

RAILROAD speed for freight from Montreal to Winnipeg is little better than the old stage-coach progress. A carload of Bollinger Champagne which left here on the 17th of March has not yet arrived at its destination. It left Minneapolis on the 18th of April.

The liabilities of R. Z. Clements, of Yarmouth, N.S., referred to last week, are estimated at \$6,700; assets about \$4,200 in stock in trade and book-debts. Mr. Clements commenced business in 1870 with about \$2,000, supposed to have been made in California. His failure is attributed to the limited business, which was too small to afford a living profit after paying rents, &c. Rather poor health had also some influence in this case, although Mr. Clements never neglected his business on any account.

WM. BELL, who commenced business as a stationer, etc., in Oakville, Ont., about five years ago, with a small cash capital, has become seriously involved by endorsing for his brother, and quite recently assigned for the benefit of his creditors. He owed some \$400, with assets in stock valued at \$573, and which has been sold at 28c on the dollar. Bell's trouble is attributed solely to having made himself liable for the payment of promissory notes for his brother to the amount of \$350, and for which the creditors were crowding him; his personal liabilities, it is said, do not exceed \$50.

FORESTRY.—The National Forestry Convention held in Cincinnati recently is of no less interest to Canada than to the United States. The attention of Canadians has been repeatedly called by Mr. James Little of this city to the rapid destruction and consumption of our marketable timber growth. The late Convention, which he attended as a delegate, was suggested by the report of the United States National Census Bureau in which statistics are presented showing that, should the destruction and waste of the forests of the United States go on for the next twenty-five years at the same rate as during the last decade, trees of spontaneous growth will entirely disappear. In no State, unless it be among the pine lands of the Northwest, has the destruction of the forests been more wanton or general than in Ohio, where almost every township was once thickly covered with timber, but is now comparatively destitute of forest trees. April 27th is in future to be known as "Arbor Day," and a proclamation was issued by the Ohio State Government, that the day be devoted exclusively to tree-planting. As an encouragement to tree-planting a very proper and important measure has been proposed in the State Legislature. It has taken the form of a joint resolution, and embodies a proposition to amend Sec. 2, Art. XII. of the Constitution, which relates to the exemption of certain property from taxation. This amendment, if adopted, will provide that all woodlands devoted exclusively to the growth of timber, and not used for purposes of pasturage, shall be exempt from taxation. Roadside planting associations are being formed in every township of Ohio. Among the subjects treated during the session of the Congress are: "The Lumber Districts of the United States and Canada"; "The Uses of Forests and of Forest Statistics"; "The influence of Forests on Health"; "Relation of Forests to Agriculture"; "Torrents and Floods and the Remedies to be Found by Planting Forest Reserves at the Sources of Streams"; "Legislative Encouragement"; "State Forestry Commissions"; "The Sylva of the Different States and Counties"; "Tree-Planting in Minnesota and Along the Line of the Northern Pacific Railroad."

AN EXTRAORDINARY SPECULATION.—Some extraordinary developments in connection with the A. T. Stewart estate have been made in connection with the proposed discontinuance of the business. It is said the fact that Mr. Stewart totally ignored all blood relations in his will might have passed unchallenged and not caused any special attention to the matter, but the anxiety displayed and the repeated declarations made in private and in the newspapers by the beneficiaries of the will that Mr. Stewart did not have any blood relations living showed to the keen minds of a class of speculators in New York that Stewart's heirs by the will felt tender on this spot, and were more or less in dread that blood relations would crop up just as some of them did. A syndicate was formed for the purpose of procuring and producing heirs and fighting the matter in the courts. If they were to be bought off the price would have to be exceedingly large. There were some \$30,000,000 at stake. A couple of trusted men were employed to work up the matter by hunting up relatives of Mr. Stewart, and procuring the necessary proofs of kinship. Last summer these agents sailed for Ireland, and proceeded direct to the County Antrim, where Mr. Stewart was born. They visited all the small towns around, and spent weeks among the peasantry, taking down the names, ages, and pedigrees of all the Stewarts they could find. Old moth-eaten registers in the baptistries of old churches were carefully gone over, and the necessary transcripts made, and their correctness certified to before local magistrates. Affidavits of the selected claimants, supported by other affidavits of old residents and persons possessed of genealogical knowledge, were written and sworn to before competent officials. After spending some six weeks at this work, the agents, with a couple of trunks full of documents, returned to New York, and reported to their employers in person. There is a possibility of the matter being ventilated in the courts.

FIRE RECORD—INSURANCE.

ONTARIO.

Alderton, April 28th.—Routledge house destroyed. Mr. Jennings, lessee, lost his stock and fixtures, amounting to over \$4,000; no insurance. Mr. Paisley, owner of building, lost \$4,000; no insurance. Bath, May 1.—Edward & Co.'s ice house burnt; loss unknown; uninsured. Arthur, 1.—Residence of Andrew Murray burnt; his two youngest children were lost in the flames. Toronto, 3.—Row of frame buildings damaged to \$1,000; also druggist's store damaged to \$400; buildings insured. Belleville, April 29.—Barn of Ex-Mayor Patterson burnt; loss small, insured for \$1,000; caused by tramps.

QUEBEC.

Montreal.—Grocery store of Mr. T. Duvovoir, owned by P. Senécal, burnt; loss to stock \$1,600, insured for \$800. Loss to building \$450; uninsured. Repentigny, May 2.—Farm buildings of Mr. A. Meunier burnt, together with five horses, ten cows, a number of sheep, agricultural implements and some hay; cause unknown, loss \$5,000.

MANITOBA.

Winnipeg, 1.—Dundee Block burnt; loss \$31,000; insured for \$8,000 in Northern, \$5,000 in North British, and \$5,000 in Imperial. Losses by occupants are:—W. G. Scott \$5,000, insured for \$2,500 in Queen's; A. McIntyre, about \$5,000; J. Robinson, \$25,000, insured for \$10,000 in Commercial Union, \$4,000 in Liverpool, London and Globe, \$4,000 in Canada Fire and Marine, and \$2,000 in Northern; Ross, Killam & Haggart \$5,000, uninsured; Vaughan, Dennis & Co., \$10,000, uninsured; F. King \$1,500. Total loss \$80,000, covered by insurance of \$50,000; cause unknown.

Financial and Commercial

MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

THURSDAY, 4th May, 1882.

The signs of increased activity in spring trade noticed at our last reference have become more marked during the past week, but the detention of the first ocean vessels of the Spring fleet for this port in the Gulf of St. Lawrence by ice has delayed and restricted business, more especially as regards shipments. There is only one steamship in port yet, the S.S. Polino up from Quebec, but one or two from Liverpool have reached Halifax, after a rough passage. Several freight vessels and schooners are in the harbor and canal, and the Richelieu line of steamers between this city and Hamilton have commenced running. A steady consumptive demand for all leading staples is reported, and values, except for breadstuffs, sugars, and dairy produce, have remained generally steady and firm; oils still tending upwards, in consequence of short supplies. Rates for money unchanged, 6 to 7 per cent. discount for mercantile paper, and 5 to 6 per cent. interest for call and short-dated loans. Sterling Exchange firmer the last couple of days, now quoted at 9½ for sixty-day bills, 9¼ over the counter, and 10½ to 10¼ on demand. Drafts on New York, firm at par to 1-16 prem. The Stock Market has been less active since last Thursday, but values have generally advanced, Commerce being especially buoyant, having gone up about 4½ per cent. for the week. Montreal Bank has fluctuated considerably, but shows an advance for the week of 2½ per cent. Merchants has ruled pretty steady; Ontario has continued firm, selling up to 67½, and Montreal Telegraph has been quiet and about steady. Richelieu has been largely dealt in, chiefly for speculation, and has advanced over 2 per cent.

Transactions to-day: Morning Board—25 Toronto ex-div. at 179½; 25 Merchants at 131; 50 City Gas at 166½; 225 do at 166; 200 City Passenger at 148; 150 do at 148½; 250 Montreal Telegraph at 131; 75 do at 130½; 50 do at 130½; 31 Montreal at 212; 25 do at 212½; 135 Ontario at 67; 600 Richelieu at 64; 35 Toronto at 181½; 50 do at 181½; 120 do at 182; 25 Intercolonial Coal at 41½; 127 Loan and Mortgage at 100. Afternoon Board—3 Montreal at 212; 18 do at 212½; 10 do at 212½; 175 do at 213; 50 Toronto at 182; 85 do at 182½; 1 Merchants at 133½; 220 Commerce at 149½; 25 Richelieu at 64½; 445 do at 64½; 225 do at 65; 425 City Gas at 168½; 110 do at 168½; 25 do at 168; 50 do at 169; 25 do at 169½; 50 City Passenger at 148½; 25 Montreal Telegraph at 131; 250 do at 131½.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The spring business is almost over, the first trip orders having been pretty generally filled, and, on the whole, the trade appear to be generally well satisfied, both as regards the volume of business done and the prices obtained. The late strike in Toronto caused an unusual demand for goods in this market, and with already a larger number of orders in hand than they were able to fill a few of our leading manufacturers have run short of stock. One firm state that they may have to recall their travellers now out on their sorting-up trip, as they fear their inability to fill all the orders obtainable. It is believed that stocks in the country stores have not been much re-