imports in the U. K. show an increase of 25,000 barrels of flour, 140,000 qrs. wheat, and 15,000 qrs. corn, as compared with those for the week previous. The Western wheat markets have been firmer since Monday, and Chicago advanced 2c per bushel for wheat this a.m., but lost it again this afternoon. The local grain market, which has been flat and nominal all week, shows little signs of animation yet. Canada Red Winter Wheat for May delivery is offering at \$1.14 to \$1.15; No. 2 White quoted at \$1.09 to \$1.10, and Spring at \$1.12 to \$1.15. For peas holders are asking \$1 for May; for oats 40c to 41c, and for rye 72½c for May delivery. No corn here, but it could be laid down in May for 61c to 62½c. No transactions on spot, and values, which are purely nominal, are quoted in our table of "prices current." There has been little movement in Flour, owing to a falling off in the demand; and, although receipts have been moderate, stocks in store have increased by about 1,500 brls. In sympathy with other markets, prices have ruled low, with buyers cautious, but to-day there is a feeling that prices have touched "bottom," and an improvement all round is expected next week.

GROCERIES.—Nothing further as to Tariff as affecting Groceries. Return Duty on Tea should surely be arranged for, and all restrictions removed as to imports Teas and Coffees from any country. Abolition of discriminating duty on these goods against United States certainly set aside now that Government has, as is stated, quite removed all duty. Teas.—Only moderate general business to report, values remain without any special variation. Sugars.—A fair steadiness prevails with us for Refined Yellows. Granulated not active. United States markets rather easier. In West India Sugars not a great deal doing. Porto Rico 7c to 7½c. Molasses.—About 100 puncheons Barbados, aside from usual trade, sold under regular price. Market is quiet, although stock to offer on the spot is not large. Syrups dull. Coffees.—Java has had a decided advance of at least 2c in all to this time. Mocha and other kinds firm. Rice.—A better demand and considerable sales reported as lately made at full prices. Spices.—Pepper as high as ever and firm. Nutmegs have taken upward turn; English advance is equal to about 5c the pound. East India and African firm at advance. Fruits.—Valencia Raisins dull. To arrive for quantity under 7c has been taken, held 7c to 8c in ordinary way. Malaga Raisins dull and easier. Currants firm. Almonds higher and firm, owing to cold affecting growing crop.

HARDWARE AND IRON.—There has been more activity in iron the past week; several contracts for round lots of Bar Iron are reported to have been closed at from \$1.92½ to \$1.95 for Staffordshire and equal brands, delivered at Western points. Spot transactions have also occurred at \$2 for Staffordshire, and \$2.25 for Siemens bars. In Pig Iron there has been little movement in spot lots; it being so near the time for the arrival of Spring shipments that buyers are purchasing for May and June shipment; on future account transactions reported include about 1,300 tons, chiefly for delivery in the West, on the basis of \$22 for No. 1 Coltness, \$21.50 for No. 1 Gartsherrie and Calder, \$19.50 for No. 1 Dalwellington and \$19 for No. 1 Eglinton. Leading brands on the spot are quoted at \$25, and Eglinton at \$22.50. Freight from Glasgow to Montreal steady at 12s. Scotch warrants are quoted by cable at 46s 10d. Tin Plates have ruled dull and easier, I. C. charcoal being now obtainable at \$5.25 and I. C. coke at \$4.40. There has been some movements in Ingot Tin at 24c, and Canada Copper at 19c. An advance of 15s for Tin in London is cabled,