

During the four years that have elapsed since the disastrous fire at St. John, N.B., 438 brick and stone buildings have been erected in the district, at a cost of \$4,237,800, and the total number of wooden buildings erected in the same district is 683, at a cost of \$936,887. The value of buildings outside of the burnt district, in 1877-78, was \$160,000; in 1878-79, \$92,000; 1879-80, \$20,000; in 1880-81, \$26,755. The total value of buildings erected in St. John the past four years is, therefore, \$5,413,442.

The oil fever is raging in the vicinity of Sarnia, Ont. Experienced oil men are of opinion that there is a first-class oil territory in that section, which only requires to be developed, hence another syndicate was formed the other week for the purpose of sinking six more wells. More recent developments in this vicinity afford further evidence of the richness of the field. A despatch from Sarnia, Tuesday last, says: Intelligence has been received here this morning of the striking of another big well, in what is known as the Rainsberry settlement, about six miles from this town, on the line of Sarnia and Moore. The new strike is on the farm of Mr. Nicholas Rainsberry, the lucky pioneer who struck the big well about a year ago, and which is yielding as largely as ever.

Five new brick blocks are in course of erection in the flourishing town of Clinton, Ont., and, when finished, will give the place an improved appearance. A large number of private dwellings are also under way, and it is estimated that \$35,000 will be spent in new buildings this season.—A deputation from Clinton waited upon the Minister of Customs at Ottawa this week, with regard to the petition asking that Clinton be made a port of entry. Many of the merchants claim to import direct, and to them the granting of the petition would be a great boon.

#### FIRE RECORD—INSURANCE.

##### ONTARIO.

**Aurora, June 16.**—The dwelling house of Jno. Armitage, two miles distant, was completely destroyed this morning; cause defective flue. Part household effects saved. Loss about \$1,200; no insurance. **Coloury, 16.**—J. R. Wilson's drug store took fire this morning through the ignition of some alcohol which a clerk was decanting near a lighted lamp. Stock total loss. Mr. Hewitt, grocer, and J. Giddons, pork merchant, also suffered by water from the fire engine; all insured. **Kingston, 16.**—A row of tenements on Ontario st., known as the "railway cottages," were damaged to-day to the extent of about \$400; insured in *Atina* and *Royal Canadian*. **Ottawa, 16.**—H. Meadows's stable, Cumberland st., slightly damaged. **Welland, 18.**—M. McAlpine's barn, about a quarter mile north-east of here, entirely consumed; supposed incendiarism; insured. **Strathroy, 21.**—Fire broke out about midnight in the Commercial Hotel stables, and spreading also destroyed Fitzpatrick's livery stables and Johnston's brick blacksmith's shop and dwelling house; four horses perished. Incendiarism is suspected.

##### QUEBEC.

**Mascouche, June 16.**—Mascouche Convent, a fine three-story building, was burnt to-day; supposed cause, a spark from a man's pipe catching a shed adjoining convent. Furniture on first flat saved. Loss about \$6,000; partially insured. Sparks from the convent set fire to D. Leveiller's farm-house, consuming it also; loss, \$500. **Kingsey Falls, 16.**—A fire originating in the woods this morning destroyed 18 dwelling houses, 3,000 cords of wood belonging to Dominion Paper Company, and the Grand Trunk Station about four miles distant. Estimated loss, \$50,000. **Quebec, 20.**—The Coleraine Mining Company's steam saw mill at Black Lake, on the line of the Q. C. R., was burned last Saturday with upwards of 2,000,000 feet of pine logs; cause, bush fires. Estimated loss,

\$15,000 to \$20,000. **21.**—Eleven wooden one-storey buildings, exclusive of barns and hangars, were burned at St. Saviour to-day, four of the families burnt out having endured a similar fate on the 9th inst., in the St. John's suburb fire. Loss about \$5,000; no insurance. **Montreal, 22.**—Cowan's chemical works, corner Dalhousie and Common streets, were damaged and some of the stock destroyed by fire to-day. Loss supposed to be covered by insurance.

##### NEW BRUNSWICK.

**Quaco, June 17.**—Quaco lighthouse was burned this morning; cause, explosion of a lamp.

##### NEWFOUNDLAND.

**St. John's, June 15.**—Harbour Breton lighthouse, Fortune Bay, was burned to-day. **17.**—A terrific forest fire is reported raging around Little Bay, the chief place in the copper mining territory. Six houses were swept away, and further loss was feared.

### Financial and Commercial.

#### MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

THURSDAY, 23rd June, 1881.

The home trade continues to exhibit larger proportions than at the corresponding period of last year, and values of all staple commodities rule firm. The leading event of the week, and which has seriously disturbed shipping operations, was the strike of the longshore men on Monday last. They asked for 25c per hour for day, and 30c for night work, which has been steadfastly refused, and the shipowners have resolved that if the disaffected do not return to work by 12 o'clock on Friday they will bring five hundred men from outside to do the work, and will not employ any of the present hands hereafter. Fifty men were brought from Berthier yesterday to unload a steamer, when 500 strikers attempted to prevent them landing, but were driven off by the police. Messrs. Allan have arranged to load at Quebec in the meantime. The strikers number over 1,100 men. The crews are doing much of the work, but many vessels are idle. No change in the money market. Stocks have been less interesting; the market has been quite irregular, the chief attention being given to Ontario Bank, which has further declined 4 per cent, for the week. Montreal has full 2½ per cent., Merchants about 2, Commerce 2½, Telegraph ½, and Toronto 1½ per cent. Market closes dull and weak.

Sales to-day:—Morning Board—10 Montreal at 19½; 40 do at 19½; 950 Ontario at 88; 400 do at 87; 100 do at 87½; 350 do at 89; 500 do at 89½; 75 Merchants at 12½; 10 do at 12½; 25 Union at 90; 140 Commerce at 146½; 9 Exchange at 138; 25 Montreal Telegraph at 13½; 25 do at 132; and 58 Richelieu at 60½. Afternoon Board—10 Montreal at 19½; 1790 Ontario at 89½; 25 do at 89½; 25 Toronto at 151; and 60 City Gas at 138½.

**ASHES.**—Receipts of Pots continue fair, and there has been an active demand for first sort at \$4.12½ to \$4.15, with a few small sales of choice tars as high as \$4.20. Seconds, \$3.75. There are no Thirds here. **Pearls** are quiet at \$5.75, and hard to move. There can be no business done till they decline. Seconds are nominal at \$5. Receipts since 1st January, 5039 brls Pots and 319 brls Pearls. Deliveries, 4696 brls Pots and 289 brls Pearls. Stock in store at 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening, 431 brls Pots, 51 brls Pearls.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—Reports from travellers are quite favorable to a good healthy Fall trade; orders received during what may be termed the first week of the Fall trip have been fairly numerous, and some houses have booked

a considerably larger business than for the like period last year. A fair trade also in sorting-up orders for present delivery continues to be done. Prices remain firm and unchanged. Remittances fair.

**CATTLE, etc.**—Arrivals at Point St. Charles market on Sunday and Monday last comprised 293 cattle, 188 sheep, 30 hogs, and 13 horses. The receipts for the week ending June 18th were 1,036 head cattle, 86 sheep, 215 hogs, and 9 horses,—a considerable falling off as compared with the week previous. On Monday shipping cattle sold at 5c. to 6c. per lb., several lots of choice beefs changing hands at that figure.—At Viger market there was a great scarcity of butchers' cattle. Sales were made at 5½c. to 5¾c. for good stock, and several choice beasts were held at 6c.; common brought from 4½c. to 5c. per lb. Hogs were quiet and steady at \$7.00 per 100 lbs., several lots from the boats selling at that price. There was a good demand for sheep and lambs; choice stock brought full prices. Veals scarce, and in demand, at \$2.50 to \$6 each, with, however, few transactions.

Shipments of live stock for week ending June 25th, 1881, reported by C. H. Chandler, shipping and insurance agent:—SS. "Scandinavian," for Liverpool, C. M. Acer & Co., 405 cattle. "Quebec," Liverpool, C. M. Acer & Co., 68 cattle; H. S. Fairall, 20 cattle. "Strathairly," London, Elliott, Williamson & Co., 270 cattle. "Coventina," London, J. McShane, jun., 131 cattle. "Nestorian," Liverpool, Elliott, Williamson & Co., 170 cattle; C. M. Acer & Co., 70 cattle. "European," Liverpool, Elliott, Williamson & Co., 555 cattle; J. & C. Coughlin, 200 cattle. Total shipments for week, 1,880 cattle. Total last week, 1,582 cattle, 739 sheep. Total to date, 17,027 cattle, 2,950 sheep.

**DAIRY PRODUCE.**—The local butter market has remained quiet; nothing doing except in finest dairies, which continue to command full values. Common grades are difficult to dispose of at any price, one lot having been offered this week at 12½c without finding a customer. The position of the market as regards shipping grades is about as reported last week, the only change being that the competition among buyers in the country is growing keener, it being stated yesterday that orders had been telegraphed from shippers here to their agents in the Eastern Townships to pay most extravagant figures, if necessary, to secure the butter. There is apparently a combined effort on the part of the retail trade to keep the market blocked, and grocers and others supply themselves during this cool weather with new print butter, which is being marketed in large quantities by farmers at from 20c to 25c per lb., consequently the jobbing trade done is quite small. The retail trade has paid 20c for fine Townships, and creamery butter is said to have been sold up well, factory men having marketed their goods at regular intervals. The cheese market has been gradually developing strength, and some excitement in New York this week was followed by an active demand here; on Monday last there were sales of 1,500 boxes at 9½c, 400 do at 9½c and 250 do at 9½c; also 6,000 boxes by cable at the recent advance in England. The rarely rich make of cheese this season has apparently led to an increased demand on the other side, at higher prices. At the close the demand in this and the outside country markets appears as strong as ever, and sales of about 900 boxes at 9½c to 9½c were made here yesterday, and in the Belleville and Brockville districts over 1,500 boxes changed hands at 9½c. At Ingersoll market on Tuesday 30 factories were represented; 15 factories offered 3,200 boxes, and 2,125 boxes were sold at from 9c to 9½c. At Little Falls, N.Y., on Monday the market advanced 1c on last week's prices, farm dairy selling at 9c to 9½c, and factory at 9½c to 10c. At Utica, N.Y., the buying was active, 10,000 boxes changing hands at 9½c to 10½c, the ruling price being 10c. From the beginning of the season till